

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tonga	Project Title:	Climate Resilience Sector Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Grant Sector	Department/ Division:	Pacific Department Pacific Subregional Office

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY
Targeting classification: General intervention (GI)
A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy
<p>Environmental sustainability, climate change, gender-balanced investments and opportunities, and improved support services for the elderly and other vulnerable groups are major objectives of the Tonga National Strategic Planning Framework developed in 2010. Delivery of the project builds upon these objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Facilitating community development by involving district and village communities in meeting their service needs. (ii) Supporting the private sector through better engagement with government, appropriate incentives, and streamlining of rules and regulations. (iii) Maintaining and developing infrastructure to improve the everyday lives of the people. (iv) Increasing performance of technical training vocational education, and training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure. (v) Integrating environmental sustainability and climate change into all planning and execution of programs. <p>Based on its current HDI of 0.710, a higher score than the regional East Asia and the Pacific HDI of 0.683, Tonga is categorized as “high human development” for HDI overall, as well as for both health and education. The Government of Tonga considers that extreme poverty and hunger, as defined by the MDG, have been eliminated. However, ADB defines poverty as a deprivation of essential assets and opportunities to which every human is entitled. Thus “poverty of opportunity” is a concern in Tonga, rather than lack of access to services, social exclusion, or income poverty.</p>
B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence
<p>1. Key poverty and social issues. Discussions with government agencies, NGOs, and communities identified increasing water supply security, improving roads, increasing climate resilience of social buildings, adapting infrastructure and making it more resilient to climate change and disasters, and protecting livelihoods from climate change as major concerns for development of social infrastructure. The need for improved governance was also identified. Access to training and employment were identified as key issues for individuals. The project will contribute to social development and reduction of hardship in several ways, most notably by empowering people through consultation and awareness raising, giving them access to jobs and training, and improving local livelihoods and infrastructure. Activities will have a strong gender mainstreaming focus and will promote the inclusion of poor and vulnerable groups through a social development and gender strategy, and communication strategy.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries. The project will provide opportunities for self-improvement, social development, and reduction of hardship to individuals, beneficiary communities, and Tonga as a nation. To address the gaps identified, the project components in beneficiary communities will provide improved training to develop technical and management skills; improved access to services; better conditions for school children; protection of lives and assets from erosion, floods, and storm surges; enhancement of livelihood options; and increased employment opportunities. The project will contribute to social development and hardship reduction in several indirect ways at the national level. In particular, capacity building and development of skills, and the provision of employment have been identified as the main areas for improvement. Nationwide benefits are expected to accrue from investment in activities such as capacity building, monitoring systems, the CCTF, and national database systems.</p> <p>3. Impact channels. The program will increase resilience in economic, social, and ecosystems to climate variability and change and disaster risk in Tonga. The overall outcome is to strengthen the enabling environment for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction for national and local governments, sectors, and communities.</p> <p>4. Other social and poverty issues. Not applicable</p> <p>5. Design features. The design and monitoring framework includes specific pro-poor, social, and gender-inclusive targets: (i) strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities and relevant sectors to support transformation to a climate resilient development path; (ii) establish a national support system to provide vulnerable communities (in particular women) and priority sectors with access to financing for climate adaptation and disaster risk management; and (iii) strengthen ecosystem resilience and climate proofing of critical infrastructure supported by selected communities, sectors, and national agencies.</p>
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
<p>1. Summarize the participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable in project implementation. A stakeholder analysis and consequent consultations were conducted through a series of activities, using workshops, face-to-face interviews, and focus group discussions, including discussions with women’s groups. Overarching objectives of the participation and</p>

communication strategy include creating confidence and trust; ensuring local ownership; including different types of stakeholder groups in participation processes and benefit distribution; providing avenues for conflict resolution by consensus; disseminating results and lessons to the wider community, including government and NGOs; and generating, and responding to, feedback.^a Continuous formal and informal consultations were held with government agencies, NGOs, private sector and members of academia, and residents of project-affected areas. Two large stakeholder workshops were held in February (40 participants) and March (69 participants). Continuous consultations are required by the PCCS, SDGS, and PAM.

2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure participation. Provisions are made for the involvement of civil society groups throughout the program, at all levels. Civil society and NGOs will help implement and monitor community activities.

3. Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation. For example, NGOs representatives will sit on the Technical Secretariat of the CCTF, which makes recommendations on grant approvals to the ministers. The project requires that various village committees such as women's development groups be consulted in the development of community plans and interventions, during design, implementation, and monitoring. For all infrastructure projects, a MOU must be developed between contractor or implementing agency and the community to ensure community requirements and cultural needs are met.

