

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Myanmar	Project Title:	Power Transmission Improvement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Energy Sector Project loan	Department/Division:	Southeast Asia Department Energy Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY
Poverty targeting: general intervention
A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy The government has requested that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) help Myanmar provide sufficient, reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity supply in the country, which is a key to its socioeconomic development. The project corresponds to the objectives of the ADB's interim country partnership strategies for Myanmar for 2012–2014 and its country operations business plan for 2015–2017. ^a It is also consistent with ADB's Strategy 2020 and ADB's Energy Policy (2009), since it aims to support inclusive growth, energy security, and energy efficiency. The project will indirectly contribute to poverty reduction by increasing the electricity supply to the industrial and commercial sectors, which are among the main employers in the project beneficiary areas. The project includes the strengthening of the power transmission system in the Yangon city region by helping to finance construction of two priority 230 kilovolt transmission lines from Thida substation to Thaketa substation and from Kyaikasan substation to Thaketa substation. It will also support the extension of the Thaketa substation, the upgrading of Kyaikasan substation, and the construction of the new West University and new South Okkalapa substations.
B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence 1. Key poverty and social issues. ^b A strengthened and more extensive transmission network will increase the reliability of the power supply nationwide, especially in urban areas and new economic zones where the centers of economic development are situated. Efforts of the national government to improve the economy, which would redound to the population in terms of more jobs and reliable social services, is gravely hampered by regular power outages. Current power shortages of 4–5 hours per day affect industrial, commercial, and residential consumers in Yangon and are an obstacle to the country's economic development and competitiveness. The project classification is general intervention, since it does not address poverty directly. 2. Beneficiaries. The project's primary beneficiary is the entire power subsector, especially in Yangon and Mandalay regions, where most of the country's industries are located. Secondary beneficiaries are the more than 1 million customers of Yangon Electricity Supply Board who stand to benefit from an improved transmission network. 3. Impact channels. An improved and more stable power supply means less interruption in the operation of industries and businesses in Yangon which in turn will provide the local population with more opportunity to find work and increase their incomes. In addition, a more stable power supply system in Yangon will help stabilize power supply in the national power grid that supplies energy to industries and businesses in other parts of the country. 4. Other social and poverty issues. To a greater extent, women more than men have to bear the adverse effects of a dysfunctional power supply system. The task of household maintenance is largely attributed to the women, and any power outage will add to the burden of women who are usually expected to cook meals, do the laundry, clean the house, and, for many, also have to work for a living. 5. Design features. The project was designed to improve power supply capacity to serve residential, commercial, and industrial consumers and important economic zones. This is a prerequisite for increasing electricity consumption in Myanmar, which has the potential to create more jobs and generate greater economic growth.
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
1. Participatory approaches and project activities. Stakeholders consulted have expressed support for the project. Representatives from several civil society organizations ^c and local officials and residents consulted on various occasions beginning in May until December 2014 held the view that the negative environmental and social impacts of the project could be mitigated through proper implementation of the environmental management plan (EMP) and the resettlement plan in accordance with international standards. Additional public consultations and involvement of affected persons will be needed when updating the environmental impact assessment and the resettlement plan during project implementation. 2. Civil society organizations were consulted during preparation of the EMP, the resettlement plan, and due diligence reports (DDRs). They will continue to be consulted during the updating and implementation of the EMP, the resettlement plan, and DDRs. 3. Civil society organizations. Stakeholder consultation was carried out through meetings and interviews. Affected households were also interviewed. 4. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as 5. Participation plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Describe key features, responsibilities and allocated resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
Gender mainstreaming category: No gender elements

government intends to implement a policy of low tariffs MK35 for small consumers. Ultimately, all consumers will benefit from an expanded and more stable electricity supply.

C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks

1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

Communicable diseases Human trafficking

Others (please specify) HIV/AIDS Awareness, etc.

2. Risks to people in project area.

External workers are expected to have only a small impact due to their limited numbers and the scope of the construction involved. The PIC will conduct training and information campaigns for local communities and workers on gender issues, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS and human trafficking.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. The PIU will monitor and report on the implementation of safeguards requirements and procedures. It will monitor compliance with the safeguard covenants for the project progress reports submitted to ADB semiannually. The PIU will set up and maintain a database of complaints received, and it will update this database on a monthly basis to indicate the status of complaint resolution.

2. Required human resources. The PIC's environmental specialists and social safeguards and resettlement specialists will be employed for the duration of the construction. The PIC will help the PIU implement the EMP, the resettlement plan, and DDRs. The specialists will perform regular audit visits to sites and help the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise in its monitoring activities. The goal will be to carry out all mitigation measures adequately.

3. Information in the project administration manual. Compliance with covenants will be monitored through regular ADB review missions and on a quarterly basis in discussion with the Ministry of Electric Power, the executing agency. A list of performance indicators will be tracked and evaluated under a project performance management system. Baseline data and performance targets will be established at the start of the project, and these performance indicators will be monitored and reported to ADB through a quarterly progress report.

4. Monitoring tools. The monitoring tools will be:

(i) quarterly progress reports in a format consistent with ADB's project performance reporting system;

(ii) consolidated annual reports including (a) progress achieved by output as measured through the indicator's performance targets, (b) key implementation issues and solutions, (c) updated procurement plan, and (d) an updated implementation plan for the next 6 months; and

(iii) a project completion report within 6 months of physical completion. To ensure projects continue to be both viable and sustainable, project accounts should be adequately reviewed together with the associated auditor's report.

^a ADB. 2012. *Interim Country Partnership Strategy: Myanmar, 2012–2014*. Manila; ADB. 2015. *Country Operations Business Plan: Myanmar, 2015–2017*. Manila

^b The analysis of poverty in urban and rural areas and regions and states of Myanmar was based on an integrated household living conditions survey conducted in 2009 and 2010. The Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) Project Technical Unit carried out the survey with support from the Ministry of National and Economic Development, United Nations Development Program, United National Children's Fund, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. It is one of the most comprehensive surveys on living conditions and poverty ever carried out in Myanmar and was based on a nationwide representative sample of 18,660 households.

^c Details on the organizations consulted can be found in the resettlement plan for Thida–Thaketa Transmission Line (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the Report and Recommendation of the President).

Sources: ADB. 2010. *Handbook on Poverty and Social Analysis*. Manila; ADB. 2010. Incorporation of Social Dimensions into ADB Operations. *Operations Manual*. OM C3/BP. Manila; ADB. 2012. *Gender Toolkit: Energy. Going Beyond the Meter*. Manila; ADB. 2013. *Country Operations Business Plan: Myanmar, 2014-2016*. Manila; ADB. 2013. *Capacity Building Support for Project Identification*. Consultant's Report. Manila (TA 8251-MYA); IHLCA Project Technical Unit. 2011. *Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey in Myanmar*. http://www.mm.undp.org/content/dam/myanmar/docs/FA1MMRPovertyProfile_Eng.pdf; Japan International Cooperation Agency. 2013. *Project for Formulation on the National Electricity Plan in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interim Report*. Yangon.