

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Myanmar	Project Title:	Mandalay Urban Services Improvement project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/ Division:	Southeast Asia Department/Urban Development and Water Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: Targeted Intervention—MDGs

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

The interim country partnership strategy (ICPS) for Myanmar was approved in October 2012. The project is in line with the medium-term goal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Myanmar as outlined in the ICPS to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth in support of the government's objectives of poverty reduction and national reconciliation. Urban water supply, sanitation, and waste management measures to resolve environmental problems resulting from rapid urbanization are core areas of ADB operation identified in Strategy 2020. The project supports the implementation of ADB's urban operational plan 2011–2020 which is to catalyze a new form of climate-friendly, resilient, inclusive, competitive, and environmentally sustainable urban development. The project will directly contribute to the achievement of millennium development goal (MDG) Target 7 by improving access to safe drinking water and solid waste management for the population in Mandalay city. At the same time the project will also reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. Mandalay is the second-largest city in Myanmar, with a population of about 1.25 million. Based on the integrated households living conditions survey, rural poverty in 2010 was higher than urban poverty (29% versus 16%). Although food and income poverty rates fell significantly from 2005 to 2009, the survey found that transitory poverty is a significant phenomenon in Myanmar and the number was close to three times greater than the number of chronically poor, i.e., affecting 28% of households whereas chronic poverty affects 10% of households. Beyond income and food poverty, one of the key characteristics of urban poverty in Mandalay is that poor people have very limited access to safe water, sanitation, and solid waste management services. These inadequate urban services have resulted in severe health threats at many levels. The under-5 mortality rate is considerably higher than elsewhere in Southeast Asia. The high prevalence of waterborne diseases, such as malaria and dengue, are directly related to the poor state of critical urban services.

2. Beneficiaries. Most of the population in Mandalay has limited access to basic services. The coverage of piped water supply is about 50%. The remaining households use small private systems, usually involving a tube well. The piped system serves for about 10 hours a day. Mandalay does not have any form of central sewerage system. Households discharge domestic wastewater through septic tanks. Effluent from septic tanks infiltrates to groundwater, or ends up in roadside drains. The water quality is unlikely to meet the national and international standards for drinking water. According to health statistics, lower access to safe piped drinking water supply has been associated with the trend of relatively higher prevalence of waterborne diseases. The project will help improve access to urban basic services for the population in Mandalay. Poor people in particular will benefit from new water and sewerage facilities through subsidized water connection and lifeline tariff, and employment opportunities during project construction.

3. Impact channels. The project will contribute to reducing vulnerability and poverty in urban Mandalay through (i) reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases, (ii) providing employment opportunities for the poor in construction and operation of the facilities, and (iii) improving quality of urban life through better provision of basic urban services.

4. Other social and poverty issues. There are three key issues that affect the poor to get access to improved urban services: access, affordability, and knowledge of hygiene and health benefits. The project will increase connection to the urban population including poor and vulnerable households. The project will provide a subsidy for the water connection and a lifeline tariff for monthly consumption for poor people. In addition, the project will work closely with the Women Federation to implement awareness education on hygiene and health aspects for the poor and vulnerable.

