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# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) GANJA WASTEWATER PROJECT, AZERBAIJAN

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**May 2026**

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) GANJA WASTEWATER PROJECT, AZERBAIJAN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**Prepared by:**



Ecoline  
International

**Ecoline International Ltd.**  
(Sofia, Bulgaria)



Director: Dr. Tatiana Strizhova  
Mob.: +359 876 630 522  
E-mail: [info@ecoline-int.org](mailto:info@ecoline-int.org)



**integra**  
CONSULTING

**Integra Consulting Ltd. (Prague,**  
**Czech Republic)**

Managing Partner: Martin Smutny  
Mob.: +420 724 110 779

E-mail:  
[martin.smutny@integracom.com](mailto:martin.smutny@integracom.com)



**Crowe**

**ABAK-Az Crowe Ltd.**  
(Baku, Azerbaijan)

Director: Zamin  
Huseynov  
Tel.: +994 12 492 7856  
Mob.: +99450 326 7448  
E-mail: [abak@crowe.az](mailto:abak@crowe.az)

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASWRA	Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency
E&S	Environmental and social
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment (according to the national legislation)
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (according to the EBRD policies)
GCAP	Green City Action Plan
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OJSC	Open joint-stock company
PE	Population Equivalent
PR	Performance Requirement (of EBRD)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	6
2.1	Project Rationale.....	6
2.2	Project Characteristics and Location.....	6
3	LEGAL REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.....	10
3.1	National Legal Requirements.....	10
3.2	EBRD Requirements.....	11
4	EXISTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRACTICE OF THE COMPANY.....	12
4.1	General Practice.....	12
4.2	Engagement Related to the Planned WWTP.....	13
4.3	Summary of Stakeholder Engagement during the ESIA Scoping Stage.....	13
4.4	Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Completed during ESIA Socio-Economic Study.....	15
4.5	Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Completed during ESIA Disclosure.....	15
5	STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS.....	28
5.1	Stakeholder Engagement Approach / Methodology.....	28
5.2	Stakeholder Categories and Groups.....	28
5.3	Stakeholder Analysis.....	29
6	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME.....	36
7	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM.....	41
8	MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING.....	43
	Annex 1 Example Public Grievance Form.....	45
	Annex 2 Template of a Stakeholder Engagement Log.....	46
	Annex 3 List of engagement events completed during the Scoping Disclosure and Consultation in June-August, 2025.....	47
	Annex 4. List of engagement events completed during the ESIA DISCLOSURE (DECEMBER 2025 – APRIL 2026).....	49

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.	Main characteristics of the WWTP Project.....	7
Table 2.	Summary of questions / issues raised and responses provided during the ESIA scoping consultation meetings.....	19
Table 3.	Summary of questions / issues raised and responses provided during the ESIA consultation meetings.....	23
Table 4.	Stakeholders, their relation to, interests in, and influence on the Project.....	29
Table 5.	Stakeholder engagement programme.....	37
Figure 1.	Location of the Ganja WWTP Site.....	8
Figure 2.	The sites of the WWTP and effluent ponds, and a proposed location of additional land (blue contour) that may be procured for sludge management, if agricultural re-use is not feasible.....	9

Figure 3. Proposed effluent discharge pipeline route from Ganja WWTP to irrigation canal and river ..... 10

Figure 4. Photos of some ESIA scoping consultation meetings..... 14

Figure 5. Photos of ESIA disclosure consultation meetings..... 16

Figure 6. Observed wastewater discharge from collection pipelines in the project area (March 4, 2026) ..... 18

Figure 7. Project Grievance Process Chart ..... 42

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the EBRD or the Bank) is considering providing finance to the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency (ASWRA or the Company) for construction of the Ganja Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (the Project). The proposed Project is one of the components of the wider Ganja Water and Wastewater framework project and Priority Investment Programme being implemented under the Ganja Green City Action Plan (GCAP)<sup>1</sup>.

ASWRA, a state-owned company, was established in 2023 to oversee the management and governance of all water resources in Azerbaijan, including providing water supply and wastewater collection and sewage treatment services in Ganja City. ASWRA will implement the Project with support of its Ganja branch and the Project Implementation Unit.

The WWTP Project has been categorised as “A” in accordance with the EBRD’s 2019 Environmental and Social Policy. Accordingly, a formalised and participatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the proposed Project and associated infrastructure has been conducted.

A consortium of environmental and social (E&S) consulting companies (the Consultant)<sup>2</sup> has been commissioned to prepare the ESIA and associated E&S documents. **This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed as part of the ESIA package.**

The SEP’s objectives are to:

- present the national legal framework and the EBRD’s requirements in relation to stakeholder engagement process;
- identify all Project stakeholders, including those who might be considered vulnerable and might need support during the consultation process and the project cycle;
- develop a stakeholder engagement programme that will be implemented by ASWRA to ensure that the E&S information on the Project is timely provided and properly communicated to the Project’s stakeholders, and the feedback communication channels are available to them;
- define the means of engaging with the identified stakeholders in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way; and
- propose a procedure or a mechanism for receiving, registering, and addressing grievances and suggestions from stakeholders.

The SEP, together with the other Project’s E&S documents, was disclosed for over 120 days according to EBRD requirements (specifically, from 15 December 2025 to 15 April 2026). Following the public disclosure, the ESIA Disclosure and Consultation Report was prepared to document and summarise the feedback received from stakeholders and the engagement activities completed during the ESIA disclosure period. The Project’s E&S documents, including this SEP, were updated to incorporate the feedback from stakeholders collected during the ESIA disclosure period and will be re-disclosed, alongside the ESIA Disclosure and Consultation Report, for the Project life-cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> EBRD. 2025. GrCF3 W2 - Ganja Water and Wastewater. <https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/55197.html>

<sup>2</sup> The consortium encompasses Ecoline International Ltd. (Bulgaria), Integra Consulting Ltd. (Czech Republic) and ABAK-Az Crowe Ltd. (Azerbaijan).

## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Project Rationale

Ganja is the third largest city in Azerbaijan, with a population of approximately 330,663 people<sup>3</sup>. It embraces the settlements of Hajikend, Javadkhan, Mehseti, Natavan, Sadilli and Shikhzamanli. The city's population is steadily increasing due to various reasons, including the natural growth, urbanisation processes, and migration. If the population continues to grow at the current rate, it might reach 376,000 people by 2040. The 2022 Ganja Master Plan assumes that the population might even reach 500,000 inhabitants by 2040 .

The economy of the city is also developing. Its industrial infrastructure is dominated by metallurgy, followed by food products and machinery/equipment production. The Master Plan for Ganja includes expanding the aluminium plant, restoring a clay soil plant, building a carpet factory, developing specialized industrial zones, including Ganja Industrial Park (metallurgy, cobalt, and clay-soil production), Ganja Chemical Park (fertilizers and chemicals), Ganja Pharmaceutical Industry (medicinal plants and Naftenic fraction), and the Agricultural Production Technology Development Park (meat, dairy, fruit, and vegetable processing).

The lack of wastewater treatment solutions and the related environmental and health risks are expected to exacerbate with the population growth and economic development of the city. The GCAP<sup>5</sup> identifies the construction of a WWTP as a critical step in addressing the city's pressing environmental and public health challenges. One of the strategic goals is to "implement and maintain a functioning wastewater treatment plant and network." This Project is essential to modernise and significantly improve wastewater management in Ganja, with the primary objective of improving sanitation and ensuring compliance with national and international standards. Currently, the city's wastewater management system is outdated. The discharge of untreated sewage and liquid industrial waste has exacerbated the problem, contributing to the pollution of water bodies, groundwater, and soil. The construction of the WWTP has been identified as one of the 26 Key Actions in the GCAP and is a significant step towards green urban development of Ganja. According to the established Key Performance Indicator (KPI), the goal is to treat at least 40% of wastewater in line with applicable national standards, a substantial improvement from the current level of 0%.

The implementation of the Project will also support the commitments of the Municipality of Ganja within the initiative of the Governor of the Mayor and the implementation of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan of Ganja<sup>6</sup>.

### 2.2 Project Characteristics and Location

The proposed WWTP's design capacity is about 95,540 m<sup>3</sup>/day average flow, which is 400,000 Population Equivalent (PE). The WWTP can serve the entire Ganja city, accommodating the current population and projected growth, and ensure:

- a treated effluent that is EU-compliant as well as meeting national discharge standards, and meeting discharge standards for disposal to receiving waters;
- a stabilized sludge suitable for reuse or final disposal.

**Table 1** summarises the basic characteristics of the WWTP.

<sup>3</sup> RA State Statistical Committee. 2024. Demographic indicators of Azerbaijan.

[https://www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical\\_yearbooks/?lang=en](https://www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical_yearbooks/?lang=en)

<sup>4</sup> Ganja Master Plan, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> AtkinsRéalis. 2024. EBRD Green Cities - Ganja Green City Action Plan. <https://ebrdgreencities.com/assets/Uploads/PDF/Ganja-Green-City-Action-Plan-EN.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/signatory/28209#contacts>

**Table 1. Main characteristics of the WWTP Project<sup>7</sup>**

Parameter	Description
Project proponent	ASWRA
Estimated investment cost (CAPEX)	EUR 35-40 million, excl. VAT.
Design capacity for WW treatment	400,000 PE. Average dry weather flowrate of 95,540 m <sup>3</sup> /day.
Start and duration of construction phase	Planned construction starts in 2027. Duration of construction 36 months
Estimated commission date of new WWTP	June 2029
Design lifetime of new WWTP	50 years (Civil works) and 15 years (Mechanical works)
Estimated number of staff during construction	100
Estimated number of staff during operation	21

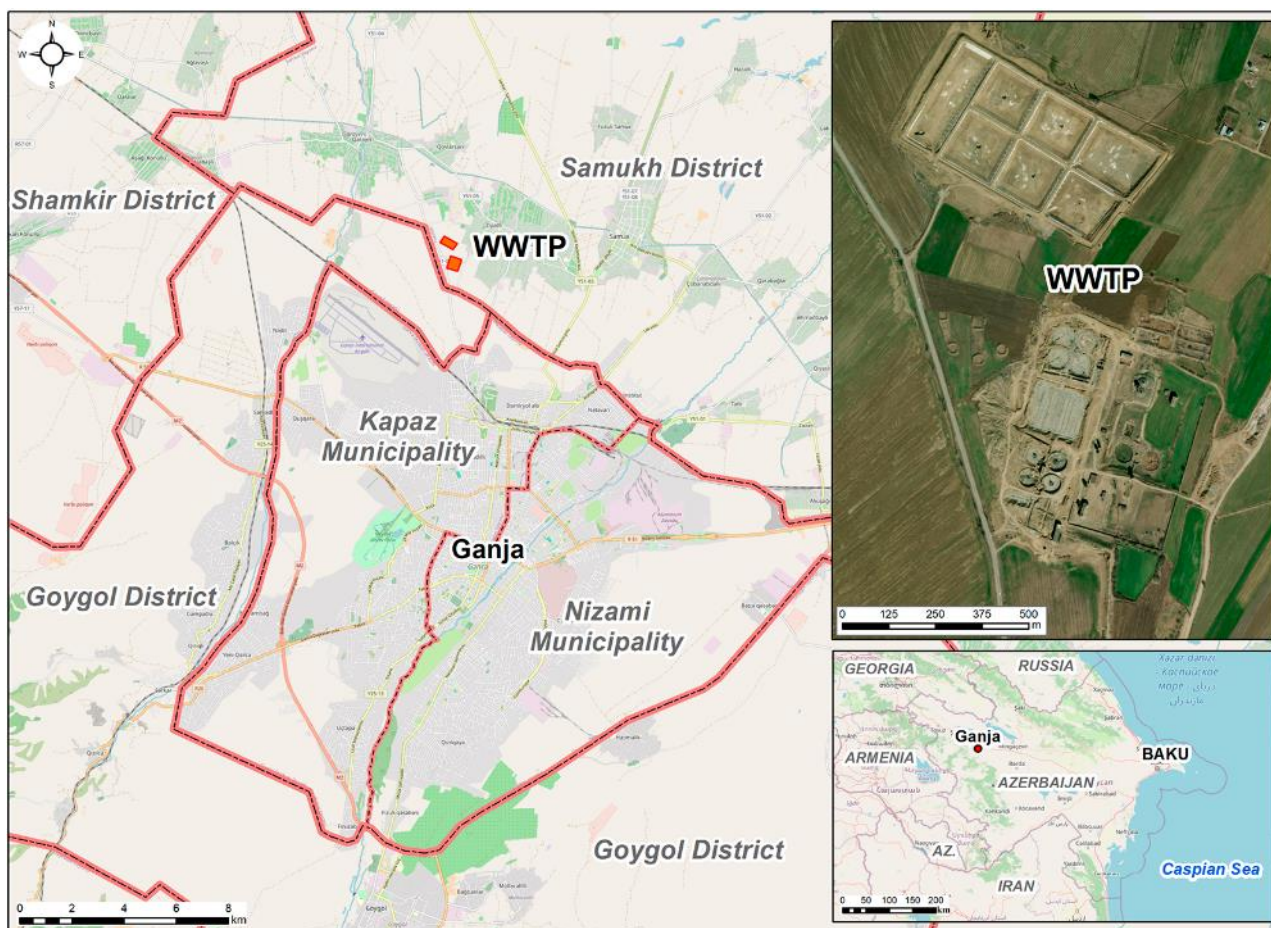
In 2024, a Feasibility Study Update Report was completed for the wider Ganja Water and Wastewater Project, including the current WWTP Project<sup>8</sup>. Earlier, in 2016, a national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was developed<sup>9</sup> for the WWTP project and a positive statement (EIA approval) was issued by the Environmental Expertise body of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in 2016.

