



# **KHYBER PASS ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (KPEC) PROJECT SOUTHERN LINK ROAD (SLR)**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

**&**

**RESPONSES**



# Questions about the Project Components and Status

## 1. What is the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) Project?

The Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) Project is financed by the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan and is being implemented by the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). It aims to enhance road infrastructure, improve access to services and markets, boost trade, and drive socio-economic development. The project consists of two main components.

### Component 1: Construction of expressways

This component, implemented by the National Highway Authority (NHA), includes construction of two expressways to enhance regional connectivity.

1. **Peshawar Torkham Expressway (PTEX):** A 47.5-km, four-lane, access-controlled expressway linking Peshawar to the Torkham border.

2. **Southern Link Road (SLR):** A 42.53-km, four-lane dual highway linking National Highways N-5 and N-55 to the PTEX corridor. It starts at PTEX (near Sathi Khel), connects to N-55 at Badaber, and ends at Dheri on the N5/GT Road.

### Component 2: Economic development of the region

This component focuses on boosting economic activity around the proposed PTEX by establishing industrial zones, commercial infrastructure, SME support programs, logistics hubs, and international bus/truck terminals.

## 2. What is the project completion time?

The project will be implemented over a five-year period, covering detailed design, bidding, contract awarding and completion phases.

### **3. When will the project construction start? Has the contractor been hired?**

The National Highway Authority (NHA) is currently evaluating bids for the construction of the Peshawar Torkham Expressway (PTEx) and the Southern Link Road (SLR), which were submitted on June 26, 2024. A contractor, whose proposed alignment will also be approved as part of the selection process, is expected to be chosen by the end of June 2025. The selected contractor will then have three months from contract signing to complete the detailed design, targeting the end of September 2025. Concurrently, the NHA will update the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) based on the approved alignment, aiming for redisclosure by the same September 2025 deadline. This will provide a clearer picture of land acquisition and impacts on Project-Affected Persons (PAPs). Construction cannot begin until compensation, as outlined in the updated and approved RAP, has been paid to those affected and the World Bank has issued a Letter of No Objection (LNO).

### **4. Is the alignment of the project final? If not, when will the alignment be finalized?**

The alignment is not final; it is provisional and subject to change. It will be finalized when the contractor's proposed alignment is approved, which is expected to occur by the end of June 2025 as part of the contractor selection process.

### **5. Will the SLR be like M-1 or N-5?**

The Southern Link Road (SLR) will be a closed-access corridor, similar to the M-1, with designated community access points.

### **6. Where are the proposed SLR interchanges located?**

The proposed interchanges for the Southern Link Road (SLR), which begins at the N-5 (GT Road) are as follows:

1. Tarnab (N-5),
2. Phandu,
3. Indus Highway (N-55),
4. Bara Road, and
5. Takhta Baig (N-5).

### **7. What will be the embankment height of the proposed Southern Link Road?**

Under normal conditions, the proposed highway's height will range from 1.5 to 3 meters. In some cases, such as flyovers and underpasses, this height may be greater than 3 meters. Where the height could potentially impact the privacy of local residents, fencing, trees, hedges, or other visual barriers will be installed.

### 8. What are the project benefits to the general community?

The Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project aims to stimulate trade, enhance local value chain productivity, and promote sustainable economic growth in the Khyber Pass region and surrounding areas. The project will benefit local communities through job creation, as most skilled and semi-skilled labor will be recruited locally. Improved regional connectivity, facilitated by the expanded motorway network, is also expected to increase land values.

#### Key benefits of the KPEC project include:

- 1.Reduction of traffic congestion on existing roads.
- 2.Travel time to and from Torkham will be reduced by 60 minutes, lowering transportation costs.
- 3.Significant reduction in travel time for transportation of goods.
- 4.Increase in trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- 5.Direct access to communities adjacent to the proposed project.
6. Significant reduction in vehicle operating cost (VOC) and a more pleasant journey due to a smooth, standardized road.
- 7.Increase employment for local people and promotion of small to medium industries.
- 8.Easy access to essential facilities like hospitals, schools and colleges.

