



Annex 7: Public Consultation

Final consultation event

Consultation activities were conducted in Qena governorate in Basma Hotel on the 7th of February. Following are the main participants:

- Three consultants from Petrosafe and EcoConServ (environmental and social)
- Five representatives of EGAS and Regas
- One representatives of EEAA accompanied the teams
- 2 administrative managers and numerous drivers
- Media related expert was recruited to invite media people

The list of invitees was developed by active NGOs in Qena, EEAA regional branches, environmental offices in the governorates, governmental media centers, and various government employees, in cooperation with the Consultant. Invitees were informed of the date and location of the Public Consultation at least two weeks ahead. Participants were invited through:

- 1- Invitations sent by EGAS via mails, Faxes and e-mails.
- 2- Telephone communication by EGAS and the Consultant.
- 3- An advertisement published in El Gomhoria Newspaper.
- 4- Horus NGO was recruited to distribute the invitations. They previously participated in the data collection process. Therefore they managed to mobilize the target stakeholders all over the governorate.
- 5- Microbuses were leased to move community people from all project areas to Qena City.

Consultation was held in Basma Hotel. It is located in an accessible place. One day prior to the final public consultation five volunteers supported the team in the final preparation of the event.



في بيان أعلن إلى أنه سيتم استئناف التداول اعتباراً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٦ يناير.

بالجديد للواء أبو بكر الجندي رئيس للتعبة العامة والإحصاء لمدة عام القادم، يذكر أن أبو بكر الجندي في الجهاز المركزي للتعبة والإحصاء في

Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company
الشركة المصرية القابضة للغازات الطبيعية (إيجاس)

جلسات الاستماع ومناقشة عامة
لدراسة تقييم التأثيرات البيئية والاجتماعية لمشروع توصيل الغاز الطبيعي للوحدات السكنية لعدد محافظات قنا الإسكندرية أسوان القليوبية سوهاج

في إطار خطة الشركة المصرية القابضة للغازات الطبيعية والتي تعد جزءاً مكافئاً من استراتيجية الدولة في التوسع في توصيل الغاز الطبيعي للوحدات السكنية لعدد ٦٥ مليون عميل في (١١) محافظة بإتجاه الجمهورية.

فإنه يسعد الشركة المصرية القابضة للغازات الطبيعية (إيجاس) بالتعاون مع شركة الخدمات البترولية للسلامة والبيئة (بترو سيف) وشركة الكوكسرف للحلول البيئية دعوة ممثلي المجتمع المدني والجهات والأفراد المعنيين بموضوعات التنمية المستدامة والبيئة للمشاركة وإبداء الرأي بشأن المشروع وتأثيراته البيئية والاجتماعية المتعلقة وذلك في تمام الساعة العاشرة صباحاً طبقاً للمواعيد التالية،

المحافظة	المكان	التاريخ
قنا	فندق بسملة	يوم الأحد ٢٠١٦/٢/٧
الإسكندرية	فندق جراند رويال	يوم الاثنين ٢٠١٦/٢/٨
أسوان	قاعة مؤتمرات عروس النيل	يوم الثلاثاء ٢٠١٦/٢/٩
القليوبية	مكتبة مصر العامة	يوم الأربعاء ٢٠١٦/٢/١٠
سوهاج	قاعة المجلس الشعبي المحلي بالمحافظة	يوم الأحد ٢٠١٦/٢/١٤

وفي حالة الرغبة في الحصول على نسخة من مسودة ملخص الدراسة التفصيلية برجاء زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني www.egas.com.eg للشركة القابضة للغازات الطبيعية أو الحضور لمقر الشركة ٨٥ طريق النصر مدينة نصر

وإننا نتطلع لمشاركة سيادتكم في هذه الجلسة للمزيد من المعلومات برجاء الاتصال بالمكتب الاستشاري - الكوكسرف
فاكس: ٢٠ ٢٧٣٦٥٣٩٧ - تليفون: ٢٠ ٢٧٣٦٤٨١٨ / ٢٧٣٥٩٠٧٨ - بريد إلكتروني: genena@ecoconserv.com

Figure 1: Advertisement published in El Gomhoria newspaper

Participants profile

The event was conducted on the 7th of February 2016. 110 persons attended the consultation event. 42 of them were females. More than 50 % of them were community people from various districts in Qena Governorate. 27.3% of them were affiliated to civil society and NGOs. Actually, Qena events were privileged with dense participation of NGOs. 11.5% of participants were affiliated to environmental entities within EEAA headquarter, the governorate authority and the local governmental units. The university and educational sector attended the sessions as the majority of key stakeholders in Qena were among teachers. Road authority and health directorate also participated in the event.

