

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Nepal	Project Title:	Earthquake Emergency Assistance Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Emergency Assistance Loan	Department/ Division:	South Asia Department / Nepal Resident Mission

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: General intervention

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

Devastating earthquakes hit Nepal in April and May 2015—with magnitude 7.8 on 25 April 2015, magnitude 6.9 on 26 April, and magnitude 7.3 on 12 May, as well as hundreds of aftershocks in between. As of 17 May, the number of confirmed deaths exceeded 8,600, and over 17,800 injuries, 382 missing persons, and 2.8 million displaced people were reported. Damages to public and private properties were massive, including nearly 30,000 public and private classrooms completely destroyed or significantly damaged. Damages to road infrastructure are also severe in the affected districts. Of the country's 75 districts, 14 were declared as most affected. The National Planning Committee, with support from many development partners, is undertaking a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) to evaluate the damages and losses and develop a recovery and reconstruction strategy. The Earthquake Emergency Assistance Project of \$200 million from the Asian Development Fund of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will focus on two sectors—education and transport (rural and strategic roads, bridges, and landslide protection)—and also reconstruct damaged public buildings, with priority given to the 14 most affected districts.^a Education and transport are among the priority sectors of ADB's country partnership strategy, 2013–2017 for Nepal.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. The population in the project's 14 priority districts, which include the Kathmandu Valley, numbers 5,368,513, or 20% of Nepal's population of 26,494,504 (Census 2011). The average sex ratio (males per 100 females) is 93.5%, which means that females outnumber males in the 14 districts. Prior to the catastrophic earthquake, the socioeconomic conditions in these 14 districts were generally better than the national average. The average poverty rate was 22.4%, lower than the country rate of 25.2%. The average human development index was 0.50, almost equivalent to the country value of 0.49; the literacy rate (>= 6 years) was 67.6, which is higher than the country rate of 66.6. The districts had 7,826 schools and 5,829 community schools, representing 23% of all schools and 20% of all community schools in Nepal. The road length was 2,398 km, 19% of the country's total road length of 12,494 km. The average population served and influenced per km of road was about 2,219, higher than the country average of 2,131. Also, 24% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country were located in these districts, particularly 30% of national cottage industries, 25% of businesses, 18% of transportation enterprises, and 21% of service enterprises. The districts had a good share in the tourism industry. In 2013, almost 800,000 tourists visited the area, of whom 52% for holidays and 13% for trekking or mountaineering. Most of the houses used for tourism are in six of the 14 districts. Given the devastation caused by the earthquakes, these flourishing socioeconomic and infrastructure conditions can be described as having been completely or partially destroyed.

2. Beneficiaries. The potential beneficiaries are the disaster survivors in the affected districts—residents, school children, workers and employees, road users, businesses, commercial services, and government officials.

3. Impact channels. The disaster survivors, especially the poor and vulnerable groups, will benefit from the project. The establishment of safer and more shock-resilient schools will rebuild the confidence of school children and their families and allow them to resume education. The rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads will restore (i) access to public and social service facilities, such as government agencies, health centers, and schools; (ii) connectivity for the recovery of business and commercial services and other economic activities; and (iii) other livelihood and social activities of the people. The participation of vulnerable groups—e.g., women, indigenous people, and persons with a disability—will be encouraged through representation in decision-making bodies, in consultations and awareness-raising events, and in income and employment opportunities. The rehabilitation of public buildings will make sure that central and local governments have good conditions to work in; and that public services can be restored more quickly.

4. Other social and poverty issues. The devastations caused by the earthquakes have resulted in a multitude of social and poverty issues, such as damages to houses, agriculture, livestock, energy capacity and facilities, psychosocial problems among the survivors, poor school attendance (or poor-quality learning environment), and an environment that heightens stress and makes women and children vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking, and child labor. All these issues are beyond the capacity of this project to deal with, but restoring education and connectivity as quickly as possible is essential to help women and children recover from the trauma, and return to some normalcy.

