

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Vanuatu	Project Title:	Cyclone Pam Road Reconstruction Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Mixed loan and grant	Department/Division:	Pacific Department Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office

<p>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</p> <p>Targeting classification: Emergency</p> <p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>1. The project will reconstruct and climate and disaster-proof transport infrastructure in priority locations. The damaged sites will include reconstruction by adopting “build back better” (BBB) features (on the Efate ring road) of roads, bridges, bridge approaches, culverts, head walls; scour protection works (road, approach roads, river banks, abutments, piers); river training works, selected rivers and streams, drainage systems, including disaster and climate proofing; and reinstatement of a landslide at Klems Hill by adopting BBB features.. The project is consistent with the priorities identified in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA),^a led by the Vanuatu government with assistance from development partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB).^b The PDNA highlights that repairs to the Efate ring road should be made as soon as possible to minimize secondary impacts on the economy, and to restore connectivity to essential services such as hospitals, schools, markets and main commercial centers in Port Vila.</p> <p>2. The project supports the development of key economic infrastructure, which is a key priority outlined in the government’s development plan, Priorities and Action Agenda 2006–2015.^c The project is consistent with the ADB country partnership strategy for Vanuatu, which supports improvements in infrastructure services, addressing major constraints to economic growth, and assisting in the reduction of rural poverty. ADB’s Pacific Approach aims to deliver sustained, resilient, and improved standards of living for the people of the Pacific.^d The proposed project will also support ADB’s approach to integrating climate resilience and disaster risk management in projects and programs in the Pacific, which recognizes there the need to assess infrastructure in terms of (i) vulnerability, including to climate change and disasters; and (ii) actions to adapt to and reduce risks, and assess and analyze (a) identified key climate and disaster resilience issues, and (b) alternative solutions for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence</p> <p>1. Key poverty and social issues. Prior to the cyclone, poverty in Vanuatu was characterized by poverty of opportunity, and the lack of access to basic services and the means to earn cash to meet expenses such as school fees, medical expenses, clothing and transport, and costs associated with important social obligations. For the rural population, particularly those living in more remote outer islands, the lack of affordable transport access to markets and social services was a major constraint to improving economic opportunities and using social services. The costs associated with transporting produce to markets to generate cash income are often beyond the means of the poorest households, reinforcing their isolation and poverty and denying them the means to improve their situation.</p> <p>2. The destruction of critical transport infrastructure has exacerbated this situation, particularly for vulnerable groups. Such disaster events also create new vulnerabilities, and impact people’s employment and livelihood-generating ability, personal safety, public health and sanitation, household efficiency, and food production. Although the physical destruction caused by the cyclone took place in March 2015, production losses and associated higher costs of production will linger for some time. The negative impact of the disaster on the overall socioeconomic situation in Vanuatu will be felt for many years. As highlighted in the PDNA, repairs to roads and bridges are being prioritized to minimize secondary impacts on the economy, and to restore connectivity to essential services such as hospitals, schools, markets and main commercial centers in Port Vila. The project will contribute to reconstruction and repair of critical transport infrastructure and the rebuilding of transport networks to higher standards of disaster and climate resilience.</p> <p>3. Beneficiaries. The primary beneficiaries will be people living on Efate Island. Repairing and climate and disaster proofing of the Efate ring road will provide people with regular transport for goods, and passenger transport to access social services and seek economic opportunities. Men and women in communities at construction sites will directly benefit from employment opportunities offered by the project.</p> <p align="center">II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</p> <p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. Direct community consultation has not yet been undertaken, but preliminary analysis of the expected poverty and social benefits and impacts of repairs to the Efate Ring Road are documented in the PDNA. The project’s expected poverty and social benefits and local community impacts will be further analyzed through a review of previous social and poverty analyses and consultations with stakeholders under ongoing ADB-financed projects. More detailed surveys conducted through focus group discussions with women and men, and interviews with key individual informants selected from the population living near or within the construction sites may also be undertaken.</p>

2. Civil society organizations. The project's communication and consultation plan (CCP) will establish the principles and mechanisms for the participation of stakeholders, including civil society. The CCP will reflect that civil society stakeholders will have different levels of interest in the project and that each stakeholder will contribute differently to delivery of the project. The CCP will identify major stakeholders and potential communications risks, together with potential communications strategies to address these.
3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):
 M Information gathering and sharing M Consultation L Collaboration L Partnership
4. Participation plan
 Yes No
- Key features: The CCP will be prepared for the project, based on participation methods that have worked well in other projects, to provide guidelines for the Project Management Unit and other relevant government agency staff, contractors, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to enable them to communicate and consult with each other effectively, inclusively, and transparently and to ensure that effective participation occurs during the design and implementation.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Some gender elements

A. Key issues

1. On the Gender-Related Development Index (GDI) for 2014 Vanuatu ranks 131 out of 187 (down three places from 2013), giving it an equivalent ranking to its HDI (above Kiribati, Solomon Islands and PNG but below the rest of the Pacific nations.⁹ Women's social status in Vanuatu means that they often among the most poor of the population and struggle the hardest to recover from disaster. While the destruction of critical infrastructure—e.g., health facilities, water supply systems, and housing—affects everyone, because Tropical Cyclone Pam damaged and contaminated sources of drinking water, women and children must dedicate increased time and effort to obtaining water from more distant locations. This increased workload reduces the time they can allocate to income generation, and exposes them to hazards such as violence or disease.