The proposed WWTP will be located 2.3 km north of Ganja, on the existing WWTP site where construction commenced in the 1980s, but was never completed (**Figure 1**). The total area of the WWTP site, which is owned by ASWRA, is about 33 ha, including the pond area. The estimated area required for the WWTP Project structures with a capacity of 400,000 PE would be approximately 15 ha. The currently existing facilities are sited at two separate plots: the northern one accommodates effluent ponds that were renovated under the KfW project in 2020; and the southern one hosts some semi-built / abandoned structures and is designated for WWTP construction (**Figure 2**).

<sup>7</sup> Sweco, 2024. Ganja Wastewater Treatment Plan – ESIA Scoping Report.

<sup>8</sup> SWECO, 2024. Ganja Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study Update, Feasibility Study Report.

<sup>9</sup> Dornier-Schneider Consulting. 2016. Additional Investigation Study for the Wastewater Treatment Plants in Ganja and Sheki-Programme Phase 3. Part 1.3 Ganja Wastewater Treatment Plant. Volume 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Report.



Source: prepared by the Consultant

**Figure 1. Location of the Ganja WWTP Site**

As the effluent ponds were already renovated, they are not part of the Project. There is a main sewage collector constructed under the KfW project and running from Ganja to the WWTP site, thus this collector is also not part of the Project. The existing sewerage network constructed by the state and KfW financing covers the city centre on both sides of Ganja River and the design is prepared for connecting the remaining areas of the city<sup>10</sup>.

The Project site is in the territory of Ziyadli Municipality of Samukh District. It is surrounded by residential areas located at various distances (**Figure 1**). Ziyadli village is the closest, with its nearest structure being 300m northeast from the WWTP site and 125m from the effluent ponds (**Figure 2**). Istixana village lies 1km north from the WWTP, with the effluent discharge pipe planned to run partly through its road. Another nearby village is Sarkar (600m to the east). Other villages in the area are located further from the WWTP/pond site: Govlarsari (1.9 km to the north), Alimamadli (2.2km to the west), and Garayeri (2.3km to the northwest).

The WWTP may require additional space to manage the sludge it will produce. If the sludge cannot be re-used in agriculture, a larger storage area – ca. 16 ha of land – is needed to store the sludge for up to 5 years. As only 4.4 ha are available on the current site, an additional 11.6 ha of land would have to be purchased for long-term sludge storage (**Figure 2**).

<sup>10</sup> SWECO, 2024. Ganja Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study Update, Feasibility Study Report.



Source: prepared by the Consultant using Google Maps and a contour of additional land per SWECO 2024<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 2. The sites of the WWTP and effluent ponds, and a proposed location of additional land (blue contour) that may be procured for sludge management, if agricultural re-use is not feasible**

ASWRA has explored different ways to manage treated wastewater. It is planned to construct a discharge pipe to transport the treated effluent into the irrigation canal during the growing season for reuse in agriculture. During the non-growing season, the treated effluent would be discharged into the Goshgarchay (Goshgar) River. The 2016 EIA suggested sending the effluent 8 km away to the river. However, a shorter route has been proposed and approved, which uses a pipeline starting at the WWTP's existing effluent ponds (Figure 3). This pipeline would follow an old drainage path through farmland, pass through the village of Istikhana, cross more fields, and reach the Shemkir irrigation canal. It would then run alongside the canal, cross it near Govlarsari village, and continue to Garayeri village, where the treated water would be released into the Goshgarchay River.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 3. Proposed effluent discharge pipeline route from Ganja WWTP to irrigation canal and river<sup>12</sup>**

### 3 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

#### 3.1 National Legal Requirements

The procedures for public consultations, information disclosure, and grievance mechanisms relevant to this Project are governed by existing Azerbaijani legislation, as outlined below.

**The Law on Access to Information, September 30, 2005<sup>13</sup>**, aims to provide a legal framework that ensures free, unrestricted, and equal access to information, in line with Article 50 of the Azerbaijan Republic's Constitution. It is based on the principles of an open society and a democratic, law-governed state, and it facilitates citizen oversight of public duties. Under this law, any individual has the right to apply directly or through a representative to the information holder and to choose the method and format for receiving the information. Applicants are entitled to:

- inquire about the availability of the required information from the information holder;
- obtain supporting details to acquire missing information;
- receive the requested information freely, without restriction, and on an equal basis, provided the information holder possesses it.

Additionally, people can review documented information about themselves, request corrections, and ask who is using such information and for what purposes.

**The Law “On the Procedure for Considering Appeals of Citizens”, September 30, 2015** regulates the procedures related to the right of citizens to appeal to state and local

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1349326/1226\\_1335526963\\_azerbaijan-law-on-right-to-obtain-information-2005-en.pdf](https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1349326/1226_1335526963_azerbaijan-law-on-right-to-obtain-information-2005-en.pdf)

government bodies. It outlines the general concepts and principles for considering citizen appeals, defines the law's scope, specifies the requirements for applicants, and sets the procedures for receiving, registering, and considering applications. The law also addresses the specifics of handling appeals related to legal violations and corruption, establishes the obligations of officials dealing with applications, outlines the rights of applicants, and details the procedures for oral (non-written) applications made through the media or by telephone.

**The Law on “Public Participation”, November 22, 2013**, provides for various types of consultation methods, such as public discussions (including on draft laws), public hearings, public opinion surveys, and written consultations. These can be initiated by state bodies, local self-government entities, civil society organizations, public councils, or individual citizens. However, the law does not oblige the government to hold public discussions or hearings.

**Public hearings are part of the national EIA process**, as outlined in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) rules issued by the Cabinet of Ministers in October 2022. These rules were approved by Resolution No 362 on September 21, 2022, pursuant to its mandate under the EIA Law enacted on July 17, 2018.

### 3.2 EBRD Requirements

All projects financed by the EBRD shall be structured to meet the requirements of the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy, which includes ten Performance Requirements (PRs) for key areas of E&S sustainability. The relevant EBRD requirements pertaining to stakeholder engagement are contained in:

- PR10: Informational Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement<sup>14</sup>;
- Guidance note - PR 10: Information disclosure and stakeholder engagement (2023)<sup>15</sup>.

In addition, the EBRD's Independent Project Accountability Mechanism<sup>16</sup>, as an independent last resort tool, aims to facilitate the resolution of social, environmental and public disclosure issues raised by Project-affected people and civil society organisations about EBRD financed projects among Project stakeholders or to determine whether the Bank has complied with its Environmental and Social Policy and the Project-specific provisions of its Access to Information Policy<sup>17</sup>; and where applicable to address any existing non-compliance with these policies, while preventing future non-compliance by the Bank.

The EBRD considers stakeholder engagement as an essential part of good business practice and a way of improving the quality of projects. Stakeholder engagement will be an ongoing process throughout the project, to ensure transparency with all stakeholders that may be affected by, or have influence on, the project.

Stakeholder engagement as part of the land acquisition process, where required, should be undertaken in accordance with the national legislation for projects of public interest and EBRD requirements, in particular: PR5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement and associated EBRD guidance.

The following elements of stakeholder engagement are applicable to the Project:

- **identification of stakeholders** including those Project-affected parties (individuals or groups) who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable and their analysis to determine the level of communication that is appropriate for the Project;

<sup>14</sup> EBRD Environmental and Social Policy, 2019 <https://www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/publications/institutional-documents/environmental-and-social-policy-2019.html>

<sup>15</sup> EBRD.2023. <https://www.ebrd.com/home/who-we-are/ebrd-values/ebrd-environmental-social-sustainability/reports-and-policies/ebrd-performance-requirements.html#PR10>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ebrd.com/home/what-we-do/projects/independent-project-accountability-mechanism/about-ipam.html>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ebrd.com/home/who-we-are/strategies-governance-compliance/access-to-information-policy.html>

- **stakeholder engagement planning** with the development of a SEP describing how engagement with identified stakeholders will be carried out throughout the Project life cycle;
- **information disclosure** which will ensure that relevant Project information including the one on its E&S impacts, risks and opportunities is provided to the stakeholders together with meaningful consultation - a two-way process which continues on an ongoing basis;
- **grievance mechanism** established to receive and facilitate resolution of stakeholders' concerns and grievances, in particular, the ones on the Client's E&S performance;
- **ongoing reporting** on E&S performance to stakeholders with reports disclosed at least annually.

This SEP is tailored to match the project's scope, nature, and potential effects, ensuring that identified stakeholders are considered in decision-making and future planning, with roles and responsibilities clearly outlined.

## 4 EXISTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRACTICE OF THE COMPANY

This chapter provides an overview of ASWRA's general stakeholder engagement activities and its grievance mechanism and overview of arranged consultations that related to the WWTP during the preparation of the strategic documents such as Green City Action Plan and Ganja Master Plan.

### 4.1 General Practice

The ASWRA uses the following main channels of communication<sup>18</sup>:

- website (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** <https://adsea.gov.az/>)
- social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube
- online platforms e-su and e-gov
- television, radio and/or newspapers
- ASWRA Ganja's meter readers and other staff.

ASWRA operates an external grievance mechanism for the water supply and wastewater services in Ganja. Stakeholders in Ganja can submit grievances and requests through a variety of channels designed to accommodate diverse preferences:

- 955-hotline;
- ASWRA Website (<https://adsea.gov.az/>);
- social media;
- a traditional option for stakeholders to raise issues face-to-face at the office of ASWRA in Ganja.

Each grievance is systematically recorded in a database. National legislation mandates that ASWRA resolve issues within 15 to 30 days, though the agency consistently aims for faster outcomes, resolving most grievances within 2 to 3 days. Feedback from ASWRA's customer department highlights the mechanism's success, affirming its reliability and effectiveness in addressing stakeholder needs.

<sup>18</sup> Sweco, 2024 Stakeholder engagement plan for project water reservoirs and pipe components.

## 4.2 Engagement Related to the Planned WWTP

The construction of the WWTP was considered during the development of strategic documents, such as the Green City Action Plan, the Ganja Master Plan, and the associated draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)<sup>19</sup> report in 2022 and 2023. Representatives from ASWRA, along with stakeholders including academia, experts, NGOs, and the Ganja executive authority, actively participated in a series of interviews, focus groups, and meetings<sup>20</sup>.

The preliminary discussions with local stakeholders were held on 23 July 2024, during the initial ESIA Scoping stage for the WWTP<sup>21</sup> and involved a meeting with: ASWRA (Baku), Ganja Sukanal, Department of Ecology and Natural resources of Ganja city; Kapaz Municipality of Ganja city, Municipality of Ziyadli, Nizami Municipality, Ganja city, resident of Ziyadli village, two residents of Ganja city.