## 9. How many acres of land (residential & commercial structures) will be affected by the SLR? How many people will be physically displaced?

The National Highway Authority (NHA) has worked to minimize impacts on Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) by adjusting the proposed project alignment. The current alignment, which remains subject to change, is designed to reduce displacement and land acquisition.

### SLR Impact Summary (Based on Preliminary Alignment)

#### Land Acquisition:

- Total Land Acquired: 1,050 acres
  - Agricultural Land: 759.07 acres
  - Barren Land: 275 acres
  - Residential Land: 17.47 acres
  - Commercial Land: 0.52 acres
  - Communal Land: 0.14 acres

#### Impact on People:

- Households Impacted: 19,643 (through loss of assets, livelihoods and/or land)
- Landowners Affected: 16,978
- Residential Structures Impacted: 252
- Commercial Structures Impacted: 48
- Individuals Displaced: Approximately 2,520
- Commercial Property Owners Impacted (Economic Loss): 8

### Addressing Project Impacts: Compensation and Livelihood Support

- Asset and structure losses that cannot be avoided will be compensated in accordance with Pakistani law and World Bank policy (OP 4.12) to ensure Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) are not left worse-off.
- The draft Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) includes cash allowances for vulnerable individuals (those below the poverty line) and severely impacted persons (those losing over 20% of their land or productive assets).
- All land and asset losses will be compensated at replacement cost.
- The Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP), currently under preparation, aims to restore the income of project-affected persons, especially vulnerable groups. It will provide training in land-based/agricultural skills, such as modern farming techniques, for those who rely on agriculture. For individuals seeking non-land-based/professional skills, the LRP will offer training in technical and vocational fields, computer literacy, IT, and other market-oriented skills. These initiatives will help affected individuals regain their livelihoods and diversify their income sources beyond agriculture.
- As per World Bank policy, vulnerable displaced groups (poor, landless, elderly, women, children, indigenous peoples, minorities, and others not protected by national legislation) will receive special attention.

## **10. What are the negative environmental impacts of the project and what mitigation measures will be taken to minimize these impacts?**

Construction is expected to cause negative environmental impacts such as soil erosion, campsite waste, poor drainage, vegetation loss, and increased air and noise pollution. Operation of the expressway will likely increase vehicular emissions, drainage issues, and noise pollution. These impacts will be mitigated through an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) developed by the contractor and approved by the NHA and World Bank.

Mitigation measures during construction will include proper waste disposal, daytime-only construction, use of quieter machinery, a tree plantation plan and regular drainage maintenance.

To minimize operational noise, mitigation will include noise barriers (hedges and indigenous trees) and enforcement against pressure horn use in sensitive areas. The Design-Build contractor will propose ROW plantings according to the ESMP. These measures are designed to significantly reduce environmental pollution.

## **11. How many community and public structures will be affected? What will be the compensation paid to them, and to whom?**

Two mosques and a school (located at 33°57'31.626"N, 71°38'55.014"E in Mouza Surizai Payan, Tehsil Saddar, District Peshawar) will be affected by the project. These community structures will be fully replaced or rehabilitated to ensure they can continue to serve their original purpose.

The recognized patrons or custodians of these structures will receive cash compensation for their restoration. Five electric poles will also need to be rebuilt or relocated, with the associated costs covered by the project.

## **12. Will the construction of the SLR impact any graveyards?**

The proposed alignment affects some graveyards. During final design, the alignment will be adjusted where feasible to minimize impacts on major graveyards. Where realignment is not possible, affected graves will be carefully relocated in consultation with families, local religious leaders, and community leaders, respecting Islamic customs and laws. The National Highway Authority (NHA) will cover all relocation costs.

