

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Solomon Islands	Project Title:	Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Improvement Program
Lending/Financing Modality:	Program loan	Department/ Division:	Pacific Department/Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2011–2020 focuses on enhancing economic growth, advancing rural livelihoods, and improving service delivery in rural areas to create a new, united, and vibrant Solomon Islands through people-centered approach aimed at fostering national unity, better service delivery, and improved livelihoods. Improved transportation system has therefore been identified by the government in the NDS and the National Transport Plan (NTP) as a priority need. The NTP sets out a strategic framework to (i) develop transport services, (ii) develop and maintain physical infrastructure, (iii) improve the capacity of government agencies, and (iv) develop the private sector. Rural transport infrastructure is an essential element in the country's transport network and a prerequisite for supporting economic development and poverty reduction.

ADB's country partnership strategy (CPS), 2012–2016 for Solomon Islands, seeks to reduce economic isolation by improving the reach, reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of the nation's transport systems and services. The program aims to address both aspects.

B. Targeting Classification

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

The proposed program will support key policy reform actions to allow the government to provide priority transport infrastructure subprojects across the country, targeted at areas where there is a need of infrastructure improvements. The current practice of a poverty and social assessment will be reviews and assessed to improve its quality to develop a pro-poor design for reducing disadvantages and incorporating social dimensions.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

Populations in remote rural and urban areas are the beneficiaries of the program. The program will address the lack of accessibility and mobility to socioeconomic opportunities and connectivity through rehabilitation, maintenance, and improvement of transport infrastructure. Initial data for poverty (\$1.5/day, \$2/day) and sector relevant social indicators will be established by the project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA) subject to data availability.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

Improved accessibility and mobility to socioeconomic opportunities by rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving transport infrastructure will reduce barriers to socioeconomic opportunities. In addition, the program will be implemented through a sector-based approach to strengthen harmonization, alignment, and management of interventions between the development partners and to promote country ownership of future projects through providing capacity development in key agencies. This harmonization will reduce redundancies and/or lack of connections between interventions delivered by the partners, thereby improving aid-effectiveness.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.

Social and Poverty Specialist with 2.5 person-months' inputs will assess social and poverty issues (e.g., constraints on access to market, school, and hospital) for selected subprojects and the overall program.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending.

The program will review whether the existing analysis methods and frameworks appropriately identify potential social issues and address them through activities from planning to civil works. The improvements in the methods and frameworks will be incorporated in the policy reform and then the government needs to achieve the improvements within a short-term as defined by a policy matrix. In a medium-term, appropriate analysis methods and frameworks will address adverse impacts on the poor and vulnerable peoples through identifying the impacts and incorporating design to mitigate the impacts in the following activities, such as planning and civil works.

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?

No negative gender issues are anticipated. Women are expected to benefit equally from the program. Specific concerns of women relating to access to socioeconomic opportunities are expected to improve.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to make a contribution to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women's access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?
 Yes No The program will promote gender equality by developing a framework of a gender action plan promoting improved accessibility and mobility to markets and social services which will be utilized by subsequent civil works. A framework of a gender action plan will be prepared by the PPTA.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?
 Yes No The program will improve women's accessibility and mobility to socioeconomic opportunities.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:
 GEN (gender equity theme) EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)
 SGE (some gender elements) NGE (no gender elements)

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.

Potential initial stakeholders include government, civil society, nongovernment organizations, other development partners, the private sector, and residents of the area near each identified subproject sites.

2. How can the project contribute (in a systemic way) to engaging and empowering stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly, the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups? What issues in the project design require participation of the poor and excluded?

The PPTA will conduct consultations with potential stakeholders and beneficiaries, while encouraging participations of vulnerable groups, in remote rural and urban areas, through workshops on the social and poverty assessment and the environmental assessment to gauge the effectiveness of the program to improve their quality of life.

3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?

It is expected that community-based organizations and people's organizations in rural remote and urban areas are the key civil society organizations. The PPTA will identify key stakeholders to be involved during consultations.

Information generation and sharing (N) Consultation (H) Collaboration (N) Partnership (N)

4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed? Yes No

A participation strategy, including identification of key issues affecting program implementation related to infrastructure design and implementation arrangements, community engagement, and effective achievement of poverty reduction objectives, will be developed. Based on the preparation strategy outlining recommendations prior to construction work, good relations will be established with contracted construction workers. The engagement of facilitators (either by the program implementation consultants or construction contractor) will be recommended to assist in drawing up community agreements, negotiate terms of employment (if any) and sale of aggregate (if appropriate); raise awareness of sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS and environmental protection; and reduce the potential for conflict between communities and construction teams.

IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Involuntary Resettlement Category A B C FI

1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? Yes No Resettlement and land acquisition are not expected under the program. The PPTA will review an existing resettlement framework to guide further assessment and the preparation of a resettlement action plan if required.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?

Resettlement plan Resettlement framework Social impact matrix
 Environmental and social management system arrangement None

B. Indigenous Peoples Category A B C FI

1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? Yes No

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No No adverse impact on indigenous people is expected.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No Not

necessary because the program will not cause any resettlement.
4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process? <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None
V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS
1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability <input type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify _____
2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design? The program will ensure that existing analysis methods and frameworks appropriately identify potential social issues and address them through activities from planning to civil works. The current practices include the compliance with national labor laws and regulations, public awareness of STDs and HIV/AIDS prior to and during civil works.
VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT
1. Do the terms of reference for the PPTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during PPTA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact; (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions; (iv) social safeguards; and (vi) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the PPTA or due diligence? The program design draws on poverty, social, and gender analyses prepared for the CPS 2012-2016 (approved in March 2012). The reforms are grounded in the NDS, which was the product of an extensive consultation process involving stakeholders in Solomon Islands. The PPTA includes an international Social and Poverty Specialist with 1.5 person-months inputs to review ongoing practices, analyze social and poverty risks associated with program intervention, and suggest practical improvements.