During the stakeholder meeting in Ganja, the background of the WWTP Project was presented, and participants were invited to share their visions regarding the Project's related expectations, potential benefits, and concerns. Representatives from Ziyadli village expressed their support for the Project and conveyed their belief that it would be constructed in accordance with international standards and best practices. They expressed confidence that the impact on local residents would be minimal.

## 4.3 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement during the ESIA Scoping Stage

The ASWRA announced the scoping discussions on 30 May 2025, simultaneously with disclosing the Scoping Report and SEP in Azerbaijani and English<sup>22</sup>. The ASWRA invited stakeholders to provide comments and suggestions on these documents. Comments and suggestions could be sent to ASWRA via the provided contact details. The advertisement included information about the planned consultation meetings in Ganja, Ziyadli, Sarkar, and Istikhana villages. The purpose of these meetings was to present the results of the Scoping Report and SEP and to obtain stakeholder feedback.

On 2-6 June 2025, the ESIA Consultant's team held a visit to the Project area. Hard copies of the Scoping Report and the SEP were delivered to Kapaz and Ziyadli municipalities, Ganja City Executive Authority, Azerbaijan Technological University (Library), and Samukh District Executive Authority to ensure accessibility for interested stakeholders. During the consultation meetings and interviews, the Consultant presented the Project along with objectives of the scoping consultation meetings. Two scoping consultation meetings were held in Ganja: one with representatives of the scientific community and another with NGO representatives (**Table 2**) (**Annex 3**).

Between 30 June and 2 August 2025, the Consultant's team visited the Project area again after receiving approval to work with the communities. Initially, meetings were planned for nearby settlements of Ziyadli, Istikhana, and Sarkar. However, during the June site visit, two additional meetings were arranged in Govlarsari and Garaeri Municipalities to inform residents living along the potential effluent discharge pipeline about the Project.

Overall, as part of the ESIA scoping disclosure stage, seven scoping consultation meetings were held between June and August 2025 (**Table 2**), (**Figure 4**), (**Annex 3**). All participants were invited to provide their suggestions on the scoping materials. During the scoping

<sup>19</sup> UNECE. 2023. Public Hearing on the Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja. <https://unece.org/info/events/event/382914>

<sup>20</sup> AtkinsRéalis. 2024. EBRD Green Cities - Ganja Green City Action Plan. <https://ebrdgreencities.com/assets/Uploads/PDF/Ganja-Green-City-Action-Plan-EN.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> SWECO. ESIA Scoping Report, July 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Refer to the ASWRA official website (English and Azerbaijani): <https://adsea.gov.az/events/gence-seherinde-cirkab-su-temizleyici-qurqu-cstq-tikintisi-layihesine-dair-elan>

discussion period, neither ASWRA, nor the ESIA Consultant received any written or phone communication from stakeholders.

A scoping presentation was prepared and delivered during the meetings. The Project presentation covered the following points:

1. Project introduction and overview
2. ESIA and scoping process
3. Objectives of the scoping meetings
4. E&S findings from the scoping, including baseline conditions, potential issues, and benefits
5. Stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanism.



**Figure 4. Photos of some ESIA scoping consultation meetings<sup>23</sup>**

The consultation discussions covered a broad range of topics, which can be grouped into two main themes: i) project-specific issues and ii) social and environmental concerns of communities. Overall, the local community supports the project, viewing it as a solution to long-standing issues, such as odour, shortage of waters for irrigation and unemployment.

Key project-specific questions included: 1) the rationale for the WWTP site location and consideration of more remote alternatives; 2) details on the WWTP design standards, planned daily treatment capacity, and chosen technology; 3) how stormwater and potential pollution from new industries will be managed; 4) management of treated sludge; 5) measures to eliminate odour and 6) the size of the sanitary protection zone.

<sup>23</sup> Photos taken by the ESIA Consultant.

Given the Project's long delay (some discussions were held 10 years ago), residents also asked for information about project financing, including types and amounts of funding, as well as the construction timeline.

Social and environmental concerns focused on: 1) economic benefits such as permanent jobs at the WWTP; 2) continuing water shortages and contamination concerns, with requests for guarantees on the safety and distribution of technical treated effluent; 3) protection of village infrastructure from heavy machinery and mitigation of impacts such as noise; 4) resolution of foul odour and health risks from the existing sewage canal; and 5) existing contamination in irrigated areas through the sewage canal and usage of untreated water for irrigation.

The representatives of the Consultant responded to all questions and comments raised (**Table 2**). The issues raised will be covered during preparation of the full ESIA report.

It has been found that untreated effluent from the WWTP area is being sold to local residents, possibly through informal or unregulated arrangements. The legal status of this activity remains to be verified. Following the Scoping meeting in August 2025, the unauthorized sale of untreated water was stopped. However, large volumes of untreated water are currently being discharged due to the installation of the collector pipeline, resulting in localized flooding. Consequently, the sale of water has resumed, driven by clear demand as it is being offered at rates significantly lower than state-regulated irrigation water. Further monitoring of the situation is necessary.

#### **4.4 Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Completed during ESIA Socio-Economic Study**

For the socio-economic study of the ESIA, further engagement on environmental and socio-economic topics were undertaken in the beneficiary areas of Ganja, in the potentially affected village of Ziyadli, and Baku (**Annex 3**).

The socio-economic studies in Ganja were completed in August 2025, including focus group discussions with 38 people (of whom 10 were women). The focus groups have been arranged with the following social groups: men and women of working age, pensioners, youth (students) and small and medium entrepreneurs.

Additionally, a Rapid Rural Assessment was conducted in Ziyadli village on 5 June 2025 to collect detailed data on local infrastructure and gather qualitative information directly from residents. This assessment aimed to support a comprehensive description of the affected settlements. Further engagement activities in Ziyadli included two community meetings held on 31 July 2025 with farmers and residents living near the Project site. These consultations addressed on the following topics: 1) primary types of farming practiced in the region; 2) sources of drinking water for households and water for livestock and irrigation; 3) existing water-related challenges, and 4) community expectations and concerns regarding the construction of the WWTP. In addition, a focus group with women from Ziyadli village was conducted to capture gender-specific perspectives on socio-economic conditions, water use, and anticipated impacts of the Project.

The results of the focus groups and meetings were subsequently integrated into the Social Baseline of the ESIA report.

#### **4.5 Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Completed during ESIA Disclosure**

The ESIA package, including the ESIA report, the Environmental & Social Management Plan (ESMP), the Environmental & Social Action Plan (ESAP), the Resettlement Framework (RF), and an updated SEP reflecting the outcomes of the Scoping consultations, was developed and disclosed on 15 December 2025. It was then discussed with stakeholders from December 2025 to April 2026. The ASWRA invited stakeholders to provide comments and suggestions on these documents via the provided contact details.

Information on the planned consultation meetings in the Project area was disseminated through: (1) official invitation letters to six regional NGOs; (2) publication on the ASWRA website; and (3) public notices at community administrations and in public places in Ziyadli,

Garayeri, Govlarsari, Sarkar, and Istikhana. Hard copies of the NTS and SEP were delivered to the Ganja and Samukh Executive Authorities, the Kyapaz and Ziyadli municipalities, the Ganja Regional division of ASWRA and the Azerbaijan Technological University (library).

Public hearings were held in Samukh (4 March, 10:00–13:00, Executive Authority building) and Ganja (5 March, 10:00–13:00, conference hall of the “Sukanal” department). Each meeting lasted approximately 1.5–2 hours. Informal meetings were conducted in village teahouses to improve access for local stakeholders: in Ziyadli (4 March, 19:00) and Garayeri (5 March, 18:00). Each meeting lasted about 1.5 hours and was held in the evening to accommodate working schedules. These sessions were conducted in an open discussion format without formal presentations, with active participation from attendees. Due to local cultural norms, only men attended the teahouse meetings. However, women were able to, and did participate, in the formal meetings. In total, four meetings were held (see **Table 3**).



**Figure 5. Photos of ESIA disclosure consultation meetings<sup>24</sup>**

A presentation was prepared and delivered during the public hearings. The ESIA Public hearings presentation covered the following points:

1. Project overview and ESIA methodology

<sup>24</sup> Photos taken by the ESIA Consultant.

2. Environmental baseline
3. Environmental impacts and mitigation measures
4. Social baseline, impacts and mitigation measures
5. Stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanism.
6. Scoping consultations: overview and key questions raised.

Participants raised a wide range of questions and concerns related to the WWTP, including potential environmental and social impacts, and expected benefits for local communities. A key topic included **the scope and design of the Project**, including its capacity to meet future demand considering population growth and existing gaps in sewerage coverage. Participants also raised questions about stormwater, increased wastewater flows and the Project timeline, including procurement, construction, and implementation phases. **Environmental concerns** focused on agriculture and odor, as well as the proximity of the WWTP to agricultural land and potential impact on obtaining European bio-certification. Questions were also raised as to whether the Project would address issues related to solid waste management. The **reuse of treated wastewater** for irrigation was discussed as an opportunity to support local agriculture and address water scarcity. **Land-related issues** included the location of the WWTP, land ownership, potential land acquisition, and the establishment of a sanitary protection zone (SPZ), including possible impacts on nearby houses and resettlement measures. Participants expressed an interest in **local employment opportunities**, asking about jobs created during the construction and operation phases being available to residents. Participants emphasized the importance of **stakeholder engagement**, transparent decision-making, and consideration of community input in the design and implementation of the Project.

At the end of the meeting in Samukh, residents presented video evidence of new wastewater discharging from collection pipelines near the settlement ponds north of the former WWTP. They reported that the discharge had begun the previous year and had initially led to the flooding of residential properties and a cemetery. To mitigate the flooding, authorities excavated a drainage channel to divert the wastewater. However, the ultimate discharge location of the diverted flow remains unclear. It was also noted that, whereas the wastewater discharge had previously been episodic, it is now continuous, suggesting a potential increase in the volume being released. Based on the available information, it appears that untreated wastewater is being directed into irrigation channels. The ESIA team has committed to investigating the issue further and incorporating a detailed description into the ESIA baseline. A site visit was conducted on 4 March 2026 to assess the wastewater discharge conditions in the WWTP area. The findings and corresponding mitigation measures will also be reflected in both the ESIA and the ESMP.



**Figure 6. Observed wastewater discharge from collection pipelines in the project area (March 4, 2026)**

The representatives of the Consultant responded to all questions and comments raised (**Table 3**). However, there are still unanswered questions from stakeholders, because certain Project specifics are not yet available. It is strongly recommended that as the Project moves into detailed design, and in compliance with local environmental regulatory approvals and EBRD disclosure requirements, that an ESIA addendum be compiled to provide the answers to these questions. The addendum should then be disclosed for stakeholder information.

During the disclosure period, ASWRA did not receive any written or phone inquiries or comments on the ESIA package documents from stakeholders.

**Table 2. Summary of questions / issues raised and responses provided during the ESIA scoping consultation meetings**

No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>25</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
1	04.06.2025	Ganja	28 (20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential negative impact of the project on agriculture and the environment;</li> <li>The availability of targeted research on biodiversity to identify valuable plants and animals at the WWTP site.</li> <li>The possibility of using the proposed treatment technology to handle potential pollution from new industries. Need for all stakeholders—from industrial enterprises to individual citizens—to recognize their responsibility and prevent discharge of untreated wastewaters into the system.</li> <li>Justification for the location of the planned WWTP on existing farmland.</li> <li>Clarification about establishing the laboratory</li> <li>Management of treated sludge: reuse (e.g., as fertilizer) versus disposal, and the environmental and agricultural safety of the various options.</li> <li>The planned daily treatment capacity of the WWTP. Integration of stormwater into the WWTP system, including handling peak loads during heavy rains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experts are assessing the plant's E&amp;S impacts, including effects on soils, air pollution, plants, and human health. The project is expected to reduce pollution risks to agriculture, enhance health and safety, and expand market opportunities.</li> <li>A national consultant is being hired to assess biodiversity at the site and evaluate the Plant's potential impact on biodiversity.</li> <li>The selected wastewater treatment technology will be based on current wastewater parameters to ensure the treated water meets national standards for irrigation. All stakeholders in Ganja must share responsibility through informational campaigns and monitoring to prevent the discharge of untreated water into the system.</li> <li>The site was designated for a treatment plant in the 1960s; but some of the land is now being used / farmed. The assessment analyzes current use, farmer incomes, and infrastructure to minimize impacts and provide compensation if needed.</li> <li>The project is in the early stages; and no final decision has been made about the establishment of a laboratory. Water quality monitoring will follow national rules using accredited laboratories.</li> <li>Sludge from the WWTP contains nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which can be used as fertilizer if the levels are controlled to avoid toxicity. The ESIA will assess the safe handling of the sludge.</li> <li>The plant has a capacity: 95,000–120,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, which matches Ganja's growth needs and wastewater production rates. Stormwater is not included in this sewer system; and the possibility of a separate drainage system is under discussion.</li> </ul>
2	05.06.2025	Ganja	12 (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project financing details, including type and amount.</li> <li>The construction timeline for the WWTP.</li> <li>The connection between this project and the recent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project gets funding from EBRD as a state-guaranteed loan of €35 million.</li> <li>The WWTP should be built by 2029.</li> <li>This project is a key part of EBRD's Ganja Green City Action</li> </ul>

<sup>25</sup> Including the ESIA experts. The list of participants and minutes of the meetings are available upon request.

