



Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

Project Number: 56189-001
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Philippines: Tiger Digital Infrastructure for Rural Connectivity Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 19 October 2022)

Currency unit	–	Philippine Peso (PHP)
PHP 1.00	=	\$ 0.017
\$1.00	=	PHP 58.84

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars

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INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Philippines	Project Title:	Tiger Digital Infrastructure for Rural Connectivity
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/ Division	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 Asian Development Bank's (ADB) proposed project loan to Tiger Infrastructure Philippines Inc. (TIPI) for the development of telecommunication towers in the underserved regions of Mindanao and Visayas complements ADB country partnership strategy (2018-2023) in accelerating infrastructure and long-term investments, promoting local economic development in Mindanao and Visayas, and investing in people^a by improving internet connectivity that would equalize access to the digital economy especially in areas like education, healthcare, financing and payments and mobility. The project also supports ADB's Strategy 2030 by (i) promoting quality infrastructure investments and enhancing connectivity in the region; and (ii) expanding private sector operations to reach one-third of ADB operations in number by 2024.^b

B. Poverty Targeting

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

Mindanao and Visayas is home to 42% of the country's population remain lagging behind Luzon in terms of development. High poverty continues to be recorded in some of regions in the Visayas and Mindanao, with rates of more than 35%. Seven of the 10 poorest provinces in the country are in Mindanao. The expansion of digital connectivity will help improve access to health, education and services, facilitate business operations and improve inter-linkages between communities that would help promote economic development and improve the condition of the population in the Mindanao and Visayas regions.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

- 1 Key issues and potential beneficiaries. Several areas in Mindanao and Visayas remain unconnected digitally and are not able to access information needed for education, health and business. This gap became more severe during the pandemic when only online transactions and teachings were possible in many areas. Direct beneficiaries are the residents and communities in the underserved regions of Mindanao and Visayas which comprise 42% of the country's population who will digital connectivity.
2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The project involves the development, construction, operations, and maintenance of several hundred ground-mounted towers that are essential in enabling mobile network operators to provide a full range of mobile and data services in the rural and underserved regions in Mindanao and Visayas. Improving access to mobile banking and money transfers, health and education information services and support to agricultural activities will be extremely useful for people living in rural, mountainous and hard to reach areas.
3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the transaction TA or due diligence. The due diligence focused on ensuring that the process of identification, selection, construction and operation of the telecom towers will not have significant adverse environmental or social impacts and on the sustainable operations of the towers.

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector and/or subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program? In terms of economic opportunity and participation, the Philippines is one of the highest in Southeast Asia closing at 79.4%, however the gender gap between men and women participating in the labor workforce is still significant, with the share of men 24.5 percentage points higher than the women participating in economic activity.^c Despite being of one of the most gender-equal nations in in Asia-Pacific, significantly, it is among the countries in the region where women does not have equal, or close to equal, participation in the technical and scientific fields with men.^d A UNESCO study in 2017, showed that the gap may further widen due to decreasing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrollments from women. In the same year, women comprise only 43% of STEM enrollments, lower than previous years and mostly in non-engineering or non-IT fields. Moreso, the study further revealed that majority of the science and technology (S&T) professionals in the Philippines are concentrated in the National Capital Region (NCR) and least in Mindanao with less than 2% of the country's S&T professionals.^e In 2017, only two in seven engineering students are female and 41% of women students taking IT-related courses. Women students make up only 43% of STEM enrollments, mostly in non-engineering or non-IT fields.^f Considerably, more than 600

higher education institutions in the country offer (Information Communication and Technology) ICT-related academic programs and courses with more than half of the enrollees in these institutions are women. However, few can graduate, and most women dominate low-skilled STEM positions.⁹ Female graduates chose not to pursue a STEM career after graduating from a STEM course because they feel that they were unequipped. Once they graduate, the knowledge they have becomes dated, and companies are already dealing with new technology. As such, they enter different fields, not knowing that training programs are available once they enter STEM companies. Students are not fully informed about the possible jobs or about the actual roles available to them in the industry after they graduate and instinctively go for jobs that would earn them money immediately in other industries.^h

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision-making? Yes No

During gender due diligence potential gender measures to be examined include: internships to women and professional development opportunities to female staff.

