



# Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

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## Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: GMS Corridor Connectivity Enhancement Project

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Asian Development Bank

## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Socialist Republic of Vietnam	Project Title:	GMS Corridor Connectivity Enhancement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	SERD/SETC

### I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The project aims to improve international and national transport connectivity of underdeveloped provinces of Viet Nam by improving accessibility to GMS corridors. This project expands the benefits of GMS corridors to adjacent provinces with high poverty incidence. The project comprises improving National Highways (NH) in Quang Nam, Yen Bai, Lai Chau and Lao Cai provinces and supporting Department of Roads Viet Nam (DRVN) of Ministry of Transport (MOT) in road asset management.

The project will improve three NHs [NH32, NH279 and upgraded PR175] in Yen Bai, Lai Chau and Lao Cai provinces connecting Noi Bai Lao Cai Expressway and NH14D in Quang Nam province connecting to GMS East-West Economic Corridor. All four roads are located in the most difficult terrain crossing high mountains or large rivers with lower class technical standards do not meet the increasing transport demands.

The proposed project is aligned with the country partnership strategy 2016–2020 for Viet Nam and included in Country Operations Business Plan: Viet Nam, 2017–2019.

#### B. Poverty Targeting:

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

The poverty rate in 2014 in Quang Nam, Lai Chau, Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces ranges from 12% to 23%, significantly above the national poverty rate of 6%. The average income is less than half the national average. The ethnic minorities, which typically have below average incomes, account for more than 65% of the area's population.

#### C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries. The stakeholders are the local government and communities in Quang Nam Lai Chau, Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces. Lack of all-weather roads is a major constraint for the communities to have better access to school, health care, and markets.
2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The impact will be improved economic, sociocultural and environmental development in project area, contributing to making Viet Nam a modern industrial country. The outcome will be enhanced national road connectivity to GMS corridors in Viet Nam. The expected outputs are: (i) improved national highways in Quang Nam, Lai Chau and Yen Bai provinces; (ii) the strengthened road asset management; and (iii) the improved road safety in project communes.
3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence. A team of social development, gender, and safeguards experts will be part of the PPTA team.
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? Improved roads mean better access to job opportunities, markets, schools and hospitals for the communities. Women and men use transport for different purposes; their travel modes and patterns are different. For example, women tend to walk and use non-motorized transport more than men. Female mobility is often constrained by heavy domestic workloads and time spent traveling by foot, carrying heavy loads over rough trails. Time poverty combines with cultural restrictions to limit women's and girls' access to economic and educational opportunities, and their participation in community decision-making, particularly for ethnic minority women in remote mountainous areas. Gender differences in mobility and access, and relevant opportunities that can be offered by this project particularly for women will be further

analyzed during the PPTA. Moreover, new transnational road corridors have facilitated escalating HIV/AIDS transmission and trafficking of women and girls. This risk as well as social risks and impacts caused by land acquisition and resettlement, specifically on women and other vulnerable groups, will also have to be carefully assessed during due diligence<sup>1</sup>.

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.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?  Yes  No

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity)  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? Identify how they will participate in the project design. The stakeholders and main beneficiaries are the communities in Quang Nam, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, and Lai Chau provinces. Meaningful consultations will be carried out to determine how community benefits could be maximized and how impacts will be properly mitigated.

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? A stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared and implemented to ensure participation of communities, especially the poor and vulnerable households.

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?

H = Information generation and sharing  H = Consultation  N = Collaboration  N = 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

Design features related to land acquisition and resettlement, and other social risks will incorporate concerns and suggestions raised by the poor and vulnerable households during project design. A team of social development and safeguards specialists will carry out meaningful consultation and encourage participation as part of project preparation.

### 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 To be confirmed during PPTA

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 To be confirmed during PPTA.

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy,

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. 2012. Building Capacity to Make Transport Work for Women and Men in Vietnam: Gender and Transport Challenges. Social Development Notes. Washington, DC.

or claim, as their ancestral domain?  
 Yes     No To be confirmed during PPTA.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities?  
 Yes     No To be confirmed during PPTA.

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** = Adhering to core labor standards     **M** = Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS  
 **M** = Increase in human trafficking     **L** = Increase in unplanned migration

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?

A social impact assessment will be carried out during PPTA and social mitigation measures will be prepared based on findings and consultations with various stakeholders.

#### 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 (v) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?  
 Yes     No A team of social development and safeguards specialists will be part of the PPTA

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?

A team of international and national social development and safeguards consultants, workshops, and social surveys are included in the PPTA budget.