No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>25</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation on the EBRD's Green Cities Project.</li> <li>Concerns about current contamination in irrigated areas of Samukh District and the safety of purchasing local vegetables.</li> <li>Water scarcity in the region and the benefits of using WWTP wastewater treated for irrigation.</li> <li>Technical details on the selected wastewater treatment technology and suggestions for biological and chemical assessments at WWTP.</li> <li>Integration of stormwater into the WWTP system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan.</li> <li>Experts are currently trying to find information about existing pollution of arable areas from using untreated wastewater for irrigation now. Available data from NGOs could be shared with the experts.</li> <li>Treated water will be safely used for farm irrigation, as required by the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>The WWTP uses a three-step process of mechanical, biological, and tertiary treatment.</li> <li>Stormwater is not included in this sewer system; and the possibility of a separate drainage system is under discussion.</li> </ul>
3	31.07.2025	Ziyadli village <sup>26</sup>	46 (13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design standards for the new WWTP.</li> <li>Awareness of experts about the old treatment facility site's current state, including the unfinished construction.</li> <li>Odor elimination measures at the new WWTP, as a major problem of the old plant that was mentioned by local citizens.</li> <li>The rationale for locating the new WWTP near the village and consideration of remote alternatives, such as unused non-agricultural lands in Goygol district to minimize the impact on residents.</li> <li>The potential use of treated water for agricultural irrigation and the management of its distribution.</li> <li>The size of the sanitary protection zone around the new WWTP and its effects on nearby houses and land plots.</li> <li>The impact of WWTP on the long-term pollution of artesian well water due to sewage seepage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new WWTP will use modern and environmentally friendly three-stage treatment processes, similar to those used in other countries.</li> <li>The old WWTP buildings are in disrepair and will be demolished and rebuilt. The mentioned sewer line construction project is a separate project and it has now been completed.</li> <li>The new plant will use modern technologies and establish a sanitary protection zone to minimize unpleasant odours for residents.</li> <li>The WWTP's location was selected by the government of Azerbaijan and cannot be moved. The new construction will clean up the existing site, resolve legacy issues, and improve the environment.</li> <li>ASWRA will manage the treated water. The local branch will likely handle its distribution for irrigation.</li> <li>The size of the sanitary protection zone is being determined by the designers and ASWRA. If your property is in this zone, you will receive transparent notification, plus full information about legal procedures for compensation or relocation.</li> <li>Concern about groundwater pollution is understood. The new WWTP will prevent this problem by ensuring that sewage does not seep into the ground and contaminate drinking water.</li> </ul>
4	31.07.2025	Istikhana village	15 (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic benefits to the community from WWTP construction, such as jobs or land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new WWTP is being built to address critical environmental issues and public health issues caused by wastewater.</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents


No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>25</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the village's urgent issue-limited healthcare, lack of public transport, and few open public areas, the construction of WWTP is not a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The village's social and environmental challenges are well understood. Experts hope that the new treatment plant will be the first step toward a better future, allowing the community to grow and develop.</li> </ul>
5	31.07.2025	Sarkar village	20 (12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of the community in the decision-making process and its impact on the project implementation.</li> <li>The potential impact of the WWTP on the daily lives of local residents.</li> <li>The WWTP's impact on existing water issues, particularly the problem of farmers using contaminated water for irrigation.</li> <li>The economic and social benefits that the community will gain from the WWTP's construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input from residents is crucial to this project. As required by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the concerns of local citizens must be heard. If your opposition to the project is valid, experts will present your feedback and recommendations directly to the national project managers (ASWRA) and the Bank.</li> <li>The new treatment plant will directly benefit farmers. Currently, the village's products are avoided in Ganja due to concerns about irrigation with contaminated wastewater. By providing a clean and reliable water source, the plant will help restore access to local markets and increase profits by reducing the need to transport goods to distant cities like Baku or Sumgait.</li> <li>The plant will provide a new, reliable source of treated water for irrigation. This clean water will help prevent crop loss, increase yields, and reduce the village's reliance on artesian wells.</li> <li>While the WWTP cannot solve all unemployment issues, it will create stable, long-term jobs during both the construction and operation phases that will be available to residents.</li> </ul>
6	01.08.2025	Govlarsari village	14 (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeline for the construction of the new WWTP.</li> <li>Elimination of strong odors and potential health risks from the sewage canal because of the WWTP construction.</li> <li>Limited impact of the WWTP on the village and residents due to its distant location.</li> <li>Possibility of supplying treated water from the WWTP to address farmers' use of contaminated water.</li> <li>Employment opportunities at the WWTP to improve the economic situation of community members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is scheduled for completion by 2029.</li> <li>The new plant will completely resolve the sewage canal's odor problem. Treated water will be safely discharged into the Goshgar River through a new pipeline, preventing polluted water from flowing through the village.</li> <li>The new plant will help restore the local economy. Currently, the lack of a treatment plant forces you to sell goods in distant markets like Baku and Sumgait, as Ganja residents fear contaminated irrigation. This project will restore trust and reopen nearby markets to your products.</li> <li>The plant will provide a consistent and safe source of clean irrigation water. This will reduce reliance on unreliable wells, prevent crop loss, and improve yields, and eliminate the issue of polluted water in the village.</li> <li>The project will create stable jobs during both construction and operation. These positions could be open to village residents. Experts also encouraged residents to look into local self-employment programs.</li> </ul>

No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>25</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures to prevent damage to the village's infrastructure from heavy construction machinery and to mitigate negative impacts such as noise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project designers are taking all these factors and equipment-related risks into account. They will employ construction standards designed to minimize these impacts. Modern technology and work organization will be used to ensure your safety. The ESIA will also make the due recommendations.</li> </ul>
7	02.08.2025	Garaeri village	16 (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The issue of the foul odour from the sewage canal and the use of untreated water for irrigation.</li> <li>The treated water's compliance with safety standards and possible uses of this "technically clean" water.</li> <li>Plans to clean up and restore the land polluted by the open sewage canal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new WWTP is specifically designed to comprehensively address this problem by treating wastewater before discharge. This will eliminate both the source of pollution and the associated health risks.</li> <li>"Technically clean water" refers to water treated to a high standard, making it safe for reuse in activities such as irrigation and fish farming. This water will be free of toxic substances and dangerous bacteria, providing a new, reliable resource for local agriculture.</li> <li>Currently, there are no specific plans for cleaning up the land along the sewage canal. However, the issue of the cleaning and reclaiming the contaminated area will be included in the final recommendations. This issue will be addressed as part of the new pipeline's construction, which will replace the open canal.</li> </ul>

**Table 3. Summary of questions / issues raised and responses provided during the ESIA consultation meetings**

No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>27</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
1	05.03.2026	Ganja	18 (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the construction of the station planned for both Ganja and Samukh, or only for Ganja?</li> <li>Many parts of Ganja (both old and new settlements) lack sewage lines and rely on wells. Will the future system meet the increasing demand, especially given population growth?</li> <li>Will the system include drainage for stormwaters?</li> <li>When is procurement expected to begin?</li> <li>The area includes greenhouses that export crops. To get bio-certificates (required for European and other markets), there must be no industrial facilities within a 100-150 meter radius. The fertilizer production from the treatment plant is considered an industrial activity. How will the rights of agricultural producers within this radius be protected?</li> <li>Is solid waste management included in your plans?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sewerage system is planned for Ganja.</li> <li>Yes. The current population of Ganja exceeds 330,000. By 2040, it is projected to reach 400,000–450,000. These projections will be taken into account during the design and planning stage of the facility to accommodate increased water flow.</li> <li>In Azerbaijan, stormwater and domestic wastewater are discharged into the same network. Stormwater will be directed to the treatment facility.</li> <li>There are two Projects. The first Project (~€35 million) has not yet fully commenced, as signing is still pending. The second Project, which is construction of the facility, remains under evaluation. The signing of the first Project is expected in the first half of 2026. Depending on conditions that must be met by ASWRA, procurement activities may begin by the end of this year or potentially next year.</li> <li>Once the design has been detailed, geological and topological studies will be conducted, and meetings will be held with representatives of both the Ganja and Samukh executive authorities. The executive authorities are expected to emphasize this important issue during those meeting.</li> <li>Yes. The situation at the landfill has improved (it has been fenced, trees have been planted and a sorting facility is being established). Tenders are nearing conclusion; within 3-4 months, waste will be transported to the landfill using dedicated vehicles. In the second stage, a processing facility will be</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> Including the ESIA experts. The list of participants and minutes of the meetings are available upon request.

№	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>27</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
					<p>constructed. Discussions with companies are ongoing, and this issue is expected to be resolved next year.</p>
2	04.03.2026	Samukh	49 (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will residents be offered jobs at the future facility or have the positions already been allocated?</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The diagram shows two plots of land belonging to the ASWRA, separated by a plot owned by residents of Ziyadli. Clarification on this matter is requested.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding the odour issue, most residents do not experience or notice any odour; it is recommended to consult people who live in the affected areas.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A question was raised regarding the planned discharge of treated water into the Goshgar River, along with a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project is currently in design. During construction, contractor companies will be responsible for hiring workers, potentially through the municipality or the executive authority, focusing on residents of the Samukh district. Once construction is complete, ASWRA plans to employ approximately 10–20 staff members to operate the WWTP. Positions may include pump station operators, technical workers, and laboratory staff. Job opportunities will be communicated through official channels, including municipalities and executive authorities. Construction is planned over the next four years, during which temporary employment opportunities may arise. Permanent positions will be determined by ASWRA at a later stage.</li> <li>The land currently allocated to the old Ganja treatment plant has been accepted by ASWRA. The subdivision of the land is not expected to have significant environmental impacts; both properties will be used for the wastewater treatment facility. An SPZ will be established. The exact boundaries and parameters will be calculated on the detailed design for the WWTP. The area marked in red on the diagram consists of privately owned land. Potential acquisition is currently being considered, but no final decision. The Project area is currently used for livestock grazing and agriculture. These activities will need to be discontinued due to the potential risks associated with the facility's operation.</li> <li>People affected by current activities were consulted during scoping. In addition, a tea gathering with local residents is planned for that day in Ziyadli village to discuss the WWTP development.</li> <li>While the suggestion regarding irrigation is understood, the current Project does not plan for the</li> </ul>

