

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Myanmar	Project Title:	Telecommunication Towers Infrastructure Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	General Corporate Finance	Department/ Division:	Private Sector Operations Department / Infrastructure Finance Division 2

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
<p>The project is aligned with Strategy 2020, which identifies infrastructure as one of the five core areas to improve and maximize development impact.¹ Under Strategy 2020, ADB's infrastructure operations also emphasize private sector engagement, investment in communication connectivity, and inclusive growth, especially for rural areas. The project is also aligned with ADB's interim country partnership strategy for Myanmar, 2012–2014, which has been extended through to 2016, and the country operations business plan, 2016–2018, as the project addresses the critical shortage of connectivity, promotes access to markets and basic social services, improves rural infrastructure to boost productivity and incomes, lowers transaction costs, enhances opportunities for domestic and cross-border trade and investment, and improves access to reliable and sustainable utility services.²</p>
B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence
<p>1. Key poverty and social issues.</p> <p>Myanmar remains one of the least-connected countries in the world in terms of telecommunications and technology. In September 2013, mobile subscriber penetration in Myanmar was below 10%, one of the lowest in the world. Better connectivity infrastructure contributes to sustainable economic growth by promoting the mobility of the population from less-productive sectors and also by improving the productivity of many sectors. A nationwide mobile network will be inclusive since people in the remote areas can have access to market information and other opportunities, which will remove market inefficiency and result in welfare benefits for them.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries.</p> <p>The project will benefit the population of Myanmar as a whole by increasing the availability, affordability, and quality of telecommunication services throughout the country, which will lead to more inclusive growth and poverty reduction. The project will provide wider coverage and improve connectivity nationwide to help boost Myanmar's competitiveness and broaden access to opportunities and services. Scaling up investments in telecom infrastructure will (i) improve access to domestic and regional markets, (ii) attract private investment, (iii) reduce urban–rural development gaps, and (iv) help Myanmar reap the full potential of the gains from regional connectivity and integration. The expansion of telecom coverage in remote villages will provide the rural poor with essential infrastructure for economic development, as well as enrich their lives through better access to health and education services, improved access to market information, better delivery of government services, improved security, greater job and small-to-medium business opportunities, and better communications with family and community. The project will also help address the telecom gender gap in Myanmar through education, promotion, and employment to increase greater access to mobile and internet services for women, especially those in rural areas.</p> <p>3. Impact channels.</p> <p>In addition to the socioeconomic benefits resulting from quality telecommunication services across the country, the project will help create jobs (during the construction and operation stages) and improve incomes of people in surrounding areas.</p> <p>4. Other social and poverty issues. None.</p> <p>5. Design features.</p> <p>Performance targets and indicators related to poverty and social aspects of the project are integrated in the project designs, and presented in the design and monitoring framework.</p>
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

¹ ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

² ADB. 2012. *Interim Country Partnership Strategy: Myanmar, 2012–2014*. Manila; and ADB. 2015. *Country Operations Business Plan, 2016–2018*. Manila.

<p>1. Summarize the participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable in project implementation. Irrawaddy Green Towers (IGT) has established procedures to engage stakeholders and affected communities, and requires all its service providers to comply with these procedures. A stakeholder engagement plan will be developed, which will include procedures for identification of stakeholders, engagement and disclosure activities and grievance management.</p> <p>2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation. The ESMS will include guidance to IGT on meaningful consultations with various stakeholders including civil society organizations. No specific role of civil society is envisaged in the project.</p> <p>3. Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation. N/A</p> <p>4. What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation? L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>5. 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
Gender mainstreaming category: No Gender Element
<p>Key issues. The low awareness of the mobile Internet and lack of local content affect the entire population of Myanmar. A digital gender gap also exists in terms of basic access and usage of mobile phone and internet services. This disparity denies women significant benefits and opportunities. As a tower company, IGT may not have direct impact in minimizing the digital gender gap. However, its operations will help increase the availability, affordability, and quality of telecommunication services.</p>
<p>B. Key actions. <input type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p>
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. Involuntary resettlement and land acquisition impacts are not triggered as all sites for IGT's facilities will be on leased lands, and all negotiations for the leasing of private land are done on commercially acceptable terms. No involuntary resettlement impacts are envisaged.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. The environmental and social management system (ESMS) of the borrower will be enhanced to include guidelines and procedures for addressing involuntary resettlement impacts in line with the requirements of ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).</p> <p>3. Plan or other Actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement</p>
<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. The project is classified category C for indigenous peoples. All telecom facilities to be developed for the proposed project will be on leased lands and will not trigger land acquisition or resettlement impacts. No land acquisition or impacts on indigenous peoples are envisaged. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. IGT's site selection criteria avoid lands with traditional or customary rights at the site selection stage.</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system</p>
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS
<p>A. Risks in the Labor Market</p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market. <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> core labor standards</p> <p>2. Labor market impact. The tower companies and other service providers will source the construction workforce, comprising both skilled and unskilled labor, from the local population. IGT will ensure hiring of local labor through contractual provisions in the bidding documents and regular on-site audits. ADB will require IGT (and its contractors) to comply with the ADB Social Protection Strategy (2001), covering the relevant internationally recognized core labor standards and national labor laws.</p>
<p>B. Affordability No affordability issues are foreseen.</p>
<p>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</p>

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

Communicable diseases (Low) Human trafficking (NA)

Others (please specify) _____

2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area.

The construction of a telecom towers is expected to take less than a month with a limited number of outside workers during construction. Thus, the social and health risks associated with interactions between workers and the local communities are minimal. There is no requirement for external labor or migrant workers during the operation of the telecom towers.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators: In addition to establishing and maintaining an ESMS for addressing environment and social issues, IGT will monitor and report to ADB on compliance with the national labor laws and take measures to comply with the core labor standards.

2. Required human resources: IGT is committed to deploying human resources for ESMS implementation.

3. Information in PAM: Not applicable

4. Monitoring tools: IGT will monitor the environmental and social targets and indicators as well as the company's and its contractors' compliance with the national labor laws. IGT will include status and progress of environmental and social indicators in its annual report to ADB. ADB's project team will review reports and conduct review missions to validate and monitor the progress of the project.