5. Design features. The project will improve the urban environment and public health by providing sustainable urban services. Capacity building and awareness-raising programs will be implemented along with community empowerment including livelihood enhancement and leadership in a community-based environmental management program. The gender equality and social inclusion action plan (GESIAP) details activities and strategies related to participation, orientation, and capacity building, while the project's framework for inclusion provides strategies for improving connectivity for the poor and vulnerable as an integral part of project design. The project will promote the use of local workers for project-related work, and involve local communities in targeting subsidy beneficiaries.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR	
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. An extensive capacity development for Mandalay City Development Committee staff is an important component of the project. To increase beneficiary participation and feedback, a public consultation unit in the public relations and information department will be established. Staff will be trained in public consultation techniques. A pilot program on beneficiary participation and feedback mechanism will be established.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. The Women Federation, a semi-autonomous body of the government, will be involved in the participatory awareness raising for the clean water and solid waste management program.</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): <input type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. Participation plan. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Participation of the Women Federation in the implementation of awareness raising on safe water and sanitation will be established. The Women Federation is part of a government-recognized body that has representatives in every village, ward, and township in Myanmar. A pilot community participatory plan will be implemented in five wards in each township where infrastructure investment will take place. The representative of the Women Federation in each of the 30 wards will be trained along with staff of the public consultation unit, with a view to ensuring the voice for women in each of the project wards, with a particular focus on poor and vulnerable beneficiaries. A participation strategy is presented in the project administrative manual.</p>	
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	
Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming	
A. Key issues.	
<p>Extensive consultation and gender analysis were conducted during the poverty and social assessment. Lack of safe drinking water and prevalence of waterborne diseases were the issues arising in focus group discussions with women. Women respondents strongly support the project. Women, in particular are affected by low-quality and unsatisfactory water and solid waste collection services. Women are generally burdened with family and household responsibilities, and are employed in low-paying jobs.</p>	
B. Key actions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure	
<p>Improving water services and establishing new facilities will benefit women by reducing the time women spend hauling water from tube wells. Improving waste collection will benefit women and other household members by reducing illness and associated time and cost burdens. The project has prepared the GESIAP, with clear targets benefitting women and socially excluded groups: (i) ensuring access to water supply connections and sanitation facilities, (ii) participation in community awareness-raising programs and consultation meetings, (iii) employment for those willing and able to do construction work, (iv) leadership support for women in the communities, (v) priority in operation and maintenance jobs, (vi) livelihood enhancement and water conservation training, and (vii) employment as project staff. The project has allocated adequate budget for specific activities outlined in the action plan. The project will be monitored to ensure that target indicators as reflected in the GESIAP have been achieved in a timely manner.</p>	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
A. Involuntary Resettlement	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>1. Key impacts. Water supply and wastewater components will cause temporary resettlement impacts during the construction phase. Permanent impacts will be caused only in the wastewater treatment plant because of acquisition of 5.2 hectares of agricultural land for the wastewater treatment plant site, affecting a total of 17 households—eight landowners, three tenants, and six seasonal workers. Three landowners and three tenants will be affected by loss of crops. Only one household will be affected by the loss of structure. Most of the landowners however, have other businesses and landholdings. Therefore, the impact due to the loss of land is not likely to be severe.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. A resettlement plan based on the census, inventory of loss, and socioeconomic survey of seven households (four landowners and three tenants) has been prepared to address adverse impacts in the project. Four landowners were not available for the survey as they live in Mandalay city or in other parts of Myanmar and are engaged in business and trading activities. Their land is cultivated by tenants. Project information has been disclosed to affected persons throughout the project preparation and a project information booklet will be updated and distributed during the detailed measurement survey. Effective internal and external monitoring at all stages of project implementation will be ensured. Stakeholder consultations will continue through formal and informal focus group discussions. A grievance redress mechanism will help facilitate resolution of complaints regarding project performance.</p>	

3. Plan or other Actions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix
B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI	
1. Key impact. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Some 96.4% of the city population is Barmar by ethnicity. However, there are no specific communities of ethnic minorities or groups that live separately in the urban area. As the project will benefit all residents in the project area equally, it is not expected that any adverse impact on indigenous peoples is caused.	
2. Plan or other actions.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
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, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (M)	
2. Labor market impact. The project will create skilled and unskilled jobs during construction and operation. The local community and people belonging to low-income, vulnerable households will be given preference, depending on their skills and willingness. The project will enforce core labor standards and internationally recognized basic rights and principles at work.	
B. Affordability	
Water supply connection fees will be subsidized for poor and vulnerable households through an installment payment. The project will establish affordability funds to assist poor and vulnerable households in accessing project benefits, particularly supply connection. The water connection subsidy will ensure affordability and access to better services, while a lifeline tariff subsidy for water supply and wastewater will ensure continuous affordability of user charges by poor households.	
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): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____	
2. Risks to people in project area. The project will ensure that HIV/AIDS awareness programs will be provided as part of the requirement in the civil works contract.	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
1. Targets and indicators. The design and monitoring framework, GESIAP, and consultation and participation plan provide the key targets and indicators.	
2. Required human resources. The project director and project management office staff will be responsible for overseeing project implementation and all activities related to social development, poverty, gender, and safeguards. A social development officer and social safeguards officer in the project management office will be provided.	
3. Information in the project administration manual. Framework for inclusion of the poor and vulnerable, terms of reference for consultants, GESIAP, and consultation and participation plan.	
4. Monitoring tools. Baseline socioeconomic survey (10% sample), census, project performance management system, semiannual compliance and safeguard monitoring reports, midterm review during implementation, project completion review and report. Monitoring of the GESIAP, and consultation and participation plan indicated in the summary poverty reduction and social strategy and project administration manual will be the responsibility of the project management office.	

Source: Asian Development Bank.