

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	India	Project Title:	Assam Power Transmission Improvement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/ Division:	SARD/SAEN

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

Around 300 million people have no access to electricity in India and the country is dependent on fossil fuel to generate electricity. India is promoting universal access and energy self-sufficiency by enhancing power transmission network. At the same time, the government is encouraging use of renewable energy. In 2015, the Indian government announced at the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 in Paris that it aims to increase to 40% the share of installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources such as hydro, wind, and solar energy by 2030. This includes plans to quadruple the country's renewable energy capacity to 175 GW by 2022.

Achieving poverty reduction and social development through faster and more inclusive growth is a priority for India under the 12th Five Year Plan (2012–2017). The proposed project is expected to support sustained economic growth and poverty reduction by improving electricity supply and providing connection to renewable energy resource. The Assam Power Transmission Improvement Project will finance high voltage transmission systems to evacuate electricity generated through hydropower, and improve reliability of the national grid system. The project will directly and indirectly contribute to poverty reduction locally and in the region through (i) the creation of temporary and permanent jobs, (ii) public and private economic investment and growth, (iii) improvements to basic infrastructure, (iv) provision of vocational and skills training, (v) capacity development, and (vi) socially inclusive community development.

Access to clean and reliable energy increases agricultural, industrial and commercial productivity, enhances economic growth and contributes to pollution reduction. Economic growth helps reduce poverty and improve quality of life, particularly for the most vulnerable segments of society.

B. Poverty Targeting

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)
The improvement of energy supply has social interventions, but there has been no direct linkage with the poverty reduction.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries. The primary beneficiaries are the consumers of electricity in Assam, India. These comprise residential, commercial, and industrial users. Poor and vulnerable consumers (including medical facilities, schools, and social utilities) are often hardest hit by inadequate power supply, load shedding, poor power quality, and limited access. The project has components to increase power supply and improve energy access to new consumers who can benefit from the implementation.
2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The project will focus on improving access to reliable electricity supply in rural and urban areas of Assam. Benefits to the poor are indirect via improved energy supply to existing and new consumers that contributes to economic growth and employment.
3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the SSTA or due diligence. Government to prepare the environment and resettlement plans for the project. ADB staff and consultants will support due diligence.

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 project is focused on improvement of energy transmission network. Increased and more reliable power supply can assist job creation and contribute towards further electrification of additional households that benefits both women and men. While women's direct participation in the project process may be generally limited to construction related employment opportunities, the executing agency will ensure that women are consulted and invited to participate in group-based activities during preparation of environment and resettlement plans.
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.*

Project benefits from enhanced generation capacity and energy supply are largely indirect and generally gender neutral. While poor and vulnerable women will share the benefits from improved access to power, opportunities for

enhancing gender equity and women's empowerment are generally perceived to be limited. No specific measure is explored at this moment for differential gender requirements as women are not particularly advantaged or disadvantaged from the project, though there will be indirect benefits to women as a result of enhanced power supply.

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

Yes No Please explain

Improved energy access and reliability will not adversely impact anyone.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity theme) EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)

SGE (some gender elements) NGE (no gender elements)

The proposed project will make positive effects on both men and women, and the project may be designed with a "No Gender Elements" category.

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.

The main stakeholders of the project are the people, communities, local authorities, and civil society. The affected persons will be identified during the initial design phase through stakeholder consultation, environmental examination and resettlement planning. Relevant stakeholders will be consulted during the design and implementation.

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 primary beneficiaries are the consumers of electricity in Assam, India. These constitute residential, commercial, and industrial users. Development of electricity networks in unserved and under-served areas will support engagement and empowerment of such groups.

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?

(M) Information generation and sharing (M) 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

The consultations will be carried out during implementation as per Indian regulations and ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement (2009).

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 impact from transmission line is mostly economic and temporary. The proposed categorization will be confirmed during due diligence and a resettlement plan will be prepared and submitted by the executing agency.

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 Project activities will avoid IP areas.

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No

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?

(M) Creating decent jobs and employment (M) Adhering to core labor standards Labor retrenchment
 (M) 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? Employment opportunities will be available for skilled and unskilled workers during project implementation and operation. Standard assurances on labor and working conditions will be included in civil work contracts. The project will minimize the risk of HIV/AIDS among the workforce through awareness raising initiatives.

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 The preparatory work will provide support to review the draft resettlement plan for the project prepared by the executing agency. The project team will also coordinate with the Executing Agencies to prepare the resettlement plan in accordance with ADB Safeguards Policy Statement 2009.

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? Yes, budget for the consultant support is provided from sources including the S-PPTA and resources under RETA operated by SAOD.