

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Government of the Republic of Myanmar	Project Title:	Maubin–Phyapou Road Rehabilitation Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	Southeast Asia Department Transport and Communications 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 of the Republic Union of Myanmar envisions that the country could return to prosperity with a projected economic growth rate of 8% if reforms continue to be enacted and managed carefully, guided by its commitment to clean government and good governance. This vision and commitment are aligned with the government's reform agenda articulated in the country's Framework for Economic and Social Reform, which provides policy priorities during 2011–2015 and guiding principles for long-term development plans, which are also aligned with Strategy 2020 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). ADB's country operations business plan, 2014–2016 for Myanmar and the interim country partnership strategy, 2012–2014 aim to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in support of the government's objective of poverty reduction. The interim country partnership strategy focuses on three priority program areas: (i) building human and institutional capacity, (ii) promoting and enabling the economic environment, and (iii) creating access and connectivity for rural livelihood and infrastructure development. The country operations business plan identified initial lending investment operations to focus primarily on the priority areas of access, connectivity, and infrastructure development. Technical assistance support will primarily focus on areas of institutional and human capacity building, and enabling the economic environment.

#### B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence

1. **Key poverty and social issues.** The United Nations Human Development Index Report 2013 stated that Myanmar ranks 149th on a global development index that compares 187 countries on the basis of income, education, and health indicators, placing the country among the three least developed Asian countries. It is one of the poorest countries in the region: in 2010, about 26% of its population was living on less than \$1.25 a day (purchasing power parity) and over 66% of its population was living in rural areas. ADB estimated the country's unemployment rate was 4% from 2007 to 2011. In 2010, the poverty incidence in the Ayeyarwaddy region was 32%, and about 34% of children under 5 years old were reported to be moderately malnourished. Poverty incidence in the region increased from 29% to over 32% due to the impacts of Cyclone Nagris in 2008. Poor health infrastructure and/or facilities, poor access to health services, and limited information are some of the main causes of the country's high maternal mortality rate.

2. **Beneficiaries.** Communities along the road and its periphery will benefit from the improved road.

3. **Impact channels.** Improved roads will improve mobility, including access to public services and facilities; generate employment; and boost economic growth. Local households, including women, will have opportunities to work during construction. Travel time will also be reduced and could provide greater opportunity for people to further participate in economic and productive activities.

4. **Other social and poverty issues.** Adverse impacts such as physical and economic displacement of households due to clearance of the corridor of impact (which may result in further impoverishment or hardship) together with increased risks of HIV/AIDS transmission and human trafficking have been identified and require mitigation measures under the project.

5. **Design features.** Consultations have been carried out during project preparation to elicit views and suggestions from various stakeholders. These have been incorporated in the resettlement plan and summary poverty reduction and social strategy prepared for the project.

