

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	India	Project Title:	Uttarakhand Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Emergency Assistance Loan	Department/ Division:	South Asia Department/India Resident Mission

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Targeting classification: General Intervention

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

Consistent with ADB's India Assistance Strategy for infrastructure development as core focus area, the proposed Uttarakhand Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project (the project) is aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure related to roads and bridges, tourism (including construction of helipads and trekking routes), and urban water supply that were damaged and washed away due to disaster of June 2013 in the state. The loss of connectivity hampered access to goods and services and has affected the livelihood of people. According to official sources, 4,200 villages had lost connectivity and over 900,000 people were affected by the disaster. It also caused difficulties in evacuating local people and tourists in five worst affected districts, which contain the popular pilgrimage circuits. The disaster has posed a major challenge to poverty reduction gains to the poverty ridden and calamity prone state due to geological and geographical settings.

The project will directly and indirectly contribute to poverty reduction at local and state levels through (i) the creation of unskilled/semi-skilled employment during the construction; (ii) restoring income generating activities and livelihood associated with the flow of pilgrims and tourist; and (iii) recovery of economic growth, particularly through tourism industry which has about 22.48% contribution to state gross domestic production. The project will help recover and improve the socio-economic conditions of affected people, including the vulnerable groups and women.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence

Key Poverty and Social Issues.

The due diligence is based on the review of secondary sources and information provided by the government officials. The socio-economic survey of affected persons could not be conducted due to perpetuating disaster like conditions.

The Uttarakhand state comprising of 13 districts is located in the Himalayan mountain ranges. According to Census of India, 2011, the state has about 11 million population, including 70 % rural and 30% urban population. The literacy rate was nearly 80% including 88% for males and 71% for females; and gender ratio was 963 females per 1000 males. People largely depend on agriculture and tourism for their livelihood.

The disaster impacted all the communities, including vulnerable groups that are scattered in the mountainous terrain. The project is expected to have positive impact due to increased access to market, education and health facilities; increased employment and livelihood opportunities in tourism and other sectors; and improved quality of life with the restoration of normal water supply to affected population. The damages caused to other sectors are being mitigated by the World Bank, national and state governments; civil society and other development partners.

Design Features. The project will contribute to rehabilitation and reconstruction of an affected road network, rehabilitation and reconstruction of tourism infrastructure (including trekking routes and helipad) and restoration of urban water supply networks to higher standards of disaster resilience.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

The participation of the stakeholders, including the poor and vulnerable groups will be ensured during the project implementation. A series of meaningful consultation, focus group discussion, interview and meeting will be conducted with the stakeholders and beneficiaries from various socioeconomic groups in the subproject areas. Local NGOs will assist in the implementation of resettlement plans and indigenous peoples plans, as applicable. The local unskilled and skilled laborers, including women will be engaged in the construction and related activities under the project.

What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation?

M Information gathering and sharing Consultation Collaboration Partnership

Will a project level participation plan be prepared to strengthen participation of civil society as interest holders for affected persons particularly the poor and vulnerable?

Yes. No.

Public consultation and disclosure plan as prescribed in the resettlement framework will be implemented.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender Mainstreaming Category

The project is classified as effective gender mainstreaming (EGM) category.

Key Issues. The deterioration of gender inequality due to disaster will be addressed in a gender sensitive manner. Under the project, increased connectivity, improved urban water supply and enhanced tourism will result in more time spent on productive activities, self-development and will contribute towards equal status of women, who are mainly involved in agriculture, household work, etc.

Key Actions. Women will be encouraged to take up employment during project implementation and an equal wages will be paid to men and women for the works. An equal compensation and assistance will be paid to the impacted men and women, including additional assistance to women-headed households. The resettlement plan implementing NGO will include a social and gender specialist. Specific gender features have been detailed out in gender action plan (GAP) and are integrated in the project Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF).

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

2. **Key Impacts.** The project will be funded under emergency assistance loan modality and only the resettlement framework (RF) prepared will guide the selection and implementation of subprojects. It is designed to avoid major land acquisition as far as possible and minimize resettlement impacts by adoption of feasible technical design. The civil works for rehabilitating and reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure facilities are expected to be within the existing right-of-way and government land. However, the realignment of roads in some stretches and construction of helipads and trekking routes are likely to cause minor land acquisition and involuntary resettlement impacts. A resettlement plan will be prepared for the subprojects having land acquisition and resettlement impacts following the guidelines of RF and SPS.. The project is classified Category B for involuntary resettlement and Category C for indigenous peoples. Subproject selection criteria are formulated to avoid land acquisition, resettlement and indigenous peoples impacts, and social risks. However, should a need arise during implementation to undertake a subproject classified as Category A for involuntary resettlement or Category B for indigenous peoples, the required re-categorization will be undertaken.

Strategy to Address the Impacts. The resettlement framework will guide the preparation and implementation of resettlement plans (RPs). The RPs for the relevant subprojects will be prepared based on Land Acquisition Act (1894), National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy¹ (2007), and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

Plan or other Actions.

Resettlement plan Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan
 Resettlement framework Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples
 Environmental and social management system arrangement Social impact matrix
 No action

B. Indigenous Peoples

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

Key Impacts. Under the project, civil works is expected to be within the existing right-of-way and available government land and unlikely to have any adverse impact on the tribal groups. The ongoing ADB funded projects in road, urban and tourism sectors in Uttarakhand state have not indicated any differential impacts, either positive or negative between IP and non-IPs so far. However, any impact on indigenous peoples, if identified during implementation, an IPP will be prepared and implemented in line with indigenous peoples planning framework prepared for the project.

Is broad community support triggered? Yes No

Strategy to Address the Impacts. Any additional subprojects entailing involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples impact will follow the procedure detailed out in resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework prepared for the project.

Plan or Other Actions.

Indigenous peoples plan Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan
 Indigenous peoples planning framework Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework
 Environmental and social management system arrangement Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
 Social impact matrix
 No action

¹ Draft Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, Resettlement Bill 2011 approved by the Lower House (Lok Sabha) and Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of the Parliament is under consideration for its passage by the President of India.

V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS

A. Risks in the Labor Market

Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market.

unemployment underemployment retrenchment core labor standards

Labor Market Impact. The Project will generate employment opportunities for the local communities. Men and women will be paid equally for equal work. EA will ensure compliance with the labor laws, with no child labor employed.

Affordability. The project will restore the income and livelihood of affected people and does not entail any affordability issue.

Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks

Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

Communicable diseases (M) Human trafficking (M)

Others (please specify) _____

The project will incorporate measures to mitigate HIV/AIDS risks by having NGOs and contractors undertaking awareness programs in the project influence area. The contractors will carry out STI and human trafficking awareness for their laborers at work sites and this will be monitored by the consultants during project implementation. All contracts will include specific clauses on these initiatives and the EA will strictly monitor the compliance.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DMF indicators include economic and social recovery from the 2013 disaster at the impact level; and critical physical infrastructures are built back better with disaster resilient measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and improve level of disaster preparedness in Uttarakhand state. The project is targeted to benefit the affected population, including the vulnerable groups and women. All data will be gender disaggregated.

EA will carry out the internal monitoring and an independent monitoring expert/agency will be engaged for the external monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RPs. Monitoring report will be submitted to ADB on semi-annual basis. EA will allocate adequate resources, including experts for resettlement management.