



Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society
Sanshin Bldg., 2-3-2 Idabashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0072
Phone: +81-3-3556-7323/7325 Fax: +81-3-3556-7328
E-mail:jacsces@jacsces.org URL:<http://www.jacsces.org>

October 26, 2006

Re: Social and Environmental Impacts in the Taunsa Emergency Rehabilitation Project and Violations of World Bank's Policies

Dear John Wall and Xiokai Li,

I am Yuki Tanabe, a staff of Tokyo-based non-governmental organization named Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES). From Sep 6 to 12, I have visited affected villages by Taunsa Emergency Rehabilitation Project funded by World Bank. During the visit, I have seen many problems including violations of World Bank's policies. These problems need to be corrected, therefore, I would like to ask you the following questions;

1. **Compensation for Displaced People:** According to villagers of Basti Sheikhan (left bank's resettlement site) and Basti Allah Wali (right bank's resettlement site), all displaced families in Basti Sheikhan have received Rs 40,000, and families in Basti Allah Wali have received only Rs 16,000 regardless of house sizes and types. However, under the Table 2: Entitlement Matrix of the Resettlement Action Plan, displaced families must receive compensation according to house sizes and types. It is clear that the Government of Pakistan ignored the Entitlement Matrix. I would like to ask you how World Bank has monitored the compensation payment in both villages, and how World Bank would meet the requirement.
2. **Standard of Living:** Under the Resettlement Policy of World Bank, livelihoods and standards of living of displaced people must be improved, or at least restored. However, I have seen many problems in both resettlement sites as follows. I would like to ask you how World Bank would meet its Policy requirement in this project.
 - **Sanitation:** Due to the bad drainage design in Basti Sheikhan, displaced people had been facing serious water stagnation in their houses and gardens during the last monsoon season, which had created unsanitary environment for displaced people. Villagers claimed diseases were increasing due to the polluted water. Villagers also claimed that some villagers have gotten aggregates for land raising to avoid the stagnation emergently, however 25 families haven't yet.
 - **Privacy:** Construction of walls is not included in the compensation for displaced people. Due to lack of walls, displaced people are facing a serious privacy problem. Women are direct victims of this lack of privacy and became vulnerable

to a variety of abuse. Even though displaced people are using waste cloths and pallets to protect their privacy but these arrangements are inadequate and no substitute for proper walls. The construction of walls is urgently needed.

- **Toilet:** Displaced people were not provided enough toilets in resettlement sites. There is a case in which one toilet is being used by 3 families in Basti Sheikhan.
 - **Ambient Noise and Vibration:** According to Change Management Statement, construction work is only allowed in day time. Construction at night is prohibited to avoid ambient noise and vibration. However, villagers claim that DESCON have also been working at night and causing ambient noise and vibration.
 - **Safety:** Several houses which are built by Irrigation Department in Basti Sheikhan are located around a power pylon, however, which is a violation of a Department of Power's regulation.
3. **Land Title:** 38 Villagers in Basti Allah Wali are facing court cases filed by the Government of Pakistan on the basis of illegal occupation. However, villagers claim that they have been living on that land for more than 40 years. Under the Resettlement Policy of World Bank, displaced persons, who do not have legal land titles, must be treated similarly to persons who have titles, therefore, this is a violation of the Policy, and I would like to ask you how World Bank would meet the requirement.
 4. **Land Erosion:** People living in Pul Chandia, Bait Qaim Wala, Loon Wala, Parhar Ghairbi, etc. (left bank and lower side of the Taunsa barrage) have lost huge lands (2-3 km from the original river line), houses, tube wells, chicken and fish farms and fruit trees due to land erosion after the construction of coffer dams beside the Taunsa barrage. However, displaced/affected people have not received any compensation for these lost lands, houses and other income sources. Moreover, revetments for protecting lands from ongoing/future erosion have not been built. This also is a violation of the Resettlement Policy, and I would like to ask you how World Bank would meet the policy requirement.
 5. **Water Logging:** Due to increased flows of Taunsa Panjnad Link Canal and Muzaffargarh Canal, water logging became a serious problem in Kacha Patal, Khai Soom, Khai Doom, Pakha Patal, etc. People have lost their crops, fruit trees and other income sources. However, affected people have not received any compensation for these losses. This also is a violation of the Resettlement Policy, and I would like to ask you how World Bank would meet the policy.
 6. **Closure of the D.G. Khan Canal:** Due to sudden closure of D.G. Khan Canal from December 2005 to May 2006, many people living near D.G. Khan Canal could not use enough water for drinking and farming. People have lost their crops, chicken and fish farms, animals, fruit trees and other income sources. Moreover, many people have shifted due to the lack of water (e.g. 70% of people have shifted from Dhaundi State). Villagers claim diseases have been increasing due to the polluted water. However, affected people have not received any compensation. This is also a violation of the Resettlement Policy, and I would like to ask you how World Bank would meet the

policy.

It might not be your first time to hear about these problems. In fact, people have raised these problems several times to World Bank and Government of Pakistan. However, people have not received any meaningful responses from World Bank and Government of Pakistan yet. As a citizen living in a donor country of World Bank, I am sure that World Bank will not leave these problems and let people live in a harsh environment due to the project funded by World Bank. I, therefore, request you to make a concrete action to solve these problems.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Yuki Tanabe

Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)

CC: Makoto Hosomi, Executive Director for Japan, World Bank

Shigeki Kimura, Director, Ministry of Finance Japan