



## Delivering viable resettlement outcomes

The resettlement of project affected people, due to the severity and long-term nature of associated project impacts, is rapidly becoming an unavoidable issue of increasing importance. Demonstrating a socially responsible manner of 'doing-business' includes not just the application of internationally accepted best practice compliance measures, but also an unwavering commitment to give a 'voice' to the millions of vulnerable people that are faced with the prospect of involuntary resettlement all across the world.

Resettlement planning is regarded as a multi-level, tripartite procedure that is meant to find the best-fit measures that are implemented to improve the quality of life and value-add to recipient communities by keeping their dignity and human rights intact.

A mutually beneficial solution is sought in resettlement scenarios – by improving the project developer's likelihood of obtaining finance by demonstrating a "social license to operate" through the application of fair, equitable and humanly just principles to those that stand to be physically and/or economically displaced by the proposed development. The improvement of living standards of project affected people and subsequent investment in local economic and social development pay dividends for project developers in the form of enhanced goodwill, increased

community, national and international corporate reputation, and a well-founded partnership with International Funding Institutions (IFIs) for future investment opportunities.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), operational disruptions, investment costs and negative impacts to corporate brand and reputation also make viable resettlement an essential consideration for developers.

### How do we contribute to viable resettlement outcomes?

Firstly, we have extensive experience in the application of relevant international safeguard standards. These include compliance standards being utilised by Financiers such as the Worldbank, Standard Chartered, OPIC, CDC, IFC, AfDB, ADB, EBRD and FMO. Often the IFC's Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement Standard (PS5, 2012) and the Worldbank's Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (4.12, 2013) are seen as the benchmarks.

Royal HaskoningDHV manages project risk by applying clearly defined and articulated principles that align projects to international guidelines and standards, thus significantly reducing or eradicating project risk and enabling third party financing. Guiding principles include:

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- Avoidance of Involuntary resettlement;
- Where involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, ensuring that project affected populations are compensated fully and fairly for lost assets and livelihoods;
- Conceiving of Involuntary resettlement as an opportunity for improving the livelihoods of project affected people through appropriate restoration measures; and
- Ensuring that project affected populations have the advantage of being informed, consulted and involved in their own resettlement planning and livelihood restoration.

The application of these principles can effectively be assisted through the development of planning tools, like a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Land Acquisition and Compensation Plan (LACP), and Livelihood Restoration. We see the planning stage crucial to reach viable outcomes. Inclusive, timely and meaningful engagement of the affected communities, including vulnerable groups and marginalised sections of the affected populations, leads to positively enhanced and effective targeted outcomes.

Royal HaskoningDHV has a dedicated team, based in different regions of the world, working for International Financiers and Companies covering social, environmental, engineering and economic specialists to deliver international standards compliance at a local level. We are successfully advising financial institutions, credit agencies, institutional development banks and multi-national companies on social issues.

[royalhaskoningdhv.com](http://royalhaskoningdhv.com)

We pride ourselves on procedural and quality assurance in the work we do. Recently, we have undertaken positive and successful resettlement assignments in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Our brand promise is 'Enhancing society together' and we aspire to live up to our brand in the solutions we deliver.

Contacts:

**Kim Moonsamy**

Social Specialist

T: +27 (0)87 350 6764

E: [kim.moonsamy@rhdhv.com](mailto:kim.moonsamy@rhdhv.com)

**Margriet Hartman**

Environmental and Social Specialist

T: +31 6 51069234

E: [Margriet.hartman@rhdhv.com](mailto:Margriet.hartman@rhdhv.com)