№	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>27</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				<p>suggestion that the treated water should instead be used to irrigate arable land in Ziyadlı village, which could cover approximately 80–90% of the farmland. The Project has been requested to consider using treated water from the facility for the irrigation of arable land in Ziyadlı.</p>	<p>direct use of treated water for village farmland. However, local people may benefit from the experience of the Absheron Peninsula, where treated water from a reconstructed facility in Baku is being used to irrigate thousands of hectares of gardens under a contract with ASWRA. The role of local water users' associations in managing such arrangements and collaboration between ASWRA and the local population, will be crucial for implementing a similar solution in Samukh.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All treated water from the plant is planned to be discharged into the Goshgar River. It is proposed to use the Shamkir mechanical water pump channel, located approximately 700 meters downstream from the planned treatment plant. The treated water could be directed to this channel to supply the lower villages, particularly Sarkar and Ziyadlı.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently two options under discussion: (1) discharge into the Shamkir mechanical water pump channel (approximately 700 meters away), or (2) direct discharge into the Goshgar River. ASWRA is currently reviewing the issues and a decision is still to be made.</li> </ul> <p>Reuse of treated wastewater is very important. Discharging the treated water into the Goshgar River would allow it to be pumped later to the agricultural areas mentioned above. All these points and proposals will be noted. The preparation of the technical documentation for the Project will be the next step, and community inputs and suggestions will be carefully considered and incorporated, as appropriate, during this process.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lower villages along the Goshgar River - Quşqara, Sarigamiş, Gadili, and Seyidlar - have more abundant natural water springs and a more convenient irrigation system. Drought conditions primarily affect the upper village. It is proposed that local suggestions for irrigation be considered, if feasible and in accordance to standard requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During design, geological and topographical analyses of the area will be conducted. The entire area is inspected, and findings incorporated into the design. Proposals from local residents to ASWRA were invited for potential inclusion in the design. Public participation during the design stage is considered essential.</li> </ul> <p>Following the selection of the contractor, additional public meetings will likely be held at this or other locations to further engage with local residents.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents presented video evidence of unauthorized wastewater being discharged from collection pipelines near the settlement ponds north of the former WWTP. They reported that the discharge began last year, initially leading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ESIA team committed to investigating the issue and incorporate a detailed description in the ESIA baseline. The site was subsequently visited on March 4 to assess wastewater discharge in the</li> </ul>

No	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>27</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				to the flooding of residential properties and a cemetery. To mitigate the flooding, the authorities excavated a drainage channel to divert the wastewater. However, the ultimate discharge point of the diverted flow remains unclear.	WWTP area. The findings and corresponding mitigation measures will also be reflected in both the ESIA and the ESMP.
3	04.03.2026	Ziyadli village	28 (0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The residents of Ziyadli are primarily concerned about odour from the sewage. When the wind blows towards the village, especially on hot days, it is impossible to stay outside. How will this problem be resolved? (Most of the meeting participants expressed concern about this issue)</li> <li>Will houses within the 500 meter sanitary zone be relocated? (Most of the meeting participants expressed concern about this issue)</li> <li>There are many unemployed people in our villages. Should these new jobs be allocated to local residents?</li> <li>Why isn't the treated water supplied to farmers for irrigation instead of being discharged into the river?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the morning meeting in Samukh, the predicted odour distribution was presented. Calculations showed that during the operation of the treatment facility, odour will only be noticeable in the immediate vicinity of the facility. Additionally, dewatering of the sludge generated during the treatment process significantly reduces odours. If the facility is operated properly, odor will not be generated.</li> <li>A Resettlement Framework has been prepared in accordance with EBRD requirements and disclosed. However, no final decision has been made regarding land acquisition and SPZ boundaries. These issues will be considered during detailed design (2027). The Resettlement plan will be prepared in accordance with National legislation and EBRD PRs and disclosed on the ASWRA web-site. Public hearings will be held, as required by national legislation.</li> <li>During operation, the treatment facility will employ 21 employees, who will be hired directly by ASWRA. It is recommended that training programmes be provided to the local community to make them more eligible for the jobs.</li> <li>A decision will be made on distributing treated water during further project development</li> <li>The Grievance Mechanism has been thoroughly explained, providing participants with a clear understanding of its procedures and functions.</li> </ul>
4	05.03.2026	Garayeri village	27 (0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unpleasant odours from sewage: wastewater currently flows through an open earthen ditch within the village, creating unsanitary conditions. It was emphasized that odours become particularly severe during hot weather and when winds blow toward the village. This concern was supported by the majority of participants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Odor is predicted to be limited to the immediate vicinity of the treatment facility. Sludge dewatering is important in reducing odor risk. If the facility is operated properly odor will not be generated.</li> </ul>

№	Date	Location	Number of participants (women) <sup>27</sup>	Key questions / issues raised by the participants	Responses by the Consultant
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would a sanitary protection zone (SPZ) be established? What would its width be? Would land acquisition be required? It was noted that earlier information indicated that the land between the two plots allocated for the treatment facilities is currently used for agriculture by residents of Ziyadli and could be acquired by ASWRA. Concerns were raised about the potential relocation of residential properties within a possible 500 m SPZ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, a 25-metre corridor on both sides of the pipeline is being considered. A 500-metre SPZ will be established from the main facilities (not from the site boundary).</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timeline for project completion. How the public could get access to the project documentation and review it?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation during detailed design will be conducted in accordance with national legislation and will include public hearings as a part of the national EIA process (expected in 2027). National legislation provides for access to information and public participation in the national EIA (OVOS) process.</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are high levels of unemployment in the villages, and many residents travel daily to Ganja or Shamkir in search of temporary work. New employment opportunities generated by the Project should prioritize local residents in order to achieve meaningful positive social impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 21 personnel will be employed at the operational WWTP, with recruitment directly by ASWRA. Prioritization of local employment and training for the local workforce are recommended in the ESIA and ESMP. Additionally, information was provided on the grievance mechanism, which allows community members to submit proposals and complaints related to the Project. The procedures for submission, review, and resolution of grievances were explained in detail to the participants.</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A concern was raised about the planned discharge of treated wastewater into the Goshgar River. Downstream villages currently use water for irrigation without issue, as their groundwater is close to the surface and is fed by the Kura River. Instead, the treated water could instead be diverted to the Shamkir Machine Canal, which passes near Ziyadli village, providing broader access for local communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, there are two proposals for the discharge of treated water: either into the Goshgar River via a pipeline or into the Shamkir Machine Canal, followed by irrigation of agricultural lands. No final decision has been made. Once, the detailed design of the WWTP is completed (2027), a final decision will be made by ASWRA. ASWRA confirmed that they would consider the Machine Canal option</li> </ul>

## 5 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Approach / Methodology

The initial phase of effective stakeholder engagement involves identifying the parties affected by the project, as well as those who have an interest in it or the capacity to influence its outcomes, whether positively or negatively, permanently or temporarily.+

Based on this definition, project stakeholders are divided into two primary categories:

- **Affected parties:** individuals or groups who are, or are likely to be, impacted by the project due to real or potential effects on their physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, well-being, or livelihoods;
- **Interested parties:** individuals or groups who may have an interest in the project because of its location, characteristics, impacts, or issues related to public concern.

The identification of stakeholders in relation to the Project was carried out based on the following criteria:

- **Impact:** the implementation of the Project may significantly affect a certain social group (stakeholders);
- **Influence:** the social group is able to significantly influence the process of Project implementation;
- **Partnership:** there are opportunities for building partnerships between the Company and the given social group; and

**Interest:** a social group or individuals not necessarily directly affected by the Project may (or may not) show interest in it.

### 5.2 Stakeholder Categories and Groups

All the stakeholders have been grouped into the following two major categories:

- **Internal stakeholders** representing the organisations that undertake the Project and those who work within them such as management, staff, owners, shareholders, as well as contractors and subcontractors involved in the current operations and the Project implementation and benefiting from it (investors and shareholders); and
- **External stakeholders** representing the groups or individuals that are not part of the Company and the Project but are affected in some way by their decisions and actions.

**The SEP** is intended to cover the Company's engagement **with external stakeholders**, while the stakeholder analysis covers both internal and external stakeholders.

In order to ensure effective and meaningful engagement, the Project's external stakeholders have been clustered into the following groups:

- Potentially affected parties:
  - Potentially affected communities;
  - Potentially vulnerable groups;
  - Potentially affected commercial and public organizations.
- Interested parties:
  - State authorities;
  - Regional/city/district authorities;
  - Communities;

Non-commercial organizations (non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mass media, academia and others);

- Commercial organizations;
- International financial institutions;
- International initiatives and projects.

### 5.3 Stakeholder Analysis

The interests and /or concerns and influence towards the Project of the abovementioned stakeholder groups are analysed in **Table 4**.

Any stakeholders that are not included in the table but wishes to receive information about the Project and its E&S aspects and impacts can approach ASWRA.

**Table 4. Stakeholders, their relation to, interests in, and influence on the Project**

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
<b>POTENTIALLY AFFECTED PARTIES</b>		
<b>Potentially affected communities</b>		
Residents of the nearest settlements to the WWTP: -Ziyadli village (appr. in 300m) ; -Sarkar village (appr. in 600 m) ; -Istixana village (appr.in 1000m) ; - Alimamadli village (appr. in 2.3 km) ; -Garayeri village (appr.2.3 km) ; -Govlarsary village (appr. in 1.9 km)	<p>May be potentially affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction-related impacts (such as increased traffic, air emissions and noise),</li> <li>• potential odour that might come from the WWTP facilities during operations and other operation-related impacts (e.g., noise, traffic);</li> <li>• accidental spills or leaks of untreated effluent in the event of plant malfunctions (including emergencies);</li> <li>• possible anxiety about potential risks from WWTP during the operations, e.g., if trust in the facility's management is low;</li> <li>• possible reduction in property values due to proximity to the WWTP related to concerns about odour, aesthetics, or stigma, even if the plant operates efficiently.</li> </ul> <p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• job opportunities during the construction and operation phases.</li> <li>• transparency and clear communication from ASWRA and local authority, including details about the Project and its impacts;</li> <li>• participating in public consultations and meetings organized by local administration and ASWRA;</li> <li>• operational environmental impact monitoring to guarantee the WWTP's safety</li> </ul>	Medium to Low
Farmers (including herders), who use lands around the WWTP (Samukh District, including Ziyadli village; Sarkar village and Istixana village)  <i>Note: the closest farm is next to the boundary of the WWTP's site.</i>	<p>May be potentially affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible odours or noise due to proximity to the WWTP;</li> <li>• accidental spills or leaks of untreated effluent during plant malfunctions (including emergencies);</li> <li>• road traffic accidents involving farmers' herded animals during construction or operation;</li> <li>• additional costs to adapt irrigation systems or farming practices (e.g., crop selection) to use treated water and sludge while meeting sanitary standards;</li> <li>• soil contamination from improperly managed sludge;</li> <li>• inadequately treated wastewater or sludge containing pathogens, heavy metals, or chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transparency and clear communication from ASWRA and local authority, including details about the Project and its impacts;</li> <li>• participating in public consultations and meetings organized by ASWRA and local administration;</li> <li>• compensation for disruption or land use (if applicable);</li> <li>• a consistent water source for irrigation and the related increased productivity;</li> <li>• enhanced soil fertility from properly processed and safe sewage</li> </ul>	Medium to Low

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
	treatment sludge; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assurance that treated water and sludge comply with standards and regular monitoring is done.</li> </ul>	
Land-owners affected by a possible sludge storage expansion and possibly by construction of the effluent pipeline (between the WWTP and effluent ponds)	May be potentially affected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic displacement (loss of a primary income source, e.g. crop or livestock production).</li> </ul> May be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>receiving adequate compensation;</li> <li>job opportunities or support for transitioning to other income sources, such as trainings and others;</li> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> <li>participation in public consultations and meetings.</li> </ul>	Medium to High
Residents of Ziyadli and Sarkar villages whose residential houses may fall within the Sanitary Protection Zone <sup>28</sup> of the WWTP and who thus could face resettlement  <i>Note: the distance from the effluent ponds to the nearest residential building is approx.. 125m</i>	May be potentially affected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>physical and economic resettlement (that is relocation and loss of homes, farmland, or access to community spaces, or a primary income source (e.g. crop or livestock production)).</li> </ul> May be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoiding resettlement. If resettlement is unavoidable, they would seek fair compensation, adequate resettlement sites (with similar or better living conditions);</li> <li>job opportunities or support for transitioning to other income sources, such as trainings and others;</li> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> <li>participation in public consultations and meetings.</li> </ul>	Medium to High
Residents of settlements impacted by the construction of discharge pipeline  and  Farmers whose land will be crossed by the discharge pipeline:  -Istixana village ; -Govlarsari village ; -Garayeri village.	May be potentially affected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased air pollution and noise during the construction works;</li> <li>restricted access to land near the pipeline route during the construction works;</li> <li>a risk of accidental leaks of treated wastewater during the operation of the pipeline.</li> </ul> May be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> <li>participation in public consultations and meetings.</li> <li>Additionally for farmers: compensation for disruption or land use (if applicable)</li> </ul>	Medium to Low
Residents of the city of Ganja (direct beneficiaries of the Project)	Will benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Project activities and improved wastewater treatment services during operations;</li> <li>wider coverage of the city with sewerage services;</li> <li>improved environmental, sanitation and health conditions, including reduced risks of waterborne diseases;</li> </ul> May be potentially affected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>possible emergency discharges of untreated water into the Goshgar river;</li> <li>traffic during the construction stage as there would be an additional load on the roads leading to the Project area;</li> <li>an increase in the risk of road traffic accidents (during the construction stage).</li> </ul> May be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> </ul>	Low

<sup>28</sup> The size of the Sanitary Protection Zone may vary from 250m to 1000m depending on the technological solutions, local conditions, expected E&S impacts, and would be determined by the competent environmental and health authorities.