### 13. Were community members and elected officials informed about the project and consulted on the alignment?

- During the project preparation phase, National Highway Authority (NHA) undertook consultations with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to understand their concerns and utilize inputs gained from these consultations to guide project design. These consultations will continue until the closure of the project.
- As part of Component 1 of the Project, an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted for the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) between 2022 and 2023. The findings were published in a report on January 1, 2024. During this process, consultation meetings were held in 12 villages across the affected districts, allowing participants to openly share their perspectives. Community elders, notable representatives and government officials took part in these discussions. Additionally, consultations were conducted with approximately 747 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) and the general population within the project's area of influence.
- Various consultation methods have been employed, including general community meetings (separately for men and women), targeted meetings with project-affected persons (PAPs) at risk of losing residential or commercial structures, focus group discussions, and specialized meetings for developing village profiles.
- The primary goal of these consultations was to inform stakeholders about the KPEC project, particularly the proposed Southern Link Road (SLR), gather their feedback on its potential impacts, and identify ways to enhance benefits while minimizing adverse effects. Insights from these discussions have contributed to shaping the ESIA and provided crucial input for the RAP, ensuring that stakeholder concerns are considered in the project design.
- These Consultations will continue during the preparation of the draft RAP, during the updating of the ESIA and RAP after the final alignment is proposed, and throughout project implementation, in accordance with OP 4.12.

### 14. Were any government departments consulted about the project?

Yes. Several government departments were consulted during the ESIA preparation, including:

- Agriculture District Officer, Peshawar
- On-Farm Water Management Officers of Nowshera, Peshawar, and Khyber
- Wildlife Department, Peshawar
- Additional Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Peshawar
- Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera Forest Division
- Director of Agriculture, Peshawar
- Social Welfare Department, Peshawar
- Communication & Works Department, Nowshera

These departments provided insights, and their feedback was incorporated into the ESIA to design appropriate mitigation measures.

### 15. What will be the mode of land acquisition?

Land acquisition will be carried out in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act of 1894, its LAA KP 1894 (Amendment), 2020, and World Bank Operational Policy OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement. Under the law, the District Collector and revenue authority will handle the land acquisition process. NHA and the World Bank will ensure land acquisition is done in accordance with the project's Resettlement Action Plan.

### 16. What is the SLR cut-off date for eligibility as a Project Affected People (PAP)?

- A comprehensive census of all affected households within the Right of Way (ROW) was completed on August 31, 2023. Only those identified before this date are eligible for benefits.
- This cut-off date (August 31, 2023, for Nowshera and Peshawar districts) is based on the Land Acquisition Act (LAA) of 1894 and corresponds to the publication of Section 4 in the Provincial Gazette.
- Anyone moving into the area or making unauthorized structural changes (beyond emergency repairs) after August 31, 2023, will not receive compensation, relocation assistance, or livelihood rehabilitation.



## QUESTIONS ABOUT STRUCTURE LOSS

### 17. What compensation will I be given if the house/residential structure I own is affected by the alignment?

Heads of Affected households will receive the following compensation:

- **Structures and Fixtures:** Cash compensation at replacement cost (market price + 15% surcharge), as assessed by the District Buildings Department. No deductions will be made for depreciation, transaction costs, or salvageable materials (which the PAP can keep).
- **Partial Impacts:** Full cash assistance for restoration. If the remaining structure is unviable, compensation for the entire structure.
- **Transition Allowance:** Six months of PKR 37,000 per month (KP minimum wage).
- **Transport Allowance:** The allowance for large affected structures has been set at PKR 37,000 for this project.

### 18. I am an employee of the business that will be affected as part of the alignment. How will I be compensated?

Employees of affected businesses who lose their jobs due to the project will receive three months' cash compensation, equivalent to the government-declared minimum wage of PKR 37,000 per month.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT LAND LOSS

### **19. I also own the land of my house. What compensation will I be paid for my residential land?**

Residential land will be compensated at its replacement cost, paid in cash. Replacement cost is the market price plus a 15% "Compulsory Acquisition Surcharge," excluding taxes, registration, and transfer fees. The Board of Revenue, via the District Price Assessment Committee (DPAC), will assess land value in Nowshera and Peshawar. In Khyber district, a Qaumi Commission will determine the value. Compensation will be paid directly to the head of the affected household or extended family.

