

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tajikistan	Project Title:	Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/Division:	Central West Asia Regional 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 Asian Development Bank (ADB) country partnership strategy 2010-2014 reflects the objectives of the government's National Development Strategy, 2006–2015 and Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan, 2013-2015. Both strategies recognize an adequate energy supply as a key element in achieving satisfactory economic growth and human development, which provide the means for reducing poverty. The project is in line with both strategies. The project is one of the priority development projects covered in the ADB country operations business plan, 2012–2014 and is expected to improve access to a stable electricity supply and raise household living standards. The financing of the project was requested by the Government of Tajikistan. The proposed project is in line with the country partnership strategy, 2010–2014.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues.

Declining reliability and adequacy of electricity supply is a major constraint on livelihoods and development throughout Tajikistan, and the winter months are particularly difficult for those who lack a reliable supply of electricity and cannot afford alternatives. Restoration of reliable electricity will bring substantial benefits to livelihoods, health, security, education, and standards of living, and is highly desired by communities throughout Tajikistan. A more efficient power sector with greater transparency, and improved financial viability of the power utility, will also set benchmarks for improved governance in Tajik utilities and in other sectors across the country.

2. Beneficiaries.

Although the benefits of the project are substantial, by their nature they are generalized and indirect, and will not specifically affect particular communities (the project concerns installation of wholesale meters in existing substations, and benefits will be fed into the national grid). The technological nature of the project means there is little scope for social components, e.g., the project does not involve extension of the distribution network or revision to tariffs, which might provide opportunities for pro-poor initiatives. The Panjakent region (to be supplied by the new transmission line) will benefit in particular, as it is subject to frequent load shedding.

3. Impact channels.

As noted in the paragraph 2 above, benefits will be indirect and generalized and delivered through the national grid rather than focused on particular social groups.

4. Other social and poverty issues.

Other projects implemented by ADB in Tajikistan and other development partners focus on particular issues such as climate change, water resources and irrigation, or the impact on women of large-scale male labor migration. Many of these projects more directly address issues such as livelihoods or food security of particular communities, and are complementary to the generalized impacts of this project.

5. Design features.

As reflected in the design and monitoring framework, the overall impact of the project will be improved electricity supply to households and industries across Tajikistan. Outputs include a functioning wholesale metering and settlement system, and an operational transmission line from Ayni to Rudaki.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities.

As public consultation is related to social safeguards, the initial version of the land acquisition and resettlement plan (LARP) was shared with potential affected persons, likely land acquisition and resettlement impacts were discussed, and views of other stakeholders (Jamoat leaders in Ayni Rayon in Dar-Dar and Urmetan, and Jamoat leaders in Panjakent Rayon in Serazm, Kahlifa Hasan, Zudhzina, Loikh Sherali, and Rudaki) were considered. As there is an existing transmission line in the area, the resident of the area are aware and have no objection to the proposed project.

2. Civil society organizations.

Public consultation has always involved the local leaders of identified Rayons and Jamoats. Further project disclosure will be undertaken once specific project information impacts and the identity of affected persons are gathered based on project final design.

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):

(M) Information gathering and sharing (L) Consultation (NA) Collaboration (NA) Partnership

4. Participation plan.

Yes. No.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: no gender elements

A. Key issues.

Women particularly benefit from a reliable supply of electricity because of their household and family responsibilities (e.g., gathering fuel for cooking, heating, and processing water; and caring for children, the sick, and the elderly). Electricity also (i) offers women many more opportunities for home-based enterprise and income generation, (ii) improves their personal security, and (iii) allows their children to study more effectively. Electricity also has a major impact on public facilities used mainly by women and where most employees are women, such as schools and health centers. However, as the project involves (i) metering existing substations to provide improved supply to the national grid a whole, and (ii) construction of a new transmission line to Panjakent, there are no specific design features that aim to provide particular benefits for women.

B. Key actions.

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts.

Based on the project preliminary design, approximately 0.70 hectares of farmland will be permanently acquired, and approximately 20 hectares will be acquired temporarily for various activities such as erection towers and building access roads. The temporary land acquisition will have an impact on crops and trees. Entitlements for the various impacts such as permanent land acquisition, crop and tree loss, and allowances for vulnerable and severely affected persons, have already been defined in the draft LARP.

2. Strategy to address the impacts.

A LARP prepared in accordance with the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and approved by the borrower shall be implemented and monitored periodically. Appropriate grievance redress mechanisms shall be established to ensure affected persons' issues are addressed early on. All project-related information that may have involuntary resettlement impacts will be disclosed accordingly.

3. Plan or other Actions.

Resettlement plan Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan
 Resettlement framework Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples
 Environmental and social management system arrangement Social impact matrix
 No action

B. Indigenous Peoples

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts.

Impacts on indigenous peoples as defined in the Safeguard Policy Statement are not envisaged in the project.

Is broad community support triggered? Yes No

2. Strategy to address the impacts.

Not applicable.

3. Plan or other actions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action | |

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).

L unemployment L underemployment L retrenchment L core labor standards

2. Labor market impact.

The project's impact on the labor market will be low. Metering work will be within existing substations, so there will be limited employment opportunities on construction of transmission towers. It is not expected that workers will lose their employment as a result of the project, nor that the project will change or influence labor market policies or practices. The project administration manual and grant agreement require compliance by works contractors with applicable national labor laws and regulations (e.g., related to minimum wage, safe working conditions, and social security contributions) and with international core labor standards, i.e., the project may not (i) involve forced labor, child labor, or discrimination in the workplace; or (ii) prevent workers from associating or collectively bargaining. The grant agreement specifically requires that contractors (i) do not use child labor; (ii) provide equal opportunity to women and men; (ii) are required not to differentiate between men's and women's wages or benefits for work of equal value; and (ii) comply with legally mandated provisions on labor, including health, safety, sanitation, and working conditions. Compliance with these provisions will be strictly monitored during implementation.

B. Affordability

Not applicable as the project does not include changes in tariff structures.

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):

NA Communicable diseases NA Human trafficking

The grant agreement (Schedule 4, para. 23) requires dissemination of information at worksites on the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS for those employed during construction.

Others (please specify) _____

2. Risks to people in project area.

None.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Not applicable, as the design and monitoring framework does not include performance targets and indicators to be monitored that address poverty reduction and inclusive social development.