

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Georgia	Project Title:	Transport Project Preparation
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/ Division:	Central and West Asia Department Transport and Communications Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
<p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>The project is in line with the Government of Georgia's current transport and regional development strategy. The project will contribute to the sector outcome "increased efficiency and sustainability of transport system" under ADB's country partnership strategy (2013–2017) currently being formulated.</p> <p>The project promotes inclusive growth by targeting a remote and mountainous area, approximately 150 km west of the capital Tbilisi. The area is currently in economic decline and the population is rapidly aging due to the outward migration of younger people. The remaining population currently suffers from lack of access to formal employment opportunities, due to the dilapidated condition of the only road and infrequent service on an adjacent railway line. The majority of the population therefore relies on subsistence farming and government pensions.</p>
<p>B. Targeting Classification</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Household (TI-H) <input type="checkbox"/> Geographic (TI-G) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)</p> <p>The project will improve the condition of a secondary road, and enhance access of the local population to markets (mainly for agricultural produce), schools and hospitals. The project will also create new employment opportunities, particularly in tourism.</p>
<p>C. Poverty and Social Analysis</p> <p>1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.</p> <p>The project will directly benefit around 23,000 people living in the Municipality of Kharagauli (the largest town in the project area) and an additional 7,000 people from the 13 or so villages that the road connects. The population currently suffers from the severe lack of employment opportunities, and the unemployment rate is close to 75% in Kharagauli. The project will serve the need of the population for new employment opportunities, in both existing and new areas of economic activity.</p> <p>In addition, the project will secure basic access to essential facilities and services. Currently the population is severely underserved in terms of access to medical facilities and schools. The poor condition of the road means that for the majority of villages in the region, ambulance services require more than 3 hours to reach the patient, and a further 3 hours to arrive at the hospital. Schoolchildren walk upwards of 4km to get to school.</p> <p>2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.</p> <p>The project will primarily benefit the poor and socially excluded via enhanced access.</p> <p>3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.</p> <p>To maximize the positive impact on the poor, attention will be placed on attracting the appropriate type of businesses to the project area (e.g. tourists) and safe and reliable movement of local traffic as opposed to those which may provide more negative impacts (e.g. heavy goods vehicles). Particular attention will be placed maintaining the improved road to ensure that it remains in good condition and useable year round. The preparatory work will investigate and recommend efficient and effective means intermodal transport by designing the road with good rail station access.</p> <p>4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending.</p> <p>N/A</p>
II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
<p>1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?</p> <p>The project targets an area where slightly over half of the population in 2007 was women, and hence the expected increase in job opportunities following the project will have equal opportunities for women.</p> <p>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?</p>

Yes No Please explain.

The project is likely to bring new employment opportunities and improved access to health services for all residents alike. Given that half the population is women, a large number of them will benefit. Any components that can bring benefits specifically to women will be examined during GAP preparation and included in the design.

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

Yes No Please explain

The increased surveillance that will be implemented against illegal logging and overloading will mitigate the risk of HIV and human trafficking .

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity theme) 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 project will largely benefit the local population, the majority of who are subsistence farmers. Other beneficiaries include the tourists that can better access historical monuments, churches and monasteries, and businesses that engage in tourism, dairy, furniture, mineral water production. Households, if any, subjected to land loss are likely to benefit more from the improved access. All stakeholders will participate in the project design through consultation sessions, facilitated through the local authorities.

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 project will be designed to maximize access to employment opportunities and public transport for the local population. Travel patterns of the poor will be studied carefully during project preparation, and features will be developed which will ensure that the poor will directly benefit from the project. Specific access needs will be identified through consultations and incorporated into the project design.

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?

Information generation and sharing Consultation Collaboration Partnership

Since the project may require land acquisition, community-based organizations, affected people and/or any other stakeholders will be consulted during preparatory stage, and during design and construction. In addition, while there are no known CSOs operating in the area, the PPTA will further screen and identify any CSOs and ways of collaboration to maximize project outcomes and impact.

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

Although there are no specific issues, the design of the project will be adapted and optimized to reduce walking and facilitate animal-drawn sleds/carriages.

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 will largely rehabilitate an existing road, with established rights of way. IR will be avoided to the extent possible. In a few sections, realignment of the road may require private property land to be acquired (mainly farmland and about 10 houses). A more accurate classification will take place based on an impact survey, to be completed during the PPTA, and subsequently after the detailed design.

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

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

The area served by the project is overwhelmingly Georgian in ethnicity. Although this area has a mix of ethnicities, they are mainstreamed into the Georgian community. The PPTA consultants will conduct further screening to confirm the categorization.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No

Engagement with the religious community will be facilitated through working closely with the local authorities.

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?

Creating decent jobs and employment Adhering to core labor standards Labor retrenchment
 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?

ADB will seek cofinancing for social programs targeting employment generating activities and involve the public transport regulator to ensure that fares and tariffs do not rise and make transport unaffordable.

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

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?

More than 15% of the PPTA budget is allocated for data collection, special studies, and planning, including gender action plan preparation.