### **20. Will the government provide land for the new houses?:**

The land-for-land option is currently not available.

### **21. What compensation will I be entitled to if my agricultural land is affected by the alignment?**

- Cash compensation will be provided to affected individuals (PAPs) based on replacement cost, as determined by the Revenue Department. For this project, replacement cost is defined as the market price plus a 15% "Compulsory Acquisition Surcharge," with no deductions for taxes, registration, or transfer fees. I
- Lost crops on acquired land will be compensated at market rates. This will be calculated based on the Government of Pakistan's crop price for the year, and will be paid to the head of the affected extended family or household. All affected landowners or users will receive compensation for one year of crop losses, covering two cropping seasons (one for the immediate loss and another for the following season) to mitigate any adverse impact on income or livelihoods.
- The Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP), currently under preparation, aims to restore the income of project-affected persons, especially vulnerable groups. It will provide training in land-based/agricultural skills, such as modern farming techniques, for those who rely on agriculture. For individuals seeking non-land-based/professional skills, the LRP will offer training in technical and vocational fields, computer literacy, IT, and other market-oriented skills. These initiatives will help affected individuals regain their livelihoods and diversify their income sources beyond agriculture.
- Special provisions will also be made for vulnerable PAPs, including tenant farmers, to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods. The LRP aims to help affected households sustain or improve their living standards, in alignment with World Bank Policy OP 4.12 on involuntary resettlement.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT LAND LOSS

### **22. I am a sharecropper/tenant on the affected agricultural land and the acquisition will lead to loss of livelihood/income for me. How will I be compensated?**

- Both landowners and land users will be compensated for acquired land, regardless of ownership status.
- Crop compensation, at current market rates, will be paid directly to cultivators, sharecroppers, or tenants according to their agreements.
- All affected landowners/users will receive compensation for two crop seasons (one immediate and one subsequent) to offset income/livelihood impacts from crop loss.

### **23. I am an agricultural worker on the affected land. How will I be compensated?**

Agricultural workers will receive cash compensation for lost wages covering the remainder of the agricultural year, and will also receive livelihood restoration assistance through the LRP to support their economic stability and future employment.

### **24. I am an informal settler on the land falling under the alignment. How will I be compensated?**

- Informal land users or encroachers without recognized ownership will not receive land compensation but will be compensated for affected structures, assets, and improvements (excluding the land itself).
- Compensation for lost residential structures will be provided as detailed in FAQ 20. If the land is cultivable, they will also receive one year of crop compensation (two crop cycles) to mitigate income/livelihood impacts. Actual transport expenses will be reimbursed.

### **25. What compensation will be paid for the communal land being affected by the alignment?**

A Qaumi Commission, comprised of tribal elders and appointed by the GoKP per the KP Land Acquisition Amendment Act, 2020, will identify rightful owners of affected communal land and determine their shares. The commission's recommendations will be submitted to the Provincial Government for approval or modification. The District Collector will then disburse compensation directly to each rightful owner.

### 26. What compensation will be paid for barren land in Khyber District? Who will it be paid to?

In Khyber District, the Qaumi Commission and District Collector will determine cash compensation for land at replacement cost. For barren tribal/clan land, compensation will be provided to these entities per government regulations for newly merged areas. The District Collector will disburse compensation directly to each rightful owner.

### 27. What will be the rates for crops and fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing trees? Who will this compensation be given to?

