

Case Summary

Rogun Hydropower Plant Project

Tajikistan

The Rogun hydropower dam aims to become the largest dam in the world, standing 335 meters high and capable of generating 3,780 megawatts of electricity for Tajikistan. Under a consortium led by the World Bank, [multiple development banks and funds](#) – including the AIIB, EBRD, EIB, IsDB and the ADB – are mobilising more than USD 5 billion in financing for the dam and associated projects. There is significant [evidence](#) that the construction of the dam will lead to serious social and environmental harm, including the large-scale displacement of 60,000 people without adequate resettlement and compensation plans, biodiversity loss, and increased risks for downstream communities. However, given the highly restrictive civic space in Tajikistan, there are no safe and available avenues for impacted communities to raise their concerns and participate in meaningful consultation processes.

Reprisals

- The civic space in Tajikistan has been categorized as “[closed](#)” with the increased crackdown on dissenting voices and freedom of expression constantly under threat. This climate of fear has led individuals to “[regularly self-censor in order to avoid reprisals.](#)” In this situation, no meaningful consultation can take place with impacted communities on the ground.
- [Downstream communities](#) in Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan would also face significant barriers to raising concerns or opposing the project, given the similarly restrictive contexts for civic engagement in those countries.