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>employment opportunities during the construction and operation phases;</li> <li>sanitation tariffs remain affordable, especially for lower-income households.</li> </ul>	
<b>Potentially vulnerable groups</b>		
Women-headed households, single-parent families, pensioners, families with disabled members, households officially recognized as living in poverty	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information about new tariffs;</li> <li>employment opportunities, including special opportunities for women;</li> <li>information about security measures during construction and operation of the WWTP;</li> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts.</li> </ul>	Medium to Low
Children attending schools close to the site, children living in the settlements that are crossed by the existing and connecting roads or that will be located close to the construction sites  <i>Note: the closest school is appr. 750 m from WWTP site</i>	<p>May be exposed to risks related to traffic to/from the Project's construction sites and need tailored information on road safety, construction activities, community health and safety risks and benefits, and precautionary measures for children during construction.</p>	Low
<b>Potentially affected organizations</b>		
Public and private enterprises and other organizations within the sewage covering area connected to the WWTP	<p>Will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Project activities and improved wastewater treatment services during operations;</li> <li>wider coverage of the city with sewerage services;</li> <li>improved environmental, sanitation and health conditions, including reduced risks of waterborne diseases;</li> </ul> <p>May be potentially affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>additional investments in infrastructure upgrades to ensure their wastewater meets the required standards for discharge into the system;</li> <li>temporarily disruptions of business operations at the construction phase.</li> </ul> <p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understanding the connection fees, usage tariffs and maintenance costs associated with the sewage system;</li> <li>technical assistance, including trainings or subsidies to meet the quality standards;</li> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> <li>participation in public consultations and meetings.</li> </ul>	Medium
Local businesses (including greenhouse nearby)  <i>Note: the closest business (greenhouse infrastructure) in appr. 700 m from the WWTP</i>	<p>May be potentially affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased air pollution and noise during the construction works.</li> </ul> <p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information about the Project, its progress, and its E&amp;S impacts;</li> <li>participation in public consultations and meetings.</li> </ul>	Medium to Low
<b>INTERESTED PARTIES</b>		
<b>National authorities</b>		
Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency (ASWRA)	<p>The government agency responsible for the management of water resources in Azerbaijan and the beneficiary of the EBRD loan, which will implement the project.</p> <p>Will be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successfully implementing the project to meet government's targets for improving urban wastewater infrastructure;</li> </ul>	High

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementing infrastructure projects using innovative and environmentally-friendly solutions;</li> <li>• improving its technical expertise and operational capacity to implement projects funded by the International Financial Institutions, such as the EBRD and others;</li> <li>• establishing partnerships with the International Financial Institutions to implement large-scale infrastructure projects.</li> </ul> <p>ASWRA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• serve as the primary beneficiary and implementing agency for the project design and construction;</li> <li>• review and provide input on the ESIA process and obtain the national EIA approval;</li> <li>• collaborate with other government agencies, local authorities, and communities;</li> <li>• be responsible for stakeholder engagement during planning and construction phases;</li> <li>• be involved in the community consultations and dissemination of information about the Project.</li> </ul>	
<p>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, including its bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-State Environmental Safety Service and its regional department in Ganja;</li> <li>-Agency of State Environmental Expertise</li> </ul>	<p>The government agency that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develops and implements the state policy in the field of environmental protection, organization of nature management, efficient use of groundwater, minerals and surface natural resources, their restoration, as well as observation and forecasting of hydrometeorological processes, including climate change;</li> <li>• maintains state environmental control over the use of the environment and natural resources, including ensuring environmental safety and preserving biological diversity;</li> <li>• through its subordinate organisation and regional branches, holds administrative authority over project approval processes in accordance with environmental protection laws and monitors environmental performance during the project's operational phase;</li> <li>• responsible for issuing the necessary environmental permits and approving the project's EIA;</li> </ul> <p>Agency of State Environmental Expertise: carries out a state environmental expertise of projects/facilities; issues conclusions on the EIA documentation; approves environmental limits including waste generation and disposal, wastewaters discharge; provides opinions on spatial planning documents, land categories, and transitions between land categories.</p> <p>The Agency of State Environmental Expertise must be engaged or consulted during the design and implementation stages of the Project to ensure compliance with national legislation throughout the project's implementation and operational phases.</p>	Medium to High
<p>Ministry of Emergency Situations and its regional department in Ganja</p>	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring the WWTP is robust and reliable, minimizing the risk of system failures that could trigger emergencies;</li> <li>• construction of disaster-resistant infrastructure to natural hazards, such as earthquakes.</li> </ul> <p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assisting in the identification of possible risks and the development of contingency plans to deal with potential emergencies arising from the construction and operation of the WWTP;</li> <li>• issuing conclusions on compliance with safety standards;</li> <li>• requiring prompt notification in the event of an emergency or accident at the construction and operation phases;</li> <li>• inspecting and monitoring WWTP during the operational phase to ensure that safety measures are in place and being followed.</li> </ul>	Medium to High

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
Ministry of Health and sanitary and epidemiological services	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring that the Project aligns with national strategies, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (primarily focus on SDG3: Good health and well-being, and SDG6: Clean water and sanitation);</li> <li>reducing health risks associated with poor water quality and inadequate sanitation;</li> </ul> <p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>defining and approving a Sanitary Protection Zone of the WWTP;</li> <li>issuing the necessary health-related standards and permits throughout the project's design, construction, and operations;</li> <li>controlling the sanitary-epidemiological situation around the WWTP and workplace health protection measures.</li> </ul>	Medium to High
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring that the Project is aligned with national strategies;</li> <li>improving food security and promoting sustainable rural development;</li> <li>increasing the productivity of agricultural lands.</li> </ul> <p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting the development of solutions for the use of treated wastewaters and sludge in agricultural practices;</li> <li>training farmers on the benefits and techniques of using treated wastewaters and sludge;</li> <li>establishing standards and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that treated wastewater and sludge meet agricultural safety requirements.</li> </ul>	Medium
Azerbaijan Water Amelioration and Management OJSC	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussing the technical feasibility of crossing the effluent pipeline with the Shemkir irrigation canal;</li> <li>issuing the technical requirements for construction works near the Shemkir irrigation canal;</li> <li>monitoring the implementation of the technical requirements during the design and construction phases.</li> </ul>	Medium
State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consulting to ensure the WWTP design accounts for the needs of tourism development in Ganja.</li> <li>discussing mitigation measures to maintain a positive visitor experience during the Project's construction.</li> </ul>	Low
Electricity supply organizations: Azerenerji OJSC and Azerishiq OJSC	<p>Both institutions will provide technical requirements for connecting the WWTP to the power grid and will oversee their implementation throughout the design and construction phases.</p>	Low to Medium
The State Land and Cartography Committee of Azerbaijan Republic	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>providing cadastral data, ensuring that the land designated for the WWTP is consistent with national land use policies;</li> <li>assisting with resettlement (if necessary) and providing people with the necessary land title documents.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium
State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring that the Project is aligned with national strategies.</li> </ul> <p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring compliance with zoning regulations;</li> <li>issuing necessary construction permits.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium
<b>Regional/city/district authorities</b>		
Ganja City Executive Authority, Samukh Executive Authority (Local authority)	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successful project's completion and long-term operation of modernized and built infrastructure;</li> <li>improving the inhabitant's health and quality of life, including access to better sanitation;</li> </ul>	High

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attracting investments for the upgrade of municipal infrastructure;</li> <li>implementing the Green City Plan, Master Plan and improving urban KPIs (SDG11).</li> </ul> <p>Local authority would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide administrative assistance, including obtaining permits, land allocation for infrastructure and resolving bureaucratic hurdles during the design and construction phases;</li> <li>assist with organizing community consultations and collection of feedbacks on the project;</li> <li>oversee the project's implementation within the predetermined budget and timeframe;</li> <li>distribute and collect public grievance forms related to Project;</li> <li>sending official notifications to affected persons about land acquisition;</li> <li>pay full compensation to the affected persons;</li> <li>assist in relocation of affected persons.</li> </ul>	
Local municipalities (self-government institutions): Ganja, Samukh, Ziyadli, Sarkar	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participating in the consultation process to gather input from residents, businesses and community leaders in Ganja and Samukh on their specific wastewater management challenges;</li> <li>distributing information on the E&amp;S impacts of the project;</li> <li>distributing and collecting the public grievance forms related to Project;</li> <li>monitoring progress of project implementation.</li> </ul>	Medium to High
Regional Department N10 of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ganja city	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>monitoring the environmental quality in Ganja city.</li> <li>controlling the Project's compliance with environmental regulations and standards.</li> <li>ensuring the efficient use of natural resources within its jurisdiction.</li> </ul>	Medium to low
ASWRA (regional division in Ganja)	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stakeholder engagement and solving of grievance during the design, construction and operation phases of the Project;</li> <li>operation of the WWTP.</li> </ul>	Medium to High
Ganja division of Agency for Sustainable and Operational Social Security	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consulting on the environmental and social impacts of the WWTP and ensuring that the rights of vulnerable communities are adequately addressed;</li> <li>supporting stakeholder engagement by disseminating information about the WWTP project, particularly to affected groups and vulnerable communities, and organising meetings and workshops with local communities to gather feedback and address concerns;</li> <li>providing training (if necessary) to equip local workers with the necessary skills for construction and operational roles;</li> <li>distributing and collecting the public grievance forms related to Project;</li> <li>monitoring progress of project implementation.</li> </ul>	Medium
Ganja City Housing and Communal Production Union/ Service	<p>Would probably be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consulting during the design and construction stages;</li> <li>distributing the public grievance forms related to Project.</li> </ul>	Low
<b>Communities</b>		
Community leaders / Elderly committees (aghsakals) in particularly Ziyadli village	<p>Have deep local knowledge and hold significant authority among community members.</p> <p>Their primary interest is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure the well-being of the community during both the</li> </ul>	Medium to High