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 EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and affected people? Explain how they will each participate in the project's design. The site acquisition for the tower location relies heavily on the participation/willingness of the potential lessors, the communities within the area, tribal leaders in IP areas, barangays, and local government units. During construction and operations, support from the locality will be needed for local labor and sustainable operations of the towers.

2. Who are the key, active, and relevant CSOs in the project area? Several community-based groups, workers groups, farmers groups, IP groups, etc. are active in Mindanao and Visayas regions. Some are affiliated with umbrella groups of CSOs in the country for different advocacy and self-help initiatives.

3. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and vulnerable is important?

Yes No If yes, what are these issues? Site acquisition for towers will require input and support of different stakeholders particularly in ensuring the adverse impacts are avoided or minimized and tower locations are secured.

4. How will the project ensure the participation of beneficiaries and affected people, particularly the poor and vulnerable and/or CSOs, during project design to address these issues?

As part of its site acquisition process, Tiger Infrastructure engages with landowners and their neighbors, other villagers, village heads, and other local authorities in townhall consultations. ADB will require Tiger Infrastructure to further strengthen its processes by ensuring compliance with ADB requirements on stakeholder engagement, information disclosure, and grievance redress mechanism.

5. What level of CSO participation is planned during the project design?

M Information generation and sharing H Consultation M Collaboration NA Partnership

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 involves constructing several hundreds of telecommunications towers in underserved areas of Visayas and Mindanao by Tiger Infrastructure, which will be leased to telecommunications companies. The sites will be leased from private owners on willing lessor-willing lessee basis. There is flexibility in the selection of sites (up to 300 m radius from the site required by telecom companies). Sites that may cause displacement to third-party or informal users will not be considered.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?

Resettlement plan Resettlement framework Social impact matrixⁱ

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> None
B. Indigenous Peoples Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
All the sites for the towers will be leased from owners of privately-owned land on willing lessor-willing lessee basis. However, views of the IPs in areas where they have ancestral domain claims may be needed per procedures required under the IPRA to ensure that the project will foster full respect for IPs' identity, dignity, and cultural uniqueness, that IPs in the area do not suffer any adverse impacts from the project and allow them to participate actively in case they are affected. The project is not expected to have adverse impacts or displace IPs.	
3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No For towers that will be located within an IPs' ancestral domain (CADT/CALT) will need to undergo field base investigation and may need to secure free-and-prior-informed consent (FPIC) as per guidelines of NCIP AO 3 (2012).	
4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process? The client will be required to develop an ESMS to guide the screening of sites and actions needed in case towers will be situated in IP areas, including full compliance with IPRA requirements. The project will also prepare an IPPF that will guide site selection, screening and categorization, social assessment, and preparation and implementation of indigenous peoples plans for future towers that may result in impacts on indigenous peoples. The IPPF will also cover grievance redress mechanism, and compliance with ADB information disclosure and consultation requirements	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement
V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS	
1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design? <input type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability <input type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify _____	
2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?	
VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT	
1. Do the terms of reference for the transaction TA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during transaction TA 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? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social, and/or gender analysis; and the participation plan during the transaction TA or due diligence? The client engaged an external consultant to undertake a corporate ESMS audit and social compliance audit of the initial batch of sites. The same consultant was engaged to prepare the IPPF.	

^a ADB. 2018. Country Partnership Strategy: Philippines, 2018-2023. Manila.

^b ADB. 2018. [Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific](#). Manila.

^c World Economic Forum. 2022. [Global Gender Gap Report 2022 Insight Report](#). Geneva.

^d World Bank. 2019. [The Digital Economy in Southeast Asia Strengthening the Foundations for Future Growth](#). Washington.

^e Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment. 2019. [Women in STEM. A Baseline Study](#). Manila.

^f Commission on Higher Education. [2017 Higher Education Facts and Figures](#).

^g Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc., and WomensHub. 2003. Gender and ICT in The Philippines: A Proposed Policy Framework. Manila.

^h Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment. 2019. [Women in STEM. A Baseline Study](#). Manila.