2. Access to transport services is increasingly important for women in Vanuatu. Women play an important role in economic life, particularly in the rural sector where more women than men are engaged in subsistence agriculture. In addition to growing food and cash crops, women contribute to the rural economy through the processing and sale of home produce such as clothing, baskets, mats, and handicrafts. Women are increasingly active in the retail sector in rural and urban areas, including in the management of markets, stores, and stalls. However, unreliable and unaffordable transport structures and services restrict women's participation in economic and public life. Damage to existing transport infrastructure resulting from the cyclone will have further adverse effects on women. At the same time, equitable post-disaster recovery could help to reduce women's disadvantaged condition and increase their overall resilience. Both women and men must have access to reconstruction and rehabilitation jobs, and to public works, investment funds, and income-generating projects to support their long-term economic recovery.

3. The project is classified as having some gender elements. Women will be encouraged to take up employment during project implementation (reconstruction works). Men and women engaged in the project will be paid equal wages for equal work. Various training and awareness activities will be undertaken, including: training on traffic control at construction sites, and safeguards; education awareness on HIV/AIDS and prevention (coordinated with HIV Coordinator of Ministry of Health); and awareness on gender-sensitive transport and road safety issues. Opportunities to include gender-sensitive design features such as laundry facilities at streams will be explored. A resettlement plan or report will be prepared for any land acquisition or other non-land impacts, and will ensure that equal compensation and assistance will be provided to all affected people. Gender-specific outputs, targets and indicators will be integrated into the project's design and monitoring framework.

B. Key actions

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure
 The design will include features that will accommodate women's needs as outlined above

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. The project is classified as category B for land acquisition and involuntary settlement. The project is within the existing ring road corridor, and temporary access to land outside the corridor will be required during construction. Some small areas of additional land (for coastal protection works) may be required at three or four locations; this will be through negotiated settlement and/or voluntary donation in accordance with the project's resettlement framework. Civil works will require temporary land use or access during construction and may involve some impacts such as loss

of trees and crops on the land needed for access or storage areas during construction. Procedures developed for this will include the following provisions: (i) participation of landowners in site selection and detailed design; (ii) confirmation that there will be no major impacts to landowners; (iii) adequate consultation with and informed consent of landowners; and (iv) documentation of agreements, and verification by a third party confirming that agreements were truly voluntary

2. Strategy to address the impacts.

3. Plan or other Actions

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

B. Indigenous Peoples

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts. Inhabitants of the subproject sites are indigenous and are the main beneficiaries. No impacts on distinct and vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples are expected.

Is broad community support triggered?

- Yes No

2. Strategy to address the impacts. Project activities will be implemented in a participatory manner to ensure no adverse impacts to local communities.

3. Plan or other actions

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

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)

L unemployment L underemployment retrenchment H core labor standards (included in bid documents)

2. Labor market impact. Through the construction and repair of infrastructure facilities, employment opportunities will be created.

B. Affordability

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):

L Communicable diseases
 NA Others (please specify) _____

2. Risks to people in project area.

Sexually transmitted infection and HIV/AIDS awareness will be provided to construction workers and community members in the project area.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. Design and monitoring framework targets will include the construction or repair of road infrastructure
2. Required human resources. Required consulting services will be described in the project administration manual.
3. Information in the project administration manual. Requirements for monitoring and evaluation—including project reviews, progress reports, and completion reports—will be included.
4. Monitoring tools. Progress in meeting the design and monitoring framework targets will be reported regularly through quarterly progress reports.

^a 2015. Government of Vanuatu. *Post Disaster Needs Assessment*. Port Vila.

^b The PDNA services were facilitated by World Bank Group, European Union and United Nations Agencies with technical inputs from development partners.

^c Government of Vanuatu. 2006. *Priorities and Action Agenda, 2006–2015: An Educated, Healthy and Wealthy Vanuatu*. Port Vila.

^d ADB. 2009. *ADB's Pacific Approach, 2010–2014*. Manila; and ADB. 2015. *Interim Pacific Approach, 2015*. Manila.

^e Care. 2015. *Rapid Gender Analysis, Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu*, 7 April 2015. Vanuatu.