



Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

Project Number: 53067-005
May 2021

India: Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 17 May 2021)

Currency unit	–	Indian rupee (₹)
₹1.00	=	\$0.013
\$1.00	=	₹73.279

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
COVID-19	–	coronavirus disease
FSM	–	fecal sludge management
GOHP	–	Government of Himachal Pradesh
JSV	–	Jal Shakti Vibhag
LPCD	–	liter per capita per day
O&M	–	operation and maintenance
ODF	–	open defecation free
PMU	–	project management unit
SCADA	–	supervisory control and data acquisition
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goals

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of India and its agencies ends on 31 March. “FY” before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, e.g., FY2021 ends on 31 March 2021.
- (2) In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

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INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	India	Project Title:	Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	South Asia Department/ Urban and Water Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The Government of India's action agenda and vision documents for year 2020–2035 aims to achieve prosperity, poverty eradication, equality, cleanliness, transparency, employment, gender equality, and hopefulness and by 2031, Government of India's poverty rate will be below 5%, requiring the Indian economy to grow 8% per annum.^a The Government's Jal Jeevan Mission initiative is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through functional household tap connection to every rural household by 2024.^b As of 2019, only 18.33% of rural households in the country, have piped water connection.^b The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) country partnership strategy (CPS) for India, 2018–2022 supports investments in rural development to improve the rural economy and reduce the growing rural-urban income gap.^c Aligned with ADB's CPS, the Fifteen Year vision of the Government and the Jal Jeevan Mission, the proposed Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement Project aims to ensure end-to-end delivery system of rural water supply across selected districts in the state, resulting in overall equitable access to quality drinking water and better sanitary conditions. The proposed improvements to rural water supply facilities will contribute to human development and overall economic growth while reducing the vulnerability of the poor to waterborne diseases as well as unhealthy and unhygienic living conditions. The project components include (i) rehabilitated schemes with access to sustainable water sources; (ii) establishment of new water treatment plants; (iii) installation of supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems; (iv) 95% household connections with smart water meters; and (v) promotion of energy-efficient features including solar power.

B. Poverty Targeting

General intervention Individual or household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc)

Of the total population of Himachal Pradesh, 6,176,050 or about 89.9% live in rural areas.^d Poor households comprise (8.48%) of rural households.^{d,e} The proposed project is expected to improve the living conditions, especially public health condition, in project areas by providing drinking water supply to households. During the project due diligence, poverty pockets or clusters where poor households live shall be identified to confirm if any additional targeted measures are required for the poor and other vulnerable groups, and accordingly pro-poor strategies are developed.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries. According to 2019 National Health Profile,^f in 2017, Himachal Pradesh's contribution to the total cases of acute diarrheal diseases in India (13,416,748) was 2.34% (314,463). While in 2018, it contributed by 2.27% (3,00,183) to total cases of over 1.3 million cases (13,194,775).^f Since most (90%) of the state's population is rural, enhanced water supply to the rural areas will improve the state's overall public health condition and economic situation. Himachal Pradesh accounts for less poor population compared to national level. For instance, 8.48% of rural population are poor with a total of 8.05% population of the state; whereas nationally, 25.7% rural population and total of 21.9% population belong to poor category.^d The proposed project will improve the rural water supply schemes that were constructed before 2000 that are no longer operational across 187 facilities in the zones of Dharamshala, Hamirpur, Mandi, and Shimla. The project will benefit all households in the proposed coverage areas, including children, women, the elderly, and the poor.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The project will facilitate human development and poverty reduction by improving the quality of life of the rural population, by (i) providing improved water supply and connection infrastructure; (ii) reducing the drudgery of water collection; (iii) reducing morbidity and related health expenditures; and (iv) stimulating economic growth by way of enhanced economic activities and potential land value impact. The project shall involve poor and vulnerable groups including women and youth in awareness campaigns, and provide on-the-job training.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the transaction Technical Assistance (TA) or due diligence. The project aims to cover 100% poor and vulnerable households in the project areas.^g Resources will be duly allocated to conduct social and environmental assessment and for consultations, baseline and endline sample surveys.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending. Not applicable.

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector and/or subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?

Women have primary roles in the collection, storage, transport, use and management of water, and the promotion of health care and sanitary practices, and yet are hardly involved in decision-making in the sector. With poor access or an absence of these facilities within the premises, women and girls face health, safety, and security risks during water collection. Non-availability of adequate good quality drinking water further exacerbates their workload,

increasing drudgery with less time for education, leisure, and productive work. Due to poor quality of drinking water, occurrences of waterborne diseases are prevalent, placing an additional health care burden on women and poor. As per National Sample Survey 75th round (2018), rural female literacy rate was 79.2% against male literacy rate of 92.3%.^h Workforce participation rate of women in industry and service sectors is significantly lower (16%) than men (60%).ⁱ Most women are self-employed (87.3%) followed by 8% regular wage earners and 4.7% casual labor.ⁱ

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute 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? Yes No