4. What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation?

(H) Information gathering and sharing (H) Consultation (M) Collaboration (M) Partnership

5. Will a project level participation plan be prepared to strengthen participation of civil society as interest holders for affected persons, particularly the poor and vulnerable? Yes. No.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming

A. Key issues. The poverty, social, and gender analyses found high equality in terms of women's rights to access such services as education, health services, employment. The project will support acknowledgment of women as drivers of transformational change and the increased involvement of women in decision-making processes (formal and informal) about social values, development directions, and resource and opportunity allocations. Apart from single mothers, who are in cultural terms vulnerable, women in general are regarded as important stakeholders and agents of change and as project beneficiaries. Special attention will be given to engaging women's organizations.

B. Key actions. Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

A gender strategy and GAP were prepared to optimize benefits for women and socially excluded people through participatory and socially inclusive consultation processes, promotion of women's equitable access to employment and training, support for women's development initiatives, enhancement of community development and livelihoods in the project area, gender training, and a monitoring and evaluation system. The PMU will employ a dedicated gender specialist to ensure activities planned are, indeed, conducted.

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts. Proposed projects have no involuntary resettlement impacts. No further action is required.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable

3. Plan or other actions.

Resettlement plan

Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan

Resettlement framework

Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples

Environmental and social management system arrangement

planning framework

Social impact matrix

No action

B. Indigenous Peoples

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts. Tonga has no indigenous peoples. No further action is required

Is broad community support triggered? Yes No

2. Strategy to address the impacts. N/A

3. Plan or other actions.

Indigenous peoples plan

Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan

Indigenous peoples planning framework

Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework

Environmental and social management system arrangement

Social impact matrix

Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary

X No action

V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS

A. Risks in the Labor Market

1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market.

unemployment underemployment retrenchment core labor standards

Low or not significant (L).

2. Labor market impact. Government employees, NGOs, or contractors will conduct major project components. Little direct employment is expected. The social development strategy and gender action plan require for MOUs to be signed between contractors and communities for projects where outside workers are expected to reside within the community.

The project will lead to minimal creation of jobs (skilled and unskilled). Contractors are encouraged to employ local labor. The project will ensure compliance with core labor standards, including equal pay for men and women for work of equal type in accordance with national laws and international treaty obligations, and safe working conditions for both men and women workers will be provided.

B. Affordability. All residents of villages near the evacuation roads and coastal area to be protected will benefit from the project. The improvements of social infrastructure (climate proofing of schools and/or relocation to safer area of health centers) will benefit communities currently using these public facilities. Communities benefiting from these activities are not expected to pay fees or labour contributions with the exception of communities applying for the CCTF who might have to contribute 10% of the project.

C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks

1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

Communicable diseases (L) Human trafficking (N/A)

Others (please specify) _____

2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in the project area. For all infrastructure projects, an MOU is required between the contractor or implementing agency and the community, ensuring community requirements and cultural needs are met; that a minimum number of outside workers spend time in the communities; and specifying guidelines for worker conduct in the communities, in particular in relation to women. The PMU will conduct gender awareness training as required to increase gender awareness among staff of the implementing agencies, contractors, town leaders, and project area residents. Training will be provided to PMU and project staff to be able to detect, intercept, respond to, and prevent (or refer cases) of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and other problems that may emerge during project implementation;

Project benefits may be diverted or misused by influential stakeholders or elite groups. This is more likely to happen at the national level than in the project areas.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. Social and gender-based targets and indicators included in the design and monitoring framework relate to activities identified and detailed in the SDGS and GAP.

2. Required human resources. The PMU will employ a dedicated gender specialist to ensure that activities planned are conducted. Some of the social and gender considerations will be applied with consultant support from qualified NGOs and civil society groups as noted in the GAP.

3. Information in PAM: The social development strategy, GAP, and project communication and consultation strategy are described and included in the PAM

4. Monitoring tools. A project performance monitoring system should be developed. Existing strategies require continuous and regular monitoring of activities. A dedicated monitoring and evaluation consultant will conduct annual evaluations for the duration of the project. Broad-based targets and indicators are defined in detail in relevant strategies and project documents.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CCTF = Climate Change Trust Fund, GAP = gender action plan, HDI = human development index; MDG = Millennium Development Goals, MOU = memorandum of understanding, NGO = non-government organization, PCCS = participation communication consultation strategy, PAM = project administration manual, PMU = project management unit, SDGS = stakeholder groups.

Source: Asian Development Bank

^a Participation and Communication Strategy and Consultation Plan (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the report and recommendation of the President).