


Case Summary

Madyan Hydropower Project

Pakistan



The Madyan Hydropower Project in Pakistan is part of the World Bank-funded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hydropower and Renewable Energy Development project approved in 2021 for a total of USD 450 million. The Madyan hydropower dam will be built on the Swat river where the [Indigenous Torwali](#) reside. Local communities have raised concerns about being displaced from their homes as well as the disruption of river flows affecting marine life, agriculture, and flooding patterns, leading to threats to food security and livelihoods. The bank has failed to recognize the indigeneity of the Torwali people, resulting in flawed impact assessments and a lack of information disclosure in the local Torwali language. Furthermore, there was no meaningful consultation process, as women were excluded and a No Objection Certificate was issued for the project despite opposition from some community members.

Reprisals

- Local authorities and government staff threatened activists and local village officials with possible imprisonment and surveillance of their family members.
- Activists were framed and accused of working against the national interest.
- There is a general climate of fear in the villages, as young people and women have been urged to remain silent and avoid trouble by speaking out against the project.