

Human rights concerns in European Investment Bank' projects

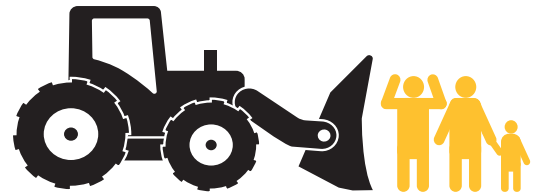
REGIONAL MOMBASA PORT ACCESS ROAD

WHAT THE PROJECT IS ABOUT >>>>

In Kenya, the European Investment Bank (EIB), together with the German development Bank (KfW) and the African Development Bank (AFDB), is funding the

EXPANSION OF A 41,7 KM SECTION OF THE ROUTE FROM MOMBASA TOWARDS NAIROBI

to a dual carriageway. The project is implemented by Kenya's National Highways Authority (KENHA) and supposed to be completed by 2020.



Despite its importance, this investment - before it even started - has destroyed the lives of hundreds of informal settlers in the suburbs of Mombasa.

IT STARTED FROM FAILURE >>>>

In 2015, **over one night more than a hundred families were forcibly evicted from their homes** on the roadside. Only later did the lenders and KENHA halt the works to mitigate the harm caused to the people and revised the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the whole project.

However, **the compensation process was not satisfactory and more than 200 affected people went through a mediation process with KENHA** – facilitated by the EIB.

AND CONTINUED WITH MORE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES >>>>



FURTHER FORCED EVICTIONS

In 2018, people in the Jomvu and Bangladesh areas were handed notices to vacate without any relocation sites being offered, and financial compensation (if any) was given to them without any valuation reports. Some movable structures, small buildings, trees or tree nurseries had been demolished even before the notices were handed, effectively constituting forced eviction under international law.



RETALIATIONS TOWARDS AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

In 2017, **community leaders were intimidated and threatened by the head of the project grievance mechanism** (namely, the local authority). **The EIB disclosed to the promoter the confidential complaint** it received from the people affected by the project. **The EIB was aware of the situation**, but this did not lead to any significant change. In 2018, a community leader received **a death threat** and had to be relocated. The international organisation Front Line Defenders assisted.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION VIOLATED

Despite hundreds of complaints linked to the lack of transparency and clarity of the resettlement scheme, **compensation sums continue to be paid arbitrarily**, without individual valuations based on a transparent methodology.



RIGHT TO LANGUAGE VIOLATED

Only in 2018, three years after the beginning of the evictions, the EIB announced it was going to translate some projects documents into **Swahili**, one of the local languages. It is still unknown if these translated documents were done and effectively distributed.



EIB NOT KEEPING ITS SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

The Resettlement Action Plan approved by **the Bank ignores the projects negative impact on housing structures and families with children**. This results in a lack of proper mitigation measures, such as new relocation sites or education schemes. In addition, a Livelihood Restoration Plan describing measures to mitigate and compensate for the material losses of affected persons has still NOT been finalised.



Counter Balance Challenging Public Investment Banks



Source of information: Amnesty International Kenya, Polish Green Network, CEE Bankwatch Network, project affected persons.

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