5. Design features. The project components are: (i) schools rebuilt and upgraded to disaster-resilient standards, (ii) roads and bridges rehabilitated and/or reconstructed to higher standards to strengthen resilience, (iii) affected district headquarters government offices rebuilt or retrofitted, and (iv) disaster preparedness and management capacities strengthened.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR	
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. ADB's project team conducted routine consultations (as part of the post-disaster needs assessment and in preparing the project) with the government, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, affected populations, and other stakeholders involved in humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance or project preparation to maximize synergy and complementarity of ADB loan-, grant- and TA-supported assistance.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. Considering the nature of the project, national and local CSOs and communities will be consulted during project implementation, as needed, within the context provided by the rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical public and social infrastructure. Consultations and focus group discussions that may be organized under the project will ensure equitable representation and participation of women and disadvantaged groups. The public, especially affected households, the local governments, and beneficiaries will be consulted and their opinions solicited, and will participate in preparing, updating, and implementing the resettlement plan.</p> <p>3. The following forms of CSO participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M) Information gathering and sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M) Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. Participation plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. – Detailed guidelines for community consultation have been included in the resettlement framework.</p>	
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	
Gender mainstreaming category: Effective Gender Mainstreaming	
A. Key issues.	
<p>Women, men, girls, and boys experience disaster impacts differently. Women and girls are disproportionately affected since preexisting gender inequality, discrimination, and violence are exacerbated during times of disaster and crisis. According to the 2011 census, the 14 districts most affected by the earthquake include about 2,710,239 women (50.5% of the total population), of which 26.5% are household heads, 39,987 have disabilities, and 28% are girls aged 14 years or under. In the Gorkha district, the epicenter of the earthquake, the ratio of households headed by women is one-third and about 55% of casualties identified were female. According to United Nations estimates outlined in the Flash Appeal, about 3.2 million women are among the population affected by the disaster, 525,000 are women of reproductive age, 126,000 are pregnant women, and around 40,000 women are at immediate risk of gender-based violence. Key gender issues include: displacement, overcrowded centers for the internally displaced, lack of privacy, lack of lighting, limited and unsegregated toilet and washing facilities, lack of mobility, and increase in sexual violence against women and girls. Many women—particularly the disabled, elderly, and heads of households—are at greater risk of being overlooked when it comes to accessing relief and recovery assistance and to clearing rubbles and repairing their homes. Time poverty is another aspect because gender norms tend to intensify in times of emergency, which undermines women's ability to seek livelihood opportunities. Many women lack or have lost legal documentation (e.g., proof of citizenship) and are unable to access humanitarian assistance and support.</p>	
B. Key actions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) action plan (GESI-AP) – The following measures will be undertaken to ensure responsiveness of the project to the post-disaster needs of vulnerable groups, and their equal access to project benefits: rebuilding schools in view of GESI concerns with universal design and accessibility standards (e.g., sex-segregated latrines and access to water, factoring in needs of girls and disadvantaged groups in site selection, and labor opportunities); integrating road safety and security measures for the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities into road design; ensuring that contract documents uphold adherence to core labor standards (CLSs) and prohibit the hiring of child labor; ensuring adequate mitigation of human trafficking and gender-based violence; ensuring women's representation and participation in user and community groups, and in community orientation and road safety awareness programs; ensuring that households headed by women directly benefit from reconstruction by requiring contractors to employ women in construction-related works and adhere to CLSs; orienting contractors on gender and CLSs; and encouraging women's representation in the project team. To safeguard effective implementation of the GESI-AP, the project shall designate a full-time GESI consultant in Kathmandu, and three district-based GESI specialists and 20 social mobilizers to assist the activities of the implementing agencies, based on detailed measures in the GESI-AP.	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
A. Involuntary Resettlement	
Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI	
<p>1. Key impacts. The project will restore earthquake-damaged infrastructure and reestablish its use. Restoration work is expected to be within existing facilities and rights-of-way, and minimal land acquisition is anticipated, if at all. Avoiding land acquisition and involuntary resettlement is a subproject selection criterion.</p> <p>2. Strategy to mitigate the impacts. Subproject selection criteria are formulated to avoid land acquisition, involuntary resettlement impacts, and social risks. A resettlement framework was prepared and disclosed in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and government laws and regulations, to guide planning studies and detailed designs of subprojects. Implementation arrangements build on the implementing agencies' experience from other ADB-financed projects, and ensure that they have adequate capacity to prepare resettlement</p>	

plans with the support of consultants. Consultations will be undertaken with stakeholders in project areas during implementation.
3. Plan or other Actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework
B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
1. Key impacts. The project will not include subprojects that affect indigenous peoples. No broad community support is triggered.
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS
A. Risks in the Labor Market
1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market , indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H) unemployment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H) underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> (L) retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M) core labor standards
2. Labor market impact. The project will generate jobs and income opportunities for construction workers and local communities. With more than 3 million Nepalese youths working abroad and migration trends rising, Nepal is in dire need of construction workers. Even if sufficient capital is supplied, industry is likely to face substantial hurdles on the way to recovery because of the lack of cheap semi-skilled labor. The executing and implementing agencies will enforce compliance with the labor laws, including equal pay for work of equal value and no child labor. The terms of reference for Kathmandu- and district-based GESI experts will include support to these agencies and the contractors so as to safeguard adherence to CLSs.
B. Affordability
The project will contribute to restoring the income and livelihood of affected people and does not have any direct impact on affordability, since it will mostly target the rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical public and social infrastructure. However, high demand for construction materials—and related price escalation—may indeed restrict local communities' access to affordable construction material.
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks
1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M) Communicable diseases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H) Human trafficking
2. Risks to people in project area. As a result of the earthquake, the intensified risks of socially transmitted infections (STIs), human trafficking (children, girls, and women trafficking) are acknowledged. To mitigate these risks, the project will take a two-pronged approach: (i) ask the project's GESI experts to assess the coverage of mitigation measures that are in place and, based on the assessment, (ii) identify gaps and the need for project financial support during project implementation. In this respect, \$250,000 has been allocated for the recruitment of supervision consultants to be based in the project implementation units. All project contracts will include specific clauses on STI prevention, human trafficking, adherence to CLSs (including equal pay for work of equal value), and the prohibition of child labor. Training and/or capacity building for Kathmandu-based and local staff of the executing and implementing agencies as well as contractors will be carried out by the GESI experts, as needed.
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
1. Targets and indicators. The indicators in the design and monitoring framework include economic and social recovery from the 2015 earthquake in Nepal's affected districts (impact), and critical public and social infrastructure and services restored and made more resilient (outcome). Various social and gender-related indicators and targets were set for outcome and outputs, consistently reflected and expanded in the project-specific GESI-AP. A system will be established for collection and analysis of national and district data disaggregated by sex, caste, and ethnicity and reflected in semiannual progress reports
2. Required human resources. Two of the project's executing and implementing agencies will have monitoring and evaluation systems in place, as well as GESI units. To further strengthen the monitoring of social and GESI-related activities and impacts, the project will recruit 4 GESI experts and 20 social mobilizers.
3. Information in the project administration manual. The manual includes details of the monitoring mechanism. To measure progress and results, semiannual progress reports with GESI-AP implementation updates will be prepared. Review missions will monitor the timely and effective implementation of the GESI-AP.
4. Monitoring tools. The project and its associated technical assistance will help establish the national and district-specific monitoring and evaluation systems.

^a The most-affected districts are: Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk.
Source: Asian Development Bank.