



# Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

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Project Number: 49470-001  
April 2016

## MYA: Telecommunication Towers Infrastructure Distributed Project

An initial poverty and social assessment (IPSA) is prepared in the early stage of the project cycle to assess the significance of social issues for a project. In accordance with ADB's public communications policy (PCP, 2005), the IPSA is disclosed upon completion. The final summary social assessment is included as an appendix to the project's report and recommendation of the President.

**Asian Development Bank**

## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	<input type="text" value="Myanmar"/>	Project Title:	<input type="text" value="Telecommunication Towers Infrastructure Project"/>
Lending/Financing Modality:	<input type="text" value="General Corporate Finance"/>	Department/ Division:	<input type="text" value="Private Sector Operations Department / Infrastructure Finance Division 2"/>

### I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The project is consistent with the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP) focusing on inclusive growth and balanced growth among regions and states. The assistance is aligned with the Interim CPS for Myanmar (2012-2014) 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. The project is also aligned with ADB's long-term strategic framework 2008-2020 (Strategy 2020), which identifies infrastructure as one of the five core areas to improve and maximize development impact. Under Strategy 2020, ADB's infrastructure operations also emphasize private sector engagement, investment in communication connectivity, and inclusive growth especially for rural areas.

#### B. Targeting Classification

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

The project will help fund IGT for its rollout of 2000 telecom towers nationwide, that are critical for existing mobile network operators (MNOs) to provide a full range of quality mobile and data services in Myanmar that is affordable and benefiting Myanmar population as a whole.

#### C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.  
While Myanmar's mobile penetration rate increased to 56% in 2015 from 11% in 2013, telecommunications and internet access in the rural and remote communities are very limited, due to which majority of people face high costs, poor service or a complete lack of access affecting poor people the most. A dependable and affordable nationwide mobile network can significantly improve access of people in remote areas to market information and other opportunities. The project aims to achieve over 90% population reach by 2019 making telecom services available to the public in both rural and urban areas. The project will benefit the Myanmar population as a whole by increasing the availability, affordability and quality of telecommunication services throughout the country which will lead to greater sustainable socioeconomic growth and poverty reduction. 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.
2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.  
In addition to the socio-economic benefits resulting from a quality and affordable telecommunication services across the country, the project will contribute to employment generation both direct (during construction and operation stages) and help improve incomes of people in surrounding areas.
3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.  
During due diligence, the ADB Team will closely work with the client and discuss how its activities can be integrated to ensure that the rural communities and women can benefit from the project.
4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending. Not applicable.

### 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?

The low awareness of the mobile Internet and a lack of local content are issues that affect the entirety of the Myanmar population. A digital gender gap also exists in terms of basic access and usage of mobile phone and internet services. This disparity denies women from the significant benefits and opportunities.

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   Please explain.

While IGT as a tower infrastructure company is not in a position to directly contribute to the gender issues related to connectivity in the country, the infrastructure created in the project will and enable the mobile operators to bridge the gender gap in the sector and contribute to gender benefits in various sectors including health, agriculture, banking amongst others.

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

Yes  No Please explain

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?

Major stakeholders of the project include the Myanmar population who will benefit from the improved telecommunications infrastructure, the concerned government agencies and the potential telecom service providers.

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?

The project will require the borrower to establish procedures for engagement of stakeholders and affected communities, and require all its service providers to comply with the procedures, to ensure consent of the landowners whose lands are utilized for siting the project facilities as well as the surrounding communities. The stakeholder engagement procedure proposed to be established will ensure that all stakeholders are informed, their views are considered and consent has been secured in instances where land will be leased for construction of project facilities.

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?

L  Information generation and sharing L  Consultation  Collaboration  Partnership

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

### 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

The project will involve construction of 2000 telecom towers, which will be located either on leased private lands or within government lands that are leased to the borrower on a commercial basis, through negotiations. No involuntary resettlement impacts are expected.

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

Since the towers are expected to be in the various regions across the country, there would be requirement of building towers in areas occupied by the indigenous peoples. All telecom towers to be developed by IGT will be on leased lands, and will not involve acquisition of land owned or occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs). No impacts on Indigenous Peoples are envisaged.

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?

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.

#### 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 (vi) 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?

The ADB Team will conduct due diligence and meetings with IGT that will cover social safeguards, gender, labor and other social aspects of the project. In line with the ADB SPS requirements for general corporate finance transactions, a social compliance audit consultant will be hired to assess the corporate policies and procedures for social safeguards, gender, labor and stakeholder engagement in IGT operations.