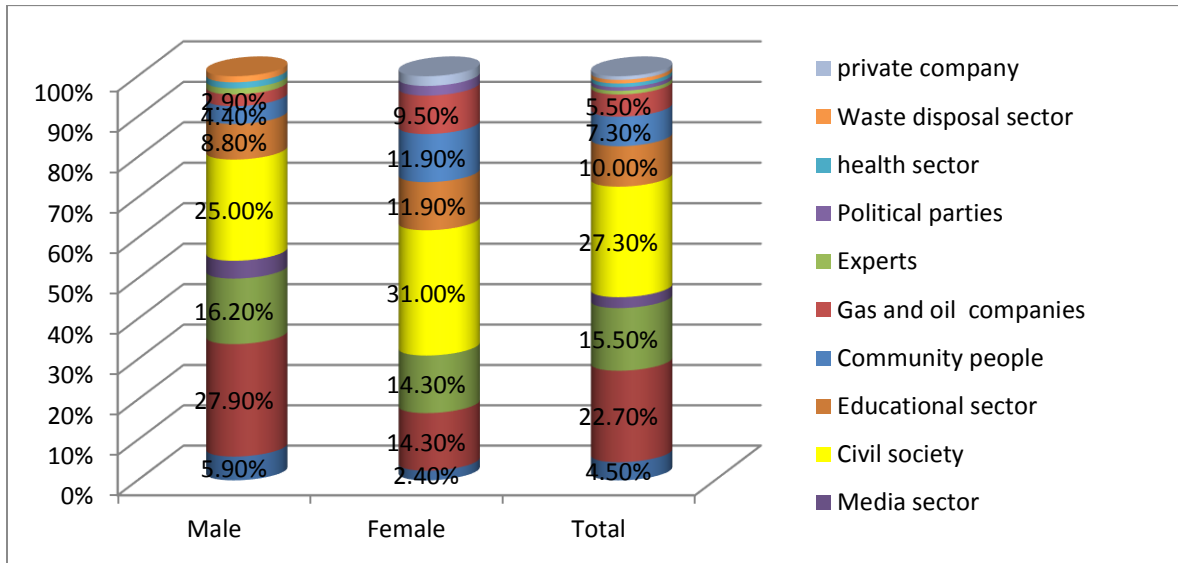


Figure 2: % Distribution of participants by sector and sex

With regards to the occupational status of the participants, 41.5 % of the participants were among specialists (engineers, doctors, accountants) 23.6% of them were of high managerial status. The head of Local Unit attended the consultation event. 31.1% of the participants were among administrative staff. 7.80% were students. Some of the participants were the farmers.