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
	<p>construction and operation phases of the Project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keen to understand and promote the Project's benefits, including improved sanitation and potential employment opportunities for the community.</li> </ul> <p>Will play a vital role in the Project by facilitating the dissemination of accurate and timely information about construction activities, Project benefits, and employment opportunities, ensuring residents are well-informed and engaged throughout the process.</p>	
<b>Non-commercial organizations (non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mass media, academia and others)</b>		
<p>NGOs (including "Ekoloji Renesans" İctimai Birliyi, Gəncə Ekologiya Fondu, Gəncə Regional Sosial İqtisadi Araşdırmalar" İctimai Birliyi, Yerli Təşəbbüslər Mərkəzi" İctimai Birliyi, "Tamas" Regional Public Union and others)</p>	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• positive E&amp;S outcomes through the Project's implementation;</li> <li>• ensuring the Project aligns with environmental priorities, SDGs, biodiversity protection, sustainable water management and human rights, with a focus on safeguarding vulnerable groups;</li> <li>• acting as independent watchdogs to monitor the Project progress and ensure stakeholder's views and suggestions regarding the Project are considered and addressed;</li> <li>• ensuring that project information is accessible and that stakeholders are informed about the project's progress and impacts;</li> <li>• empowering youth to actively participate in Ganja's environmental and infrastructural development;</li> <li>• organizing workshops or training sessions on sustainable wastewater treatment in Ganja for diverse stakeholder groups;</li> <li>• using the disclosure Project materials for awareness trainings on water issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Low to Medium</p>
<p>National, regional and district media  (including Trend.az, Azernews.az, Report.az, and News.az and others)</p>	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learning about the Project, its progress, and its environmental, social and economic impacts;</li> <li>• collaborating with the Company to share its activities and provide information to the public and other stakeholders;</li> <li>• exploring human stories, like how the Project improves daily life for different groups of Ganja residents.</li> </ul>	<p>Low to Medium</p>
<p>Academic and research institutions: -Ganja Division of Azerbaijan National Academy of Science; -Ganja State University; -Azerbaijan State Agricultural University; -Azerbaijan Technological University.</p>	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conducting research studies related to sludge management and wastewater treatment technologies</li> <li>• being engaged in the Project consultations/discussions, especially at the design stage.</li> </ul>	<p>Low to Medium</p>
<p>Health providers (hospitals, medical points in identified settlements)  <i>Note: Closest identified health provider in Garayeri village, 2.3 km from the WWTP site</i></p>	<p>May be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• positive E&amp;S outcomes through the Project's implementation;</li> <li>• Improvement of sanitary services in the region.</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p>
<b>Commercial organizations</b>		
<p>Contractors and subcontractors</p>	<p>Will be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• correspondence to Social and Environmental Requirements of EBRD;</li> <li>• receiving information about tenders in advance;</li> <li>• receiving contracts and improving company reputation;</li> <li>• timely and qualified implementation of works.</li> </ul>	<p>Low to Medium</p>
<b>International Financial Institutions</b>		

Stakeholder/ stakeholder group	Relation to the Project / Interests / Concerns	Impact or Influence level
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides funding for the construction of WWTP;</li> <li>• oversees compliance with social, environmental, and safety standards throughout the Project;</li> <li>• monitors progress and implementation to ensure alignment with objectives and timelines;</li> <li>• initiates and evaluates Environment, Health, Safety, and Social (EHSS) documentation;</li> <li>• approves contract awards and authorizes the signing and initiation of civil works.</li> </ul>	High
<b>International initiatives and projects</b>		
Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy– Europe <sup>29</sup>	May be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participating in project consultations/discussions, especially in the design phase on adaptation and energy efficiency issues;</li> <li>• disseminating information about the projects;</li> <li>• collaborating on possible joint actions.</li> </ul>	Low

## 6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

A Stakeholder Engagement Programme is developed to ensure the most effective engagement with all identified stakeholders, to create and maintain respectful relations between the ASWRA and stakeholders, and to prevent possible conflicts.

The below Stakeholder Engagement Programme (**Table 5**) covers the Project design and pre-construction and construction phases, as well as an operational phase – as a high-level. It provides a specific action plan with the distribution of responsibilities and a timeframe for implementation of the suggested activities. If there would be changes during the Project implementation that require modification of the engagement mechanisms and / or new stakeholders are identified, the Programme should also be updated.

<sup>29</sup> <https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/signatory/28209#contacts>

**Table 5. Stakeholder engagement programme**

No	Activity	Target Stakeholder group	Information Materials	Timeframe	Responsible party	Means of communication/ location
<b>PROJECT DESIGN STAGE (2025-2026)</b>						
1.	Developing and maintaining the Project's webpage on the Company's corporate website <sup>30</sup>	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E&amp;S Information about the Project,</li> <li>FAQ leaflets on the Project's E&amp;S impacts and mitigations;</li> <li>E&amp;S documents</li> <li>Newsletters,</li> <li>Tender information,</li> <li>Educational materials and others</li> </ul>	Maintained during the entire project cycle	ASWRA	Webpage on the ASWRA's website
2.	Media coverage of the Project progress, planned activities, achievements, and any relevant E&S news	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press-releases,</li> <li>Newsletters;</li> <li>Interviews.</li> </ul>	During the project life-cycle	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> <li>TV channels</li> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>
3.	Maintenance of a grievance mechanism and notification of the public on the established grievance mechanism	Potentially affected stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification /information announcement</li> </ul>	The grievance mechanism established during the ESIA scoping stage is to be kept operational onwards; further presentations of the mechanism during the ESIA disclosure, throughout the entire project	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> </ul>
<b>PRE-CONSTRUCTION STAGE (2026 -2027)</b>						
4.	Disclosure of the EIA report (OVOS, in accordance with national legislation) for 30 days during the detailed design stage.	Potentially affected settlements Other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft EIA report (OVOS)</li> </ul>	Prior to approval of the design documentation (expected in 2027).	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> The measures highlighted in blue have already been completed and should be maintained other the Project life.

No	Activity	Target Stakeholder group	Information Materials	Timeframe	Responsible party	Means of communication/ location
5.	Disclosure of the Addendum to the ESIA report	Potentially affected settlements Other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addendum to ESIA report</li> </ul>	Prior to approval of the design documentation (expected in 2027).	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> </ul>
6.	EIA public hearings in Samukh.	Potentially affected settlements Other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft EIA report (OVOS)</li> <li>Addendum to ESIA report</li> </ul>	Prior to approval of the design documentation (expected in 2027).	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal participation and communication; meeting with a possibility to get immediate feedback</li> </ul>
7.	EIA public consultation meetings in Samukh and Ziyadli	Potentially affected settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft EIA report (OVOS)</li> <li>Addendum to ESIA report</li> </ul>	Prior to approval of the design documentation (expected in 2027).	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal participation and communication; meeting with a possibility to get immediate feedback</li> </ul>
8.	Informal meetings with men and women	Potentially affected settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft EIA report (OVOS)</li> <li>Addendum to ESIA report</li> </ul>	Prior to approval of the design documentation (expected in 2027).	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal participation and communication; meeting with a possibility to get immediate feedback</li> </ul>
9.	Notification on the commencement of construction works	Potentially affected stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notifications,</li> <li>Press-releases;</li> <li>TV;</li> <li>Social media.</li> </ul>	Prior to the commencement of construction works	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> <li>TV channels</li> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>
10	Informing the public on the traffic safety measures to be applied during the construction period	Residents of Ganja and any settlement through which the Project construction transport may pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announcements,</li> <li>Publications in local mass media;</li> <li>Social media</li> </ul>	Prior to the construction works	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> <li>Local media channels</li> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>
11	Installation of information boards with contact details of the person in charge of grievance mechanism implementation and boxes with the Public Grievance Forms	Residents of Ganja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informational billboards,</li> <li>grievance forms</li> </ul>	Prior to the construction works	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction sites</li> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website;</li> <li>Building of local authority</li> </ul>
12	Prepare Frequently Asked Questions Leaflet outlining: (a) Project summary, (b) EHS	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflet</li> </ul>	Prior to the construction works	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> </ul>

No	Activity	Target Stakeholder group	Information Materials	Timeframe	Responsible party	Means of communication/ location
	impacts, risks and opportunities, (c) mitigations already adopted/to be implemented, (d) other questions asked during the Stakeholder engagement events					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE (2027-2029)</b>						
13	Keeping a record of the received grievances (suggestions and inquiries) in the specific logbook(s) <i>Note: this is continued from the scoping stage when the grievance mechanism was launched</i>	All stakeholders	Grievance (Suggestion and Inquiry) Logbook	Throughout the Project lifecycle	ASWRA	Personal responses / resolutions
14	Provision of updates on the Project's status / progress <i>Note: this is continued starting with activity 1 above.</i>	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project's progress publications,</li> <li>Announcements,</li> <li>Publications in local mass media;</li> <li>Social media</li> </ul>	Throughout the Project lifecycle	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>
15	Organization of meetings and consultations with the stakeholders on the topics raised by the stakeholders when needed	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific information depending on the topics of interest</li> </ul>	Throughout the Project lifecycle	ASWRA, Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct meetings in a remote / online format</li> </ul>
16	Updating SEP based on its monitoring and evaluation	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjustments to SEP,</li> <li>Notification;</li> <li>Information announcement</li> </ul>	Throughout the Project lifecycle	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> </ul>
17	Preparation of annual reports on the E&S performance of the Project	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports as per the EBRD format</li> </ul>	Once a year during or as will be agreed with the EBRD	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage on the ASWRA's website</li> <li>social media platforms (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, YouTube)</li> </ul>

No	Activity	Target Stakeholder group	Information Materials	Timeframe	Responsible party	Means of communication/ location
18	Preparation of annual E&S monitoring reports to the EBRD	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report as per the EBRD format</li> </ul>	Annually during the Project re-payment period (or as will be agreed with the EBRD)	AWSRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal submission to the EBRD</li> </ul>
<b>OPERATION STAGE (from 2030)</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with items 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 during Project operations.</li> <li>In case of major rehabilitation works, re-launch the relevant items from “Project Design Stage”, “Project Pre-construction” and/or “Construction Stage”</li> <li>In addition – see below:</li> </ul>						
19.	Coordination for the collection of wastewaters from the sites (enterprises and citizens of Ganja)	Potentially affected parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific information depending on the issue</li> </ul>	When needed during operation	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence and Official Letters;</li> <li>Individual / Internal Meetings (if required)</li> </ul>
20	Coordination of environmental and security compliance for the WWTP, including inspections and audits	State authorities; Regional/city/district authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific information depending on the issue</li> </ul>	When needed during operation	ASWRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence and Official Letters;</li> <li>Individual / Internal Meetings (if required)</li> </ul>

## 7 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

In line with EBRD requirements, the Client must establish an effective Project Grievance Mechanism early in the project development process to identify and address stakeholders' concerns related to the project. Accordingly, in May 2025 ASWRA developed a Project Grievance Mechanism for external stakeholders<sup>31</sup>, using existing communication and engagement channels and enhancing them with actions to fulfil EBRD standards (Figure 7). The stakeholders were informed about the Project Grievance Mechanism during the scoping consultations in June, July and August 2025.

Currently, grievances and requests are received by ASWRA through the following channels<sup>32</sup>:

- The 955-hotline operated by the ASWRA call centre (central level), with transfer of relevant calls to ASWRA in Ganja. The call centre in Baku operates 24 hours, all 7 days of the week, while ASWRA in Ganja operates from 9:00-21:00, all 7 days of the week;
- ASWRA's website, with transfer of relevant grievances and requests to ASWRA in Ganja;
- Social media, such as Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, etc;
- Grievances received at the office of ASWRA in Ganja.

ASWRA will maintain the existing practice and supplement it, as described below.

Grievances and suggestions can be submitted to ASWRA in writing using a sample Public Grievance Form provided in Annex 1. Such forms will be published in English and Azerbaijani in electronic format on the ASWRA's website and/or Project's webpage, and they will also be available in printed form near the boxes for grievances and appeals located in the ASWRA's office in Ganja, Ganja executive administration and others.

Grievances received by phone, e-mail, mail, text messages (SMS), via instant messengers and/or social media accounts will also be registered and considered. Reporting a grievance is free and does not require payment. As per the Law "On the Procedure for considering appeals of citizens" of September 30, 2015 (Article 6), **anonymous grievances** are not considered. However, EBRD requires that the grievance mechanism would allow for anonymous complaints to be raised and addressed. To address this gap, ASWRA accepts that **grievances can also be submitted anonymously**. If a complainant prefers to submit a grievance anonymously or through a third-party, this will be accepted. However, it is recommended to share contact details of the applicant so that the Company was able to provide a written response to the grievance.

Grievances and suggestions in relation to this Project can also be addressed to ASWRA using the following contact details:

Name: Mr. Javid Mehdiyev

Position: Head of International Projects Management Sector, Administration of Facilities under Construction PLE, ASWRA

Address: 69 A Moscow Ave, 5th floor, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ1012

Email: [cavid.mehdiyev@toom.gov.az](mailto:cavid.mehdiyev@toom.gov.az)

Office tel.: +994124314767 (1094)

Mobile tel.: +994505929276

<sup>31</sup> A separate mechanism is developed to address worker grievances.