Compensation for trees will be handled as follows:

- **Fruit-bearing trees:** Cash compensation covering the full restoration period, as assessed by the Agriculture Department.
- **Non-fruit-bearing trees:** Compensation based on wood market value (trunk girth and current rates), as assessed by the Forest Department.
- **Payment:**
  - **Trees on private land:** Paid to the head of the household.
  - **Trees on collective barren land:** Paid to the community via the clan elder.

In all cases, payment will be made to the rightful tree owner.

### 28. How will conflicts regarding land compensation between absentee landowners and actual land users in the area be resolved?

The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will document any existing or potential land disputes, along with a conflict resolution Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). No ongoing disputes have been identified to date. Compensation will be disbursed only after verifying legal ownership or land rights.

The Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will help resolve ownership disputes, working with relevant government departments (Revenue Department, Civil Administration) and community-based mechanisms (e.g., Jirgas).

As detailed in the SLR RAP, both landowners and land users will receive direct, individual compensation based on their entitlements under World Bank OP 4.12 and the LAA 1894, minimizing the likelihood of conflict. No additional agreements between landowners and users will be required for compensation disbursement.

**29. When will compensation payments be received? Will I be compensated before land is acquired/before relocation?**

World Bank policy (OP 4.12) mandates compensation at replacement cost before land or asset possession. The NHA and World Bank will ensure this happens before land acquisition and construction begin, in accordance with the approved RAP. An External Monitoring Agency (EMA) will verify replacement costs and compensation payments to all entitled PAPs before the World Bank authorizes construction.

**30. I am a female landowner. Who will the land compensation be paid to for my land?**

Land loss compensation will be paid to the individual named on land ownership documents, specifically to female landowners via crossed voucher/cheque (not to her husband or other family members). Project staff will assist female PAPs in opening bank accounts.

**31. How does the project define vulnerable PAPs? How will vulnerable PAPs be compensated?**

Vulnerable Project Affected Persons (PAPs) include women, children, destitute individuals, squatters, those with historical/cultural usufruct rights, and landless groups, as well as anyone earning below the official poverty line or the KP government's minimum wage. These vulnerable PAPs will receive a vulnerability allowance of PKR 111,000 (equivalent to three months' minimum wage) in addition to other entitlements. The LRP will prioritize vulnerable PAPs for project-related employment and provide income generation opportunities and targeted support.

## 32. How do I register complaints/grievances against the project and check the status of my complaints?

The Project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) provides a free and accessible platform for stakeholders to voice concerns, offering multiple channels for transparent communication.

### How to Submit a Complaint?

1

#### TOLL-FREE NUMBER / KPEC HELPLINE

0800 - 11 11 3



2

#### GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM (GRM) PORTAL

- Online Complaint Registration <https://grm.kpec.org.pk>
- The portal is also accessible from the NHA website: [www.nha.gov.pk](http://www.nha.gov.pk)
- GRM form available on the KPEC project website: [www.kpec.gov.pk](http://www.kpec.gov.pk)



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#### NHA OFFICES AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

Complaints or grievances can be submitted in person, by phone, or by email at the following designated offices:



**NHA Headquarters**, 28 Mauve Area, Sector G-9/1, Kashmir Highway, Islamabad

- Phone: +92-051-9032535
- Email: [pdptex@gmail.com](mailto:pdptex@gmail.com)

**NHA Provincial Office**, Chamkani Interchange, Peshawar

- Phone: +92-091-9225049
- Email: [pdptex@gmail.com](mailto:pdptex@gmail.com)



**NHA-SDU Office**, House No. 21-E, Mulberry Road, University Town, Peshawar

- Phone: 091-9216005
- Email: [grm@kpec.org.pk](mailto:grm@kpec.org.pk)



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#### COMPLAINT DROPBOXES

Complaint dropboxes placed in the project area along the Right of Way (ROW)

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#### PRIME MINISTER'S CITIZEN PORTAL



### Checking Complaint Status

- Complainants can call the **toll-free number 0800 - 11 11 3** to get updates on the status of grievance redressal.
- The **GRM portal** allows for both submitting new complaints and tracking existing ones.