



Regional: Supporting the Operational Priority 1 Agenda: Strengthening Poverty and Social Analysis

Project Name	Supporting the Operational Priority 1 Agenda: Strengthening Poverty and Social Analysis				
Project Number	53102-001				
Country	Regional				
Project Status	Proposed				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA: Improving Poverty and Social Inclusion</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 1.25 million</td> </tr> </table>	TA: Improving Poverty and Social Inclusion		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.25 million
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.25 million				
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Knowledge solutions Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Multisector - ADB's corporate management, policy and strategy development				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming				
Description	<p>1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will help ADB to implement Strategy 2030 by strengthening poverty and social analysis under the first operational priority (OP1) on addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities. The TA will (i) review and update guidance and analytical tools used to identify, assess and address the poverty and social dimensions of ADB's operations; (ii) provide capacity building and technical support for developing member countries (DMCs) on designing and implementing projects with a focus on strengthening poverty reduction impacts and social inclusion; (iii) undertake strategic research on emerging vulnerability and social issues in the region; and (iv) support DMCs to implement innovative approaches in poverty and social analysis. The TA was endorsed during the corporate priority framework meeting in November 2018 and is included in the management-approved 2019 results-based work plan of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC).</p>				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>After decades of sustained growth, Asia and the Pacific has transformed into one of the most dynamic regions in the world, but it is also one which has clear and persistent disparities. The region has dramatically reduced extreme poverty and today, more than 95% of developing Asia's population live in middle-income countries. However, approximately 264 million people still live below the \$1.90/day poverty line and 864 million live beneath \$3.20/day and are particularly vulnerable to shocks and at risk of falling back into poverty. Income inequality in countries has either risen or remains at high levels, and significant disparities in non-income aspects exist in access to decent jobs, quality education and training, health services, and social protection. Access to and affordability of basic services such as electricity, water and sanitation remain a challenge for many in the region. Major trends such as urbanization, climate change, demographic transition, digital technology, the changing nature of work, and migration risk creating new vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups. Significant gender disparities persist which limit the potential for growth in the region, and attainment of equal opportunities for half of the population.</p> <p>Strategy 2030 acknowledges the complexities of the Asia and Pacific region today and calls for a focus on addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities under operational priority 1 (OP1). The draft operational plan for OP1 highlights the need for all sectors to address inequality of access to opportunities especially for the poor and vulnerable. To do this effectively, robust poverty and social analysis (PSA) needs to be undertaken to better understand the complex contexts and interaction of social, economic, political and institutional forces in DMCs, anticipate the potential differentiated impacts of projects on various social groups, and use this information to better target projects and develop measures to support inclusion, access, affordability and participation and to address vulnerability in projects and country strategies.</p> <p>Strengthening governments' capacity to conduct PSA and integrate the findings into national poverty reduction and social inclusion agendas and project design is needed. In many countries the approaches to PSA are limited and fail to address the heterogeneity in poverty, vulnerability and inequality or incorporate assessment of the distributional and social impacts on different poor and vulnerable groups including disadvantaged youth, persons with disabilities and women. Over the years, ADB has developed good guidance on PSA, but it should be updated to: (i) address linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) outline good practice for new lending modalities (e.g., results-based lending); (iii) align the analyses for sovereign and non-sovereign projects; (iv) integrate guidance for selected areas such as urban development and develop new guidance in areas such as rural development; and (v) identify and integrate good practice and tools which have been developed in DMCs or by TAs and projects from ADB or other development partners. There is a need to (i) ensure that the tools and guidance better address the diversity of issues and social groups; (ii) strengthen capacity in DMCs (through ADB projects' executing and implementing agencies); and (iii) help ensure that the tools and capacity building are adequately aligned with national poverty reduction and inclusivity agendas.</p> <p>Undertaking strategic research is critical for keeping DMCs and ADB abreast of emerging issues and enabling them to address these issues in innovative and comprehensive ways. To be able to adapt and develop effective responses to the rapid social and economic changes, targeted research on emerging poverty and inclusion issues and differential impacts on vulnerable populations is necessary. Key areas for investigation, among others, include migration and displacement, disability, climate change and disaster resilience and impacts of technological or other disruptions in sectors. Such research will help to develop a network of researchers and collaborators across DMCs in the region and improve knowledge dissemination.</p> <p>Supporting innovation in PSA will help to create better and more impactful projects and replicable approaches. Integrating and developing new approaches to PSA should be encouraged to improve design and implementation of projects. The use of technologies such as geographic information systems, design of analytical tools to assess distributional impacts, development of new approaches to areas such as climate change, market access and land use will help to embed proven effective approaches and test new pioneering ones.</p> <p>In response to the challenges and issues adduced above, the proposed TA will strengthen analytical tools and processes for PSA, improve capacity in DMCs and develop knowledge and collaboration on new areas for engagement.</p>				
Impact	Remaining poverty and inequalities in the region addressed (ADB Strategy 2030)				
Outcome	Pro-poor and inclusive design elements in ADB operations improved				
Outputs	Analytical tools on poverty and social inclusion updated and shared with developing member countries Strategic research on poverty reduction and social inclusion completed Innovative approaches on poverty and social analysis applied in selected projects				
Geographical Location	Regional				

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

Responsible ADB Officer	Wendy M. Walker
Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDTC-SOC
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	11 Oct 2019
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	16 Oct 2019

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/53102-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53102-001
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