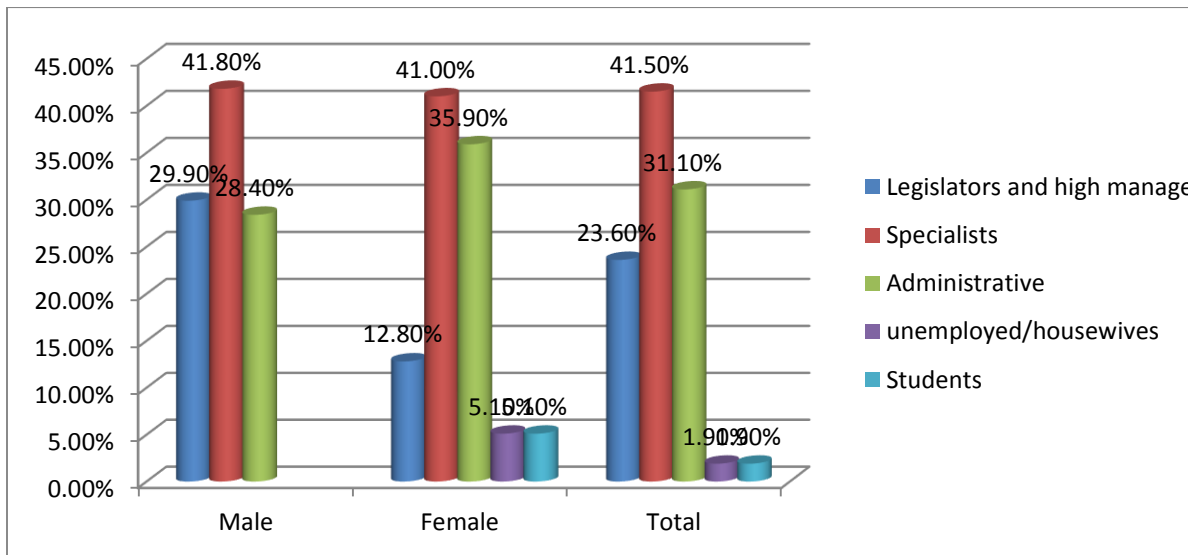


Figure 3: % Distribution of participants by occupation and sex



Summary of discussions

- His Excellency the Governor of Qena Governorate (General Abd El Hameed El Hagan) attended the consultation event. He inaugurated the consultation event by a brief discussion about the NG and its benefits.
- Eng. Mohamed Abd Allah, EEAA representative informed about the importance of consultation events. He provided a word about the problems aroused with some companies due to ignoring the environmental dimension. He also drew the participants attention to the importance of mitigating the unfavorable impacts.
- Mr. Osama Kamal the Deputy Head of EGAS said a word about the natural gas and importance to connect the NG. Eng. Mohamed Salah Head of Projects Department in EGAS presented the project to participants.
- Dr. Baha El Shal representative of Regas said a brief word about the project.
- Using PowerPoint and multimedia, EcoConServ experts presented the ESIA to the community people. Simple wording was used whenever possible by the environmental and social expert in order to be comprehended by the members of community. Thereafter, an open discussion took place for couples of hours. There was an active participation from the participants side and they were more than willing to play a role in informing people about the NG.



During breaks, Media interviewed EGAS representatives, government officials and community members. Main issues raised during these interviews were as follows:



- 1- General information about Natural Gas
- 2- How community people be responsive and install NG
- 3- Positive and negative impacts of NG
- 4- The rules and regulations of EEAA
- 5- The role of stakeholders and community participation



Figure 4: The panel



Figure 5: Female participation



Figure 6: Participants



Figure 7: ESIA presentation



Figure 8: Female participations



Figure 9: Community people

Afterwards the participants were keen to ask many questions related to the project, following are the main issues raised:



Table 1: Key comments and concerns raised during the Final Public Consultations

Subject	Questions and comments	Responses
Humanitarian treatment of NG workers	Reference to previous experience with NG, the participants reported an excellent treatment by the NG workers. They do their work efficiently without accepting any tips from the client	It is the regulation of NG companies not to accept any tips from the client
Areas that will not be connected	Almost all participants were asking about the areas that have not been connected to NG	The Government of Egypt adopt a strategic plan for the installation of NG
When will the LPG cylinders disappear?	All over the world the LPG is decreasing. When will it vanish from Egypt?	The state adopt a comprehensive plan to install NG. 1.2 million in this project. It will take up to 15 years until we install the NG to all buildings. However, access to sanitation networks should be attained first. This will take time
LPG & NG are not renewable energy.	What will happen after the consumption of NG and LPG? They are not renewable energy	The consumption of huge consumers is being reduced now. i.e electricity and factories. This will save gas to the houses. Additionally, there are many seismic activities that search for new NG wells
Eagerness to install the NG	Qena is keen to have NG installed to everyone. The NGOs actively participated in data collection process. People were met in their houses, offices and in youth centers and cafes. All interviewed people were eager to have NG installed.	NG will be gradually installed to the houses but it has to be in accordance to the budget and technical specifications
Safety procedures	What are the safety procedures adopted by the NG companies?	The NG companies adopt international procedures of NG safety. i.e. adding odor to NG, also, safety of construction and technical requirements
Shutting NG regulator daily	Should the NG house regulator be shut down every day?	No not necessarily. It can be shut down just during a long leave from the house



