



Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

October 2017

Myanmar: Preparing the Resilient Communities Development Project

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Asian Development Bank

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country: Project Title:
Lending/Financing Modality: Department/Division:

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

Development of the agriculture and rural sector will be crucial in reducing poverty in Myanmar. Finding the right mix of interventions is critical. While recent developments are encouraging, the need for Myanmar to catch up with the rest of the region is still great. Enhancing agriculture productivity is necessary but will not be enough. The path away from poverty and towards greater prosperity is intricately linked to greater investments in rural infrastructure and livelihoods, addressing both farm and non-farm options. These investments must be mindful of the high risk exposure to disasters and potential impacts of climate change. Livelihoods, especially weather-dependent livelihoods, and infrastructure have been devastated by disasters in the past, erasing gains towards sustainable development. The proposed project interventions take into consideration these key aspects and are fully aligned with the Rural Development strategic framework, the National Framework for Community Disaster Resilience and ADB Country Partnership Strategy for Myanmar which identifies rural development as a strategic pillar.

B. Targeting Classification

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

The project provides block grants to poor villages in poor townships identified under a poverty proxy mapping.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

Poverty incidence fell from 31% in 2005 to 26% in 2009–2010. However, food poverty measures suggest that the well-being of the poorest families may not have improved. Poverty is a rural phenomenon and there are significant regional differences in poverty incidence. By region, poverty is the highest in Chin, at a striking 73% of the population, followed by Rakhine (44%), Tanintharyi (33%), Shan (33%), and Ayeyarwardy (32%). Limited access to basic services, community infrastructure and economic opportunities are key causes of poverty. High climate and disaster exposure and vulnerability exacerbate poverty. Myanmar is a disaster prone country and disasters negatively impact access and livelihoods, causing negative coping strategies that result in intergenerational transfer of poverty.

Inadequate access to basic services and low human capital development is attributed to gaps in rural infrastructure and low income levels in the rural sector. Lack of or substandard infrastructure, low economic opportunities and inadequate access to financial services contribute to poverty. Access to finance is also low and tends to benefit the better off farmers. Women, youth and the landless face continued constraints in accessing credit, services and opportunities for livelihood generation. Disasters and climate change events tend to affect the poor more and their poverty translates to greater vulnerability to disasters.

The project will cover 1,000 village tracts in 25 townships in the poorest regions and states of Myanmar. Rural regions have higher poverty incidence than the national average of 26%. The potential primary beneficiaries of the project are the poor households in the poorest regions and townships identified through a poverty ranking. The poor and the vulnerable population identified through the targeting system, including indigenous people (IP) and women, will benefit from the project by improving their access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

The project will address these constraints through the provision of support to community planning and subproject grants for community infrastructure and livelihood projects. This will allow for greater voice and participation of poor communities in resource allocation decisions. The project will also allocate resources to build capacities of communities and government institutions. Capacity building will support building greater awareness on climate and disaster risks, design and implementation of resilient infrastructure and livelihood projects, and managing participatory processes. Skills development on technical and vocational skills related to the community subprojects selected (masonry, steelworks, carpentry, agriculture) will also be supported.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.

The target areas will be carefully identified during project preparation. Social and gender assessments for the project will be conducted and framework or action plans prepared during project preparation. A social development specialist with expertise in gender, IP and environmental safeguards will support project preparation.

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? Key gender issues relevant to the proposed project include potential exclusion of women in accessing project benefits and their exclusion from leadership roles of community-based organizations. There are also potential issues in resource allocation and sub-project selection and prioritization that may impact on the gender dimensions of the project. Monitoring tools will be developed to ensure that these issues are captured and corrective measures for improved participation, introduced when required.</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? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please explain. The project will adopt gender-sensitive measures through focus group discussions, conduct of participatory situation analysis and participatory decision-making processes in subproject identification. Use of sex-disaggregated data will be part of operational project monitoring. Women will be supported in taking leadership position in project structures. Subprojects, such as health centers, day care centers, schools will take into account the needs of women and children and improve women's access to pre- and post-natal care and other services. Water systems will decrease the burden of women in fetching water for their families. Livelihood interventions will be focused towards poor women.</p>
<p>3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Please explain</p>
<p>4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category: While EGM is the proposed gender category in design at this stage, the possibility to elevate the project to GEN will be seriously explored during the TA. <input type="checkbox"/> GEN (gender equity theme) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EGM (effective gender mainstreaming) <input type="checkbox"/> SGE (some gender elements) <input type="checkbox"/> NGE (no gender elements)</p>
III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT
<p>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 main stakeholders are poor villagers, local government units and their staff, field staff of national government agencies. A series of consultations with various national and local stakeholders will be undertaken during project preparation and field consultations with various sector agencies, civil society organizations and local officials through workshops, field visits and meetings will take place to secure views about the outputs of the project and enhance the project design.</p>
<p>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? Participation is embedded in CBD approaches, ensuring that the project integrates the principles of local empowerment, demand-responsiveness, greater downward accountability, and enhanced local capacity. The project is designed to provide technical support and block grants for community-prioritized subprojects, which are identified by the participating poor communities through participatory situation analysis and participatory planning and decision-making processes. Villagers and volunteers have the opportunity to learn new skills or improve existing skills, including: bookkeeping, procurement, transparent processes, project preparation, fund sourcing, planning and project management, negotiations and conflict management, documentation, dealing with financial institutions, and construction skills through the capacity building component of the proposed project.</p>
<p>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? <input type="checkbox"/> Information generation and sharing <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership The Food Security Working Group is a civil society network working on agriculture and food safety in Myanmar. During project preparation, the TA team will engage with this group to ensure a systematic and dynamic partnership with CSOs, such as the possibility of their engagement as training providers, external monitors, and community facilitators during project preparation and implementation.</p>
<p>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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Community participation is a key element of the project and is integrated into the overall program design. Special actions to ensure the participation of women, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups will be included through the preparation of a gender action plan (GAP) and other plans as appropriate during project preparation.</p>
IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>
<p>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic</p>

<p>displacement? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>There is limited, practically nil impact on involuntary land acquisition but this will be further assessed during project preparation. Small community infrastructure may require resettlement but land acquisition and resettlement framework is a prerequisite in accessing the block grant for subproject construction. Should resettlement be required, a framework and process will be prepared to ensure that land is provided voluntarily through donations or other relevant instruments.</p>
<p>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>There is no negative impact on indigenous people expected. They are expected to benefit from the project. The project design will ensure inclusiveness participation of IPs in local development process that will promote their wellbeing. This will be assessed further during project preparation, which will identify the target areas where indigenous communities will be affected, the indigenous practices and institutions involved and the type of participation and inclusion mechanism to ensure greater benefit from the project.</p> <p>3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS</p>
<p>1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability <input type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify _____</p>
<p>2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?</p> <p>CDD approaches have resulted in an increase in the likelihood of employment. The project will provide income-generating for both skilled and unskilled labor during subproject implementation. Governance will ensure that core labor standards are adhered to during project implementation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</p>
<p>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?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>Social development specialists (poverty, gender and safeguards) will be deployed as part of the consulting team preparing the project.</p>