

**Supplemental Note
to the
Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan
(ARAP)**

For Vršac Flood Protection subproject



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Directorate for Water
Project Implementation Unit

April 2019

1.BACKGROUND

Vršac Flood Protection sub-project did not require land acquisition, but it was anticipated that informal structures built on public land would be impacted. In 2017 the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP)¹ for this Sub-Project was prepared. The final version of the document was disclosed on December 19, 2018. following the public disclosure period and public consultation on the draft documents held on October 17 2018.

The sub-project construction works were, as per design, divided into II sections:

- **Section I: km 0+000 to km 1+042, in the total length of 1km,**
- **Section II: km 1+042 to km 2+597, length 1,6km**

ARAP provides a detailed action plan and mitigation measures for impacts on both sections I&II, but due to limited access to section II only impacts on section I were identified in the document. The intention was for the ARAP to be updated once the overgrown river bed could be cleared and detailed description of impacts and mitigation measures for the **Section II: km 1+042 to km 2+597, length 1,6km** could be provided prior to commencement of civil works.

Section 1 anticipated to impact 15 households whose assets are located on public land. The impacts were mainly in the form of demolition of auxiliary structures and fences and clearance of the land from cultivated trees and shrubs i.e. sovereignty to be exercised over occupied public land for the flood protection works. Overall, the extent and the severity of impacts is assessed as minor and limited to loss of a small number of private assets; there was no physical displacement or impact on livelihoods. More details on impacts are accessible at Chapter 5 of the ARAP.

The objective of this supplemental note to the Vršac Flood Protection ARAP is to clarify the changes in design of section II, which have led to the avoidance of any social impact on this section.

2. Implementation progress up to date at Section I: km 0+000 to km 1+042, in the total length of 1km

Works on section I have commenced in 2017, as preparatory works and on those locations where no impacts had been identified to progress to those locations only after the negotiated settlements had been signed between the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and the City of Vršac. By April 2019, 14 out of 15 PAPs had signed the settlements and received compensation while the amount for the last outstanding PAP has been set aside.

3. Implementation progress up to date on Section II: km 1+042 to km 2+597, length 1,6km

Following the implementation strategy set forth in the ARAP during the winter months extensive discussions and engagement with stakeholders on Section II were conducted to prepare in advance of the final Census of owners and inventory of affected assets which had been planned for early spring time once the weather conditions were favourable and access to Section II possible. The river bed was left without maintenance for years which made it impossible to

¹ See ARAP for Vrsac Sub-Project

http://www.rdvode.gov.rs/doc/04ARAP_VRSAC_draft1_for_WB_NO_12092018_CLEANafterPC.pdf accessed on April 25, 2019

access Section II safely both in terms of workers safety and community health & safety before that time.

After a number of meetings held between the designer, the Contractor, the PIU, The City of Vršac and the local community including those potentially to be affected by works on the Section II, and following the adaptive management of design approach, it has been decided that the original design was not feasible nor safe to be implemented at Section II. The slopes as per that solution were designed to reach the edges of residential structures, pile retaining walls, auxiliary structures, fences, bridges etc. and would in course of execution require extensive compacting of soil to reinforce the slopes and provide adequate protection. The technical teams of the PIU, the Supervision consultant and the Designer concluded that compacting of soil would very likely inflict damages, in some cases instantly, in others with a delayed effect and the possibility to severely affect the static of the structures along the Mesic stream. The Team parted from this solution and designed a new flood protection solution, “U” shaped, providing additional support and acting as retaining walls through the outer points of the structure.

By resorting to this improved technical solution any adverse impact to private assets will be avoided, including impacts to the pedestrian bridge depicted below and addressed in the ARAP in Chapter 4. The Bridge will still be painted and its condition improved but without the need to be relocated and its stability compromised.



4. Conclusion

As a result of design changes on Vršac Flood Protection sub-project Section II, the land needed for flood protection works within the Republic of Serbia (user PE” Vode Vojvodina” Novi Sad) and City of Vršac owned river belt is readily available and no adverse social impacts are expected on this section.

The Sub-Project will be closely monitored for subsequent occurrences of social impacts during execution of works.

In the highly unlikely event of damages or other identified adverse social impacts to private assets compensation shall be negotiated and agreed compliant to the principles set out in the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) and the ARAP shall be Annexed to reflect the additional cases, if needed.

In addition, after commencement of works, in case some land is needed on temporary/lease basis which will be returned to the owners after completion of works, for such temporary occupation owners shall be compensated according to the prevailing market price of rent as established in negotiations between the PAPs and the Contractor on the free lease base.