The Mozambique Gas Development Project’s Resettlement Process: Part 3 of 9

The role of consultation and sharing of information during resettlement planning

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Anadarko Mozambique Area 1, Limitada (Anadarko), co-proponent of the Mozambique Gas Development Project (the Project), is publishing a series of articles to transparently disseminate accurate information about the resettlement process associated with the development of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) park on the Afungi peninsula in the District of Palma.

This is the third in the series of nine articles, providing an overview of the role consultation and dialogue with affected communities, the Government of Mozambique and civil society organizations have played thus far as part of the resettlement planning process.

Consultation and public sharing of information

The resettlement engagement process was designed to comply with Mozambican legislation (environmental, land and territorial planning frameworks) and industry best practice, notably the International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standard 5. The goal of the engagement process during the resettlement planning phase is threefold:

- To disseminate adequate, accurate and meaningful information about the resettlement process to affected communities;
- To encourage and promote dialogue and consultation with stakeholders on the information disseminated, thereby enabling the informed participation of affected stakeholders in the resettlement planning process; and
- To include the outcomes of the consultation process in the development of the Resettlement Plan.

Communities affected by the Project, constituting households from Palma District and host communities that experience physical or economic displacement impacts, are considered primary stakeholders and have been the focus of the ongoing resettlement engagement process. Other key stakeholders include the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Local Administration, the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, the National Electricity Company (EDM) and the National Authority for Water and Sanitation Infrastructure (IAAS).

Regular meetings have also been convened with the Technical Commission for Resettlement Monitoring and Supervision to obtain its technical guidance and to discuss and agree on specific technical details in relation to the resettlement planning process, site selection and house design, and to provide the Technical Commission with resettlement process updates. In March 2015, the Technical Commission established specialized working groups to review the Project’s resettlement planning outcomes to date, including the replacement site selection, replacement site layout design and design, fisheries impacts assessment and compensation, agricultural impacts assessment and compensation, as well as replacement agricultural land.

The Project’s consultation approach has been to present all resettlement planning information and proposals to the Government and communities prior to engaging with the communities. This meant that when communities were consulted, the Government was aware and supportive of consultation and the content of such consultations. Once affected communities had been consulted and the consultation led to a decision, such as the replacement site decision, it was presented to the Government and the commissions for endorsement.

At the district level, the District Administrator has appointed a District Resettlement Working Team, comprised of relevant District Government officials. This Working Team has been involved in all resettlement activities to date and the Project’s resettlement team will continue to involve them in resettlement engagement activities.

Engagement with key stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement during the resettlement planning phase has included formal and informal engagements. Formal engagements occur on a continuous basis through the resettlement field teams’ daily interactions with affected communities, including through surveys, demonstration plot maintenance, fish catch surveys and specialist studies.

Formal stakeholder engagement methods that the Resettlement team has used include meetings with the various CRCs, community meetings, public meetings, focus group discussions, interviews, household surveys, fisheries surveys, community boundary mapping, display of information on notice boards in community nkutanos (meeting places), radio broadcasts of public meetings, advertisements, visits to various sites including site visits to review the model house, and continued dissemination of visual communication materials such as brochures, maps and three-dimensional models.

All formal and informal engagements are recorded. Minutes of all public meetings are disseminated in village nkutanos and at central and accessible locations such as the Palma District Office Headquarters. By the end of July 2015, the resettlement team had conducted more than 647 formal meetings to support the resettlement planning process. These include:

- 309 meetings with communities
- 50 meetings with the District Government
- 26 meetings with National Government
- 13 meetings with the National Technical Commission
- 25 meetings with Provincial Government, including the Provincial Resettlement Commission
- 5 meetings where Government representatives from different levels were present
- 188 meetings with the various Community Resettlement Committees, and a further
- 31 meetings with NGOs, businesses, donor agencies and the broader public.

The Project would like to thank stakeholders, especially affected communities and the CRCs, for their time and effort to participate in the resettlement consultation process. The views of stakeholders have contributed immensely to inform the development of the draft Resettlement Plan.

For more information on the resettlement process, visit www.mzlng.com

The next article will focus on the manner in which consultation, dialogue and participatory planning have informed specific aspects of the Resettlement Plan.