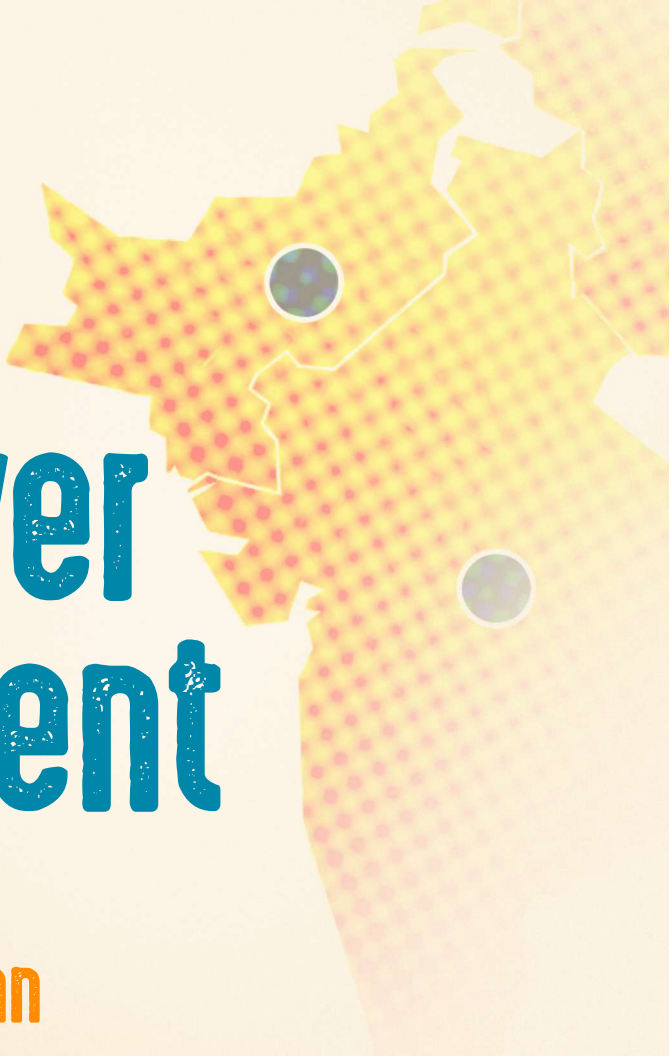


## Case Summary

# Balakot Hydropower Development Project

Pakistan



The Balakot Hydropower Development Project is co-financed by ADB and AIIB for USD 550 million to construct a 35-meter dam producing 300 MW on the Kunhar river in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. Affected communities in the surrounding villages have raised concerns about displacement from their ancestral lands, inadequate compensation for resettlement, the demolition of schools, reduced access to water, pollution and increased disaster risks. Workers were not provided with proper contracts, were paid below the minimum wage, and were denied adequate occupational health and safety protections, which led to the [death of a worker](#). Various community members have reached out to the project team and filed complaints with the ADB's accountability mechanism to raise their concerns.

## Reprisals

- When community members voiced their concerns, security forces beat them, filed First Information Reports against them and imprisoned them on fabricated charges.
- Community members who criticised the project were targets of intimidation by local authorities and project officials. They also experienced delays and discrimination in relation to the compensation of their land.
- Community members who filed complaints with the ADB on the Balakot project were pressured by local officials and project implementers to withdraw their complaints.