Improved access and quality of drinking water supply at household level will benefit women. The project would significantly enhance the quality of life especially of poor and help support enhancing the productive time available for women and children. It will also: (i) relieve women from the drudgery of fetching water; (ii) improve household hygiene and sanitation; and (iii) address health issues, preventing contamination likely while fetching water from a distant source. With time savings, women and girls will have more time for education, leisure, skill enhancement, and opportunities to engage in income earning activities. The project will enhance women's participation and provide opportunities in decision making on water supply management and operation. The capacity building component of the project shall include skill development, awareness generation, and training programs for women. The local bodies or *panchayat raj* institutions shall be responsible for management of assets created and this would ensure participation of elected women representatives and community women in decision-making. Women will have an equal opportunity to participate in project-supported training programs, recruitment, and employment. At institutional level, efforts would be made to promote and create women leadership in project *Gram panchayats* (village councils), project implementation units, and Jal Shakti Vibhag.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?

Yes No

The resettlement plans shall have proper due diligence to ensure that the land rights of women are not compromised, access to assets not affected, and any unavoidable disruptions suitably restored to pre-project level, and shall adequately consider gender sensitivities. The gender equality and social inclusion action plan shall be prepared to maximize participation and benefits to women including employment opportunities in project activities.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity) EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)
 SGE (some gender elements) NGE (no gender elements)

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design. Key stakeholders of the project include beneficiaries, affected persons, representatives of government agencies (local and central), and other entities responsible for project design, implementation, and monitoring. A consultation and participation plan will be developed to engage with stakeholders at different phases of the project.

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? Consultation and participation plan will be included in the project design to assess beneficiaries' expectations and scope for participation in project implementation, operation and monitoring. Opportunities for engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) for awareness campaigns will be explored to engage the poor and vulnerable.

3. What are the key, active, and relevant CSOs in the project area? What is the level of CSO participation in the project design? Community-based organizations, self-help groups, youth and women's groups in the project area will be engaged for information dissemination, consultation, and community mobilization. In Himachal Pradesh, Ruchi and Himotthan are NGOs who work in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector.^j Adequate resources will be allocated to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation. Information generation and sharing (Medium) Consultation (Medium) Collaboration (Low) Partnership (Not applicable)

4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how should they be addressed? Yes No

Participation of poor and the vulnerable will be ensured through baseline surveys for identification of such groups and continuous consultations with them throughout the project cycle, to identify their specific concerns and issues. Adequate funds will be allocated to strengthen inclusion and participation of poor and vulnerable.

IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Involuntary Resettlement Category A B C FI

1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? Yes No Government lands are being identified for proposed project components, however, limited involuntary land acquisition and resettlement impacts are anticipated. Resettlement impacts will be assessed during due diligence.

<p>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><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 Beneficial impacts to indigenous peoples are anticipated.</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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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>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 transaction TA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p>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 (Medium) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards (Medium) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS (Low) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability (Low) <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify __Child Labor (Low) __COVID-19 Low) ^k _____</p> <p>2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?</p> <p>Safeguards and contract documents will stipulate the requirement to adhere to core labor standards, including no child labor policy and inclusion of health and safety plans to avoid coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Construction workers will include local and migrant labor. Contractors, construction workers and local communities will be made aware of communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 risks. Migrant labor will be sensitized on local cultural and social practices. Safety protocols will be prepared in line with international best practices and government policy for COVID-19 pandemic will be prepared and reviewed by health and safety specialists.</p>
<p>VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</p>
<p>1. Do the terms of reference for the transaction TA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during transaction TA 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? <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 transaction TA or due diligence? A social development (gender) specialist will be mobilized to conduct a rapid gender assessment to identify prevailing gender equality and social inclusion issues and key strategies for gender mainstreaming, and to prepare the project's gender action plan. Training programs are proposed for project management, safeguards, and gender mainstreaming. Adequate budgetary provision will be made for community consultations and public awareness campaign.</p>

^a Government of India, NITI Aayog. 2017. *Three Year Action Agenda, FY2018 to FY2020*. New Delhi.

^b Government of India, Ministry of Jalshakti. 2019. *Jal Jeevan Mission*. Delhi.

^c ADB. 2017. *Country Partnership Strategy: India, 2018–2022*. Manila.

^d Reserve Bank of India. 2018. *Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy*. Delhi.

^e As per Niti Aayog, Government of India, the state-specific poverty line per capita per month in 2011–2012 was ₹913 in rural areas, while the overall average for rural India at the time was ₹816. NITI Aayog. [State Statistics](#).

^f Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 2019. *National Health Profile*. Delhi.

^g Definition of “poor” and “vulnerable” will be incorporated following further discussion with the state.

^h Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. 2018. *Household Social Consumption on Education in India, 2018*. Delhi.

ⁱ Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment. 2019. *Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18*. Delhi.

^j Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. 2019. *Annual Report Periodic Labour Force Survey 2018-2019*. Delhi.

^k [RUCHI](#) and [HIMMOTTHAN](#).

^l Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. 2020. *COVID-19: Implications on Regional Industry and Economy*. Delhi.