

A quick guide to the EIB's Standard 6

Involuntary Resettlement

This factsheet presents the major requirements for project promoters (the EIB's counterpart in an operation/project) in managing involuntary resettlement risks and impacts for projects financed by the EIB. For details, refer to the [EIB's Environmental and Social Standards](#).

Involuntary resettlement occurs when affected individuals or communities do not have the right to refuse displacement that occurs as a direct result of project-related land acquisition or restrictions on land use. It can take the form of physical or economic displacement (i.e. the loss of income sources or means of livelihood) and can be permanent or temporary.

If an EIB-financed project leads to the displacement of settlements of refugees or internally displaced persons, the involuntary resettlement process should be adapted to be aligned with the **UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**.

Promoters' responsibilities

- Avoid or, when unavoidable, minimise involuntary resettlement by exploring alternative projects, project designs and locations;
- Avoid any forced evictions;
- Improve displaced persons' livelihoods or living standards, or at least restore them to pre-project levels;
- Improve living conditions among displaced poor and other vulnerable groups to at least minimum living standards by promoting adequate housing and security of tenure;
- Provide timely compensation for loss of assets at the full replacement cost;
- Ensure the appropriate disclosure of information, consultation and informed participation;
- Provide access to grievance mechanisms;
- Consider enabling displaced persons to benefit directly from the project.

Requirements for projects located in EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries

- Compliance with the applicable national and EU legislation and the applicable international human right instruments to which the host country is party, as well as with any obligations deriving from the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;
- Compliance with Standard 6 in projects requiring the displacement of persons that occupy land or assets without a formal title, such as slum-dwellers or squatters.

Requirements for projects located in the rest of the world, including EU candidate and potential candidate countries

- Compliance with Standard 6, which reflects the core principles and essential procedural elements in EU legislation that the EIB considers relevant to involuntary resettlement, as well as compliance with any obligations arising from the applicable national legislation and international human rights instruments.

Specific requirements for promoters

- **Project design** – Consider and document feasible alternative projects, project designs and/or locations; limit the size of buffer zones or rights of way.
- **Eligibility criteria** – Establish criteria for who is eligible for mitigation measures in cases such as: persons with formal legal rights to land or assets, persons without formal legal rights, but who have claims that are recognised or recognisable under national laws or customary and traditional rights, and persons who occupy or use the land or assets but have no recognisable legal rights or claim to them.
- **Project-specific census and socioeconomic baseline for the affected population with a cut-off date** – Conduct a census that covers the total population of affected persons and includes a socioeconomic baseline and an inventory of all losses, including those for seasonal resource users. After the cut-off date, the census, socioeconomic baseline and resulting inventory of losses need to be updated.
- **Valuation, compensation and livelihood restoration** – Make in kind or monetary compensation available to affected persons at full replacement cost. If an affected person's livelihood is land-based or the land is collectively owned, the promoter should favour land-for-land compensation or provide sufficient justification for their alternative choice of compensation method to the EIB. Livelihoods must not be affected by failure to replace land. The value or quality of replaced houses, land or assets should be equal to or higher than the pre-project conditions. Provide **resettlement assistance** suited to the needs of each group of displaced persons.
- **Relocation sites** – Consult the choice of the site with those affected. Apply a set of requirements in line with Standard 6, points 40-42.
- **Stakeholder engagement and disclosure** – The promoter must comply with EIB Standard 2 and should inform affected persons/groups about their options and rights pertaining to resettlement, as well as document the process. Compensation and resettlement understandings that the promoter reaches with the affected parties should be reflected in **written agreements**. Obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) if required under EIB Standard 7.
- **Grievance mechanism** – The promoter must comply with EIB Standard 2, and additionally, the mechanism must include a recourse procedure to resolve any disputes in an impartial manner. The mechanism should not impede access to the country's judicial or administrative remedies.
- **Evictions** – Forced evictions are not tolerated. Evictions must comply with the requirements of Standard 6, points 48-51.
- **Vulnerable groups and gender dimensions** – During the process, give special consideration to individuals and groups that are vulnerable, marginalised, systematically discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socioeconomic characteristics.
- **Resettlement planning documents** – Ensure the preparation, disclosure, implementation and monitoring of the relevant resettlement planning documents in compliance with this standard. These may include: a **Resettlement Policy Framework**, **Resettlement Action Plan** or **Livelihood Restoration Plan**. The minimum requirements are set in annexes 1a and 1b of Standard 6.
- **Entities responsible for the resettlement** – The promoter must ensure that those responsible for the involuntary resettlement (for example, national authorities) follow this standard.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – Set up monitoring systems; submit monitoring reports, including information about grievances and how they were redressed. Upon completion of all resettlement activities, provide an audit report to the EIB.