Subject	Questions and comments	Responses
Coordination with the NG for future maintenance of the other utilities	In case if any utilities get affected after the installation of NG, who will repair the damaged pipes?	In case if any utilities get broken or damaged, the LDC Regas should be reached out and informed about the damage. One employee from the LDC will accompany water company, electricity company The NG company should monitor any repairs. There will be a hot line to contact Regas. They should be informed about any activities.
NG pipeline get damaged	What will happen if any NG pipes get damaged?	LDCs have rigid emergency plans that should be adhered to. There is emergency vehicles that reaches the leakage area in just few minutes. Additionally, there is a hotline.
Fee collection problems	A huge problem is faced with the fee collectors. We had to pay a lot of money due to inefficient fee collectors	There was a problem in Petrotrade (the company responsible for collecting fees) the workers were on a strike asking to enhance their working conditions. This was ended a month ago and collection will continue with no further delays.
Street rehabilitation cost	The Local Distribution Company has not disbursed the street restoration cost until now	Prior to the construction the LDC conduct a meeting with the Local Governmental Unit. This meeting is called a coordination meeting. The cost of street rehabilitation will be paid after this meeting.
Safety measures in bakeries and industrial structures	What are the safety measures applied in industrial structures and bakeries?	Any industrial activity will apply a maintenance contract. We always adopt preventive procedures. Regas provides the clients with detailed instructions required for their safety.
NG is safe	NG installed to houses is safe. It is only 22 mm. It is lighter than air. Therefore it will rise and get out through windows	A leaflet was prepared and distributed to community prior to the construction. It is planned to provide awareness activities via schools as students can pass information easily to their parents.



Subject	Questions and comments	Responses
Poor people ability to install NG	A high percentage of poor people will not be able to install NG	The NG connection costs 5500 EGP. The client pays only 1600 EGP. There is no further support to be given to the poor right now. However, there is an arrangement to pay in installment. There is a grant to support poor people
Installation of NG that might cause visual impacts	Some people are reluctant to install NG due to the insistence of NG companies to install NG in the apartment's reception or entrance.	It is not a matter of visual intrusion, it is safety requirement. The NG companies do their best to install NG in the safest venue.
Requirement to install NG	Girls club needs to have NG installed. What are the requirements and the potential cost?	A study will be conducted to calculate the cost. Regas will contact the girls club
Economic analysis for the project	The presentation discussed the environmental and social impacts. What about the economic feasibility of the project?	This project is a service provided by the state. It is not generating money. However, the project will result in significant reduction in the subsidies allocated for the LPG cylinders.
Protective measures	The LDC use a yellow warning ribbon to keep children away. This should be replaced by metal barriers.	This will cost a lot. The yellow ribbon keeps children away. Additionally, workers keep an eye on construction sites
Contractors delay	The contractors in one of the areas have not been working for a week. What should people do?	They should get in contact with Regas. After the session we will check on this contractor.
Awareness activities	People should be informed about the project time plan and its activities	The LDC puts signs informing about project activities

Disclosure of the public consultation event

After the public consultation event, social media and newspapers disclosed information about the event and its results.

Following are some of the news items published:

- 1- El Youm El Sabea
- 2- El Watan
- 3- Vito website



Figure 10: News item in El Watan news
<http://www.elwatannews.com>



Figure 11: News item in El Youm El Sabea
<http://www.youm7.com>



Summary of consultation outcomes

Site specific consultation activities, as mentioned in details above, included wide range of concerned stakeholders. This included but not limited to persons/households affected by the project activities, civil society organizations representing the interest of the community, or regulatory and governmental bodies who will play a role in facilitating or regulating the implementation of site-specific project activities.

His Excellency the governor of Qena expressed his welcome and support to the project. His enthusiasm about the project was reflected in attending the public consultation earlier before all other audience came. His interest in the project was an inspiring feeling to the other participants, especially, the heads of LGU. They expressed their support to the project. Other stakeholders expressed their overwhelming interest in the project. It was noticeable that NG staff members have a good reputation among community people. However, the performance of the fees collection company was not satisfactory. Safety of NG and street rehabilitation remained as the main concern among various stakeholders. The NG projects have a bad legacy regarding street restoration. The NG LDC representatives passed clear information about the role of the LGU in street restoration.

While WB safeguards and regulations state that a minimum of two large-scale, well-publicized public consultation sessions are a must for projects classified as category ‘A’ projects like the one at hand¹, additional consultation activities (for example through focus group discussions, in-depth meetings, and interviews) were implemented to reach the most vulnerable and difficult to reach community members. Additionally, in order to obtain larger scale and more quantifiable information, the consultant has conducted surveys in the different sites.

¹ Clause 14 of OP 4.01 states that: “For Category A projects, the borrower consults these groups at least twice: (a) shortly after environmental screening and before the terms of reference for the EA are finalized; and (b) once a draft EA report is prepared. In addition, the borrower consults with such groups throughout project implementation as necessary to address EA-related issues that affect them.”