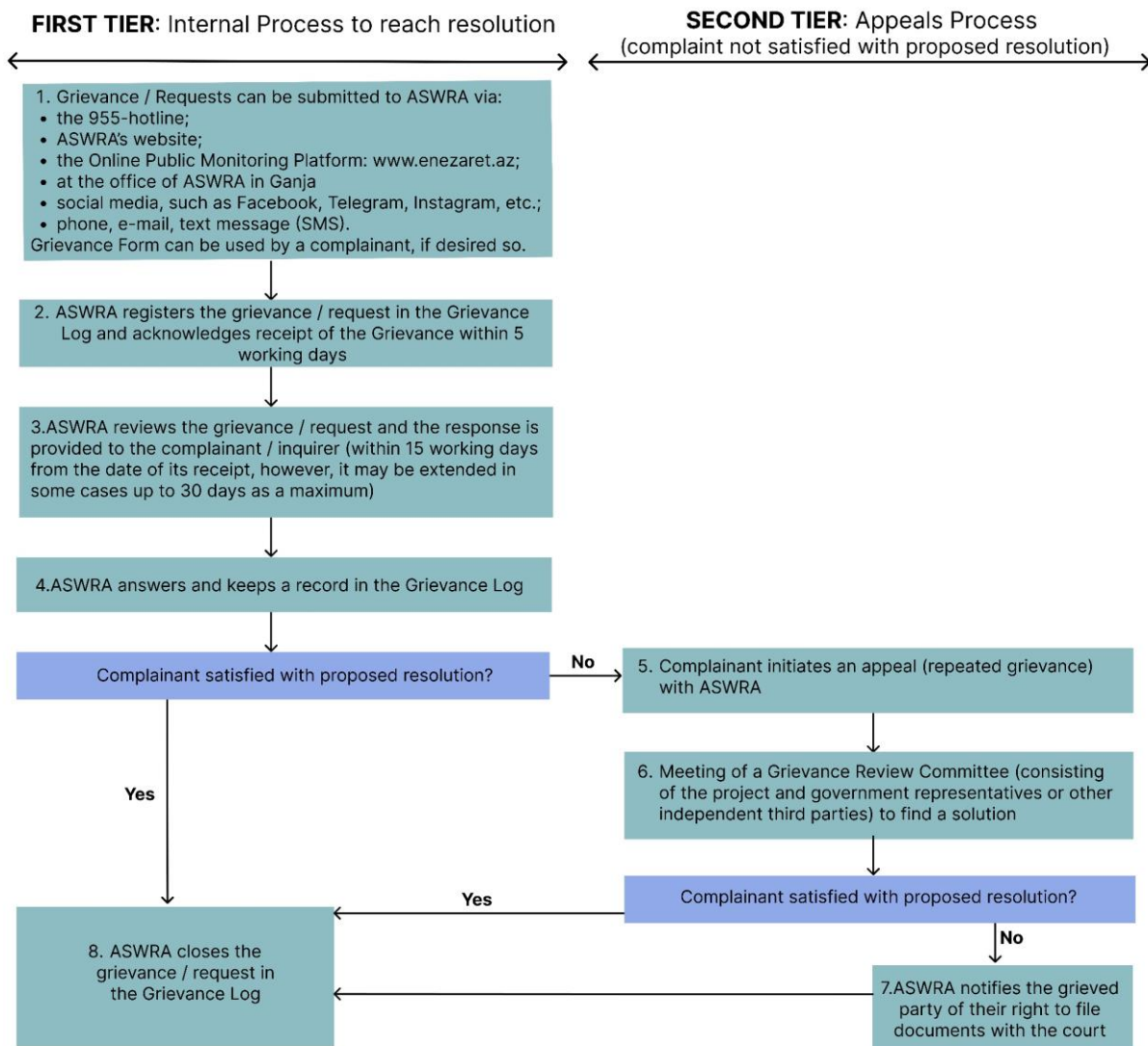
<sup>32</sup> Sweco, 2024 Stakeholder engagement plan for project water reservoirs and pipe components

Fax: +994 12 4935165

According to the national legislation, the duration of the administrative procedure initiated by an appeal is 15 working days from the date of its receipt, however, it may be extended in some cases but up to 30 days as a maximum.

All the grievances addressed to the Company will be recorded in a Grievance (and Inquiry) Log, which should be maintained and analysed throughout the Project life-cycle.

ASWRA will also establish **the recourse mechanism**, including establishing a grievance review committee. Where complainants are not satisfied with the proposed resolution, then they can appeal via this recourse mechanism.



Source: prepared by the Consultant

Figure 7. Project Grievance Process Chart

The complainant will contact ASWRA stating that they would like to raise an appeal to the resolution proposed as they are not satisfied with it. A grievance review committee will meet. The committee will include the project and government representatives or other independent third parties. The committee will study the complaint and the refused proposed resolution and consider if another solution is appropriate. Any alternative resolution will be discussed with

the complainant. Where no alternative resolution is identified during the appeal this shall be communicated to the complainant.

## 8 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Successful stakeholder engagement depends on continuous effort, performance monitoring and evaluation, and adaptation to changing conditions and stakeholder information needs. To successfully organise, implement, evaluate, and report on stakeholder engagement activities, ASWRA and its regional office in Ganja will have a dedicated person in charge of these processes.

The monitoring process will ensure that all stakeholders are appropriately and effectively consulted throughout the engagement lifecycle. This ongoing evaluation will enhance the efficiency of stakeholder engagement activities.

Consultation and stakeholder engagement will be maintained throughout **the planning, construction, and operation phases** of the project.

The following indicators will be used for monitoring and improving stakeholder engagement performance in support of the Project implementation:

- The SEP is kept up-to-date and available to the public for review/commenting;
- Actions listed in the SEP are completed in full and as scheduled;
- The topics that were discussed and the questions that were raised during the public consultations;
- Number of stakeholders' comments and suggestions about the Project received by ASWRA through various feedback channels (disaggregated data by gender and location);
- Number of stakeholders' grievances and claims received by ASWRA in relation to the Project (disaggregated data by gender and location);
- Number of publications on the Project implementation process in local, regional, and national media;
- Key categories of grievances received by the ASWRA or its contractors (employment, permanent or temporary land use, environmental issues, labour relations, etc.);
- Number of grievances resolved within the maximum established timeline;
- Number of grievances remaining unresolved;
- Average time (in days) taken to propose a resolution, compared against the set timeframe;
- Changes in the number of grievances per category compared to previous reporting periods (e.g., monthly, quarterly, or annually).
- Total number of anonymous grievances received in the reporting period (disaggregated data by gender and location, if possible);
- Trend in the number of anonymous grievances compared to previous reporting periods (e.g., increase/decrease in percentage or raw numbers).

Stakeholder engagement activities should be recorded in a special log (**Annex 2**). All consultations will be documented, and minutes will be prepared, detailing the date, location, purpose of the meeting, participants, and discussion topics. Original written correspondence, including comments, will be preserved as evidence of the consultation process and outcomes. Meeting minutes, as well as summaries of individual or informal discussions, will be maintained on file and available upon request.

The results of the stakeholder engagement process will be analysed monthly and quarterly, and a summary of the analysis will be included in the annual E&S reports submitted to the EBRD by ASWRA.

The SEP is considered as a living document and should be periodically evaluated by the ASWRA to identify activities that might need any corrective and/or preventative measures with the purpose to improve the efficiency of its performance. In such cases the SEP should be updated and shared with the public with the amendments made.

If there are significant changes to the Project that result in additional or different E&S risks and impacts to project-affected parties, the Company will conduct additional consultations about how these risks and impacts will be mitigated.

## ANNEX 1 EXAMPLE PUBLIC GRIEVANCE FORM

Reference No. (for internal purpose)	
Full name:	First name _____ Last name _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I request not to disclose my identity and contact details without my consent
Contact information Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail)	<input type="checkbox"/> By Post: Please provide mailing address: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By telephone: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By e-mail: _____
Preferred Language for communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Azerbaijani <input type="checkbox"/> Russian <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____
Description of Grievance_	
Date of Incident/Grievance	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time incident/grievance (date _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Happened more than once (how many times?) <input type="checkbox"/> On-going (currently experiencing problem)
What would you like to see to resolve the problem? _____	
Signature:	_____
Date:	_____

**Please return this form to:**

ASWRA, Moskva avenue 67, AZ 1012 Baku, Azerbaijan  
 Tel: (+99412) 431-47-67/87, WhatsApp (+994 55) 209 95 59  
 Call centre: 955, also (+994 12) 525 02 25  
 Fax: (+99412)430-28-87  
 E-mail: info@adsea.gov.az  
 Website: <https://adsea.gov.az/>

ASWRA Ganja  
 Ganja, Üzeyir Hacıbəyov str. 76, AZ2001  
 Tel: (+99422) 255-77-29, (+99422) 265-00-09

ANNEX 2 TEMPLATE OF A STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT LOG

ID/No.	Engagement Activity	Participants	Stakeholder Category	Date	Location	Initiated by	Number of participants (women / men)	Engagement purpose	Topics discussed and actions agreed	Minutes of Meeting ref.
1										
2										
3										
...										

### ANNEX 3 LIST OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS COMPLETED DURING THE SCOPING DISCLOSURE AND CONSULTATION IN JUNE-AUGUST, 2025

№	Date	Respondents	Number of respondents <sup>33</sup>		Type of interaction
			Men	Women	
<b>Baku</b>					
1	02.06.2025	Meeting with the representatives of the Agency of State Environmental Expertise	1	1	Introductory meeting
2	02.06.2025	Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	3	1	Interview
<b>Ganja</b>					
3	03.06.2025	Meeting with the Head and other representatives of Regional Division of ASWRA	5	0	Introductory meeting
4	03.06.2025	Meeting with the representatives of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Station	1	2	Interview
5	03.06.2025	Meeting with the Head of Kapaz municipality and representatives of municipalities	3	0	Interview
6	04.06.2025	Meeting with the representatives of regional department №10 of Ecology and Natural Resources	3	0	Interview
7	04.06.2025	Public consultations with representatives of academia at the Azerbaijan Technological University	4	17	Consultation meeting
8	05.06.2025	Meeting with the representatives of non-governmental organizations	4	3	Consultation meeting
9	30.07.2025	Meeting with representatives of Kapaz Municipality	8	0	Introductory meeting
10	30.07.2025	Meeting with the Director of the Ganja City Statistics Office	1	0	Interview
11	30.07.2025	Meeting with the Department of land improvement and urban gardening of Ganja Executive Committee	1	0	Interview
12	01.08.2025	Focus group – Men of working age	7	0	Focus group discussion
13	01.08.2025	Focus group – Pensioners	6	0	Focus group discussion
14	01.08.2025	Focus group – Women of working age	0	7	Focus group discussion
15	01.08.2025	Focus group – Small and Medium entrepreneurs	5	0	Focus group discussion
16	02.08.2025	Focus group – Youth (students)	10	3	Focus group discussion
<b>Samukh District</b>					
17	31.07.2025	Meeting with representatives of the Samukh District Statistics Office	1	0	Interview
<b>Ziyadli village</b>					

<sup>33</sup> Excluding the representatives of the ESIA Consultant

18	31.07.2025	Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents	31	11	Consultation meeting
19	31.07.2025	Focus group – Women of working age	0	11	Focus group discussion
20	31.07.2025	Meeting with farmers	6	0	Community meeting
21	31.07.2025	Meeting with people who live near the planned WWTP	8	1	Community meeting
		<b>Istikhana village</b>			
22	31.07.2025	Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents	4	9	Consultation meeting
		<b>Sarkar village</b>			
23	31.07.2025	Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents	5	11	Consultation meeting
		<b>Govlarsari village</b>			
24	01.08.2025	Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents	7	5	Consultation meeting
		<b>Garaeri</b>			
25	02.08.2025	Public scoping consultation meeting with local residents	5	9	Consultation meeting
		<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>220</b>

#### ANNEX 4. LIST OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS COMPLETED DURING THE ESIA DISCLOSURE (DECEMBER 2025 – APRIL 2026)

№	Date	Respondents	Number of participants		Type of interaction
			Men	Women	
<b>Ganja</b>					
1	05.03.2026	Ganja city	18	8	Public hearings
<b>Samukh District</b>					
2	04.03.2026	Samukh town	49	8	Public hearings
3	04.03.2026	Ziyadli village	28	-	Informal meeting
4	05.03.2026	Garayeri village	27	-	Informal meeting
		<b>Total: 138 persons</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>16</b>	