<b>II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</b>	
<p>1. <b>Participatory approaches and project activities.</b> Consultations have been carried out as part of the project planning process and will continue during implementation. As the project is a rehabilitation of an existing road along its current alignment, the scope for broader participation and empowerment from the project is thus limited. However, the new road, due to its different design, will make the road more inclusive for all road users, especially the poor and vulnerable, with the hard shoulders providing reliable and safe mobility for nonmotorized transport and pedestrians.</p>	
<p>2. <b>Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation.</b> Civil society organizations were consulted during project preparation. Their ongoing and planned programs in the project areas were discussed to determine if possible collaboration and/or partnership is possible. There is a possibility that staff from civil society organizations could act as possible resource persons and trainers in livelihood-related activities and an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. Civil society organizations' plans and approaches have been noted in the resettlement plan, and consultations will continue during project implementation.</p>	
<p>3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NA</b> Collaboration    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NA</b> Partnership</p>	
<p>4. Participation plan.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No    Participation of civil society organizations is incorporated in the resettlement plan.</p>	
<b>III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Gender mainstreaming category: some gender elements	
<p><b>A. Key issues.</b> Poor health infrastructure and/or facilities for pregnant women, lack of accessibility to basic facilities, and limited access to information are some of the identified causes for high child mortality rates and maternal mortality rates in the country. Myanmar has a relatively high number of HIV/AIDS and human trafficking cases. As of December 2013, the project areas had 106 HIV reported cases, with Maubin township having the highest number of cases (86); most of the cases were mothers and children who became HIV-infected through breastfeeding. There were no reported human trafficking cases in the project areas as of December 2013, but public awareness could mitigate potential risk of human trafficking activities. Lack of job opportunities in rural areas pushes women and girls to migrate with the desire to augment household income, especially during the non-farming season. The country has a large number of migrant workers, and the majority of them are women. Providing job opportunities to local people, including women, could reduce the number of migrant workers who are at risk for exploitation and HIV/AIDS. Improved roads could also reduce the number of school dropouts, especially among girls, and are essential to achieve high completion rates in schools at all levels.</p>	
<p><b>B. Key actions.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures    <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p> <p>The new road design will mean that women and girls are able to travel safely and further from home, with easier access to education and economic opportunities. Road construction and maintenance can also generate jobs for the poor and provide cash income for poor women. The project will support actions to support women to directly access project benefits: (i) civil works will be on labor based appropriate technology, and contractors will prioritize the use of local unskilled labor, with females comprising at least 30% of unskilled laborers; (ii) road shoulders will have sealed surfaces for pedestrians or nonmotorized transport; and (iii) road safety signage, rumble strips, and speed tables will be included in the design, especially in areas adjacent to buildings, and road safety information will be provided to communities, including to women and children. Gender issues are also integrated into the resettlement plan, and social aspects of the project are described in the summary poverty reduction and social strategy. Interventions related to the awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS and human trafficking are gender inclusive.</p>	
<b>IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES</b>	
<b>A. Involuntary Resettlement</b>	<b>Safeguard Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI

<p>1. <b>Key impacts.</b> There are 62 affected households identified within the corridor of impact, and one structure owned by the government administrative office (village office) is included in the inventory of losses.</p> <p>2. <b>Strategy to address the impacts.</b> A resettlement plan has been prepared to address physical and economic displacement of affected households.</p> <p>3. <b>Plan or other Actions.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan</p>
<p><b>B. Indigenous Peoples</b> <b>Safeguard Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. <b>Key impacts.</b> There are no impacts on ethnic minorities.  Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. <b>Strategy to address the impacts.</b> Not applicable.</p> <p>3. <b>Plan or other actions.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p>
<p><b>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</b></p>
<p><b>A. Risks in the Labor Market</b></p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L).  <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards</p> <p>2. <b>Labor market impact.</b> Core labor standards requirements will be included in the civil works bidding documents and contracts, and adherence to core labor standards will be monitored and reflected in the project's progress reports.</p>
<p><b>B. Affordability</b>  Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</b></p> <p>1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____</p> <p>2. <b>Risks to people in project area.</b> The presence of construction workers in the area will increase the risk of communicable diseases and/or HIV/AIDS transmission.</p>
<p><b>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b></p>
<p>1. <b>Targets and indicators.</b> The resettlement plan has gender-disaggregated data and will be used as the basis for monitoring (e.g., participation of women throughout the resettlement process, special assistance to women and other vulnerable households to restore and/or improve their income). Core labor standards are also specified on equal pay for equal work, while an HIV/AIDS and human trafficking awareness and prevention program will be designed and monitored in a gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate manner.</p> <p>2. <b>Required human resources.</b> A team of international and national resettlement and social development consultants will be part of the supervision consultants.</p> <p>3. <b>Information in the project administration manual.</b> Progress reports will be submitted as part of project monitoring.</p> <p>4. <b>Monitoring tools.</b> Surveys have been carried out during project preparation and will be updated during project implementation. Consultations will be carried out during project preparation and implementation to ensure that the affected communities are informed and consulted throughout. All indicators will be disaggregated by gender, as applicable.</p>

Source: Asian Development Bank.