

## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Myanmar	Project Title:	Irrigation Command Area Development
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	Southeast Asia Department/Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division

### I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The project is consistent with the government's 5-year National Development Plan 2012-2016, which focuses on balanced growth among regions and states, and inclusive growth, and ADB's Myanmar Interim Country Partnership Strategy (2012-2014) in support of sustainable and inclusive economic development and job creation. The project will improve farmer's incomes in the project areas through improving and developing the irrigated agriculture.

#### B. Targeting Classification

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

The project will improve performance of irrigated agriculture to ensure increasing agricultural productivity and farmer's income in central dry zone (CDZ) region. The CDZ region has high poverty incidence, particularly in Magwe (28.2%) and Mandalay (31.6%) region.<sup>a</sup> The project will also improve vulnerability of the poor against natural disasters or changes in economic conditions as well as their livelihood.

#### C. Poverty and Social Analysis

##### 1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

Myanmar remains one of the poorest countries in the world with a per capita GDP of \$857, a Human Development Index rank of 149 out of 187 countries, and 26% of its population living in poverty in 2010.<sup>b</sup> Poverty incidence in rural areas is significantly higher than in urban areas, with 85% of the poor living in rural areas. Most poor households are engaged in agricultural activities and/or have members employed as casual laborers. The major causes of poverty in rural areas include lack of technological progress in agriculture, little value added from exports, fragmentation of farm land and lower farm incomes, small return on physical assets as a result of the low level of agricultural productivity, inadequate infrastructure support, price disincentives, and lack of diversified sources of income because of limited economic opportunities.

##### 2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

Agriculture and rural development are essential in reducing poverty in Myanmar as most of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agricultural growth will increase the income of the rural poor both directly, through increased production and additional demand for farm labor, and indirectly, through linkages with non-farm productive activities in the rural areas. The project will address these constraints by improving irrigation infrastructure and irrigation management, and agricultural support services to increase productivity and value for agricultural products.

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

During PPTA, baseline survey on poverty and social issues will be conducted and potential targeted activities to involve poorer and vulnerable households. The PPTA will identify projects impacts on poor and vulnerable households, assess and ensure benefits are accrued by those households.

### 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?

In the 2011 Gender Inequality Index, Myanmar ranked 96 out of 146 countries, ahead of some other regional developing country members.<sup>c</sup> The disaggregated analysis points to gender disparities in some of the poorest rural areas. The project will identify and enhance the women's role in irrigated agriculture and involvement women in decision-making process in a water user group (WUG) and community. Myanmar has reached gender parity in education with girls in primary, lower and upper secondary school enrollments but there remain challenges at the secondary and TVET levels. High maternal mortality rate with 240 deaths per 100,000 live births and is unlikely to meet MDG targets.

#### 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

Women's role and activities are essential for high valued agriculture resulting from improved conditions of irrigation system, agricultural processing facilities, market access and higher productivity. The project will ensure women participation in improving irrigated agriculture.

#### 3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?

☐ Yes ☒ No

The project is proposing engineering solutions for the problems of irrigated agriculture. These interventions will benefit both women and men farmers in the project area. Any potential negative impacts will be identified and addressed through gender action plan.

#### 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.

The main stakeholders are farmers in project areas and local government officials. They will be involved in subproject planning, designing irrigation system, construction works and operation and maintenance (O&M).

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?

Consultations with stakeholders will be conducted during the PPTA and continue throughout the project cycle. The farmers will participate in rehabilitation and construction of tertiary and on-farm canals. Training programs for irrigation management and higher value agriculture will be provided to the farmers. Training will include O&M.

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?

☒ Information generation and sharing (H) ☒ Consultation (H) ☒ Collaboration (M) ☐ Partnership (N)

Participation will involve WUGs.

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

Measures to ensure participation of the poor and vulnerable should be designed into the project and consultations will be incorporated during project preparation.

### 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

There is a probability of land acquisition in irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation and development (including tertiary canals, land consolidation, rural roads and agricultural processing facilities, if any) in subprojects. The PPTA will identify the impacts of resettlement on civil works and prepare resettlement plan.

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

The PPTA will identify whether indigenous people affected will be or not in each subproject.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?

☐ Indigenous peoples plan ☐ Indigenous peoples planning framework ☐ Social Impact matrix  
☐ Environmental and social management system arrangement ☒ None

### V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS

1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?

☒ Creating decent jobs and employment (L) ☐ Adhering to core labor standards ☐ Labor retrenchment  
☐ Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS ☐ Increase in human trafficking ☐ Affordability  
☐ Increase in unplanned migration ☐ Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters ☐ Creating political instability  
☐ Creating internal social conflicts ☐ Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?

The PPTA will assess the impacts on labor market in consulting services and civil works in irrigation subsector.

### 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 (v) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?  
☒ Yes ☐ 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?

Social safeguards and gender specialists will be assigned to conduct required analyses and funds will be allocated for surveys.

<sup>a</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2011. *Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey in Myanmar (2009–2010)*. Yangon.

<sup>b</sup> Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United Nations Children's Fund, UNDP. 2011. *Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey in Myanmar (2009–2010)*; and ADB. 2012. *Asian Development Outlook 2001: Update*. Manila.

<sup>c</sup> UNDP. *Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All*. New York.