



Initial Poverty and Social Assessment

Project Number: 38160
September 2005

Tonga: Preparing the Integrated Urban Development Project

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

A. Linkages to the Country Poverty Analysis

Is the sector identified as a national priority in country poverty analysis?

Yes
 No

Is the sector identified as a national priority in country poverty partnership agreement?

Yes
 No

Contribution of the sector or subsector to reduce poverty in the Kingdom of Tonga:

Some 23% of Tongan households are estimated to experience periodic difficulties in meeting their basic needs. The hardship and poverty assessment identified causes of poverty as the lack of income opportunities and limited access to basic social services. Tonga has made progress toward achieving many of the targets in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and access to safe water is widespread. With decreasing availability of suitable land, however, social services in Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu, are deteriorating and sanitation, drainage, roads, and waste disposal need attention. There are signs of rising unemployment and rural-urban drift toward the main islands. Urban migration and settlements in geographic areas with poor urban infrastructure are inadequate to meet the growing demand of incoming Tongans. Coupled with recurring flooding in the area, health and social indicators are declining. Tonga's limited land resources, combined with the growing urban population, are increasing pressure on Nuku'alofa's living conditions. The Government acknowledges that for sustained growth, health, education, water and sanitation, physical infrastructure, and the environment have to be improved.

The Ministry of Health and the Department of Environment have raised health concerns about some recent urban settlements in Tongatapu. The settlements in low-lying locations unsuited for housing result from the urban drift from outer islands. The project preparatory technical assistance (TA) will determine the extent of the challenge and examine options and associated costs of improving basic infrastructure in those areas to address the environmental and health concerns of the people living there. Improved living conditions will allow beneficiaries to be more self-reliant and enjoy greater opportunities to participate in economic activities.

Priority issues to be addressed are (i) poor living conditions that contribute to the widening urban hardship gap; (ii) continuation of urban informal settlements; (iii) potential deterioration in social and human development rates; and (iv) how structural, institutional, and local actions can assist in reducing poverty levels in Tonga. Three key groups can play a collective role in reducing poverty: (i) government agencies, (ii) family groups, and (iii) nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). A participatory and holistic approach will be followed in developing a long-term urban management and planning strategy and an investment project to address the main contributors to the poor living conditions. With improved urban services, the project will give lower income groups access to higher quality land and evade flooding threats. Through improved health conditions in the target areas in low-lying locations unsuited for housing, the Government will be able to reduce expenditures on health and concentrate on other issues in the long term.

B. Poverty Analysis

Targeting Classification: Poverty intervention

What type of poverty analysis is needed? A detailed socioeconomic survey must be conducted in Nuku'alofa, the project area. To address the various dimensions of poverty and to facilitate preparation of the urban planning and management strategy, the socioeconomic surveys will be accompanied by focus group discussions involving key stakeholder representatives of the society. Further, a critical review of various poverty reduction programs implemented by the government and other partners in development will be made. The results of the discussions will be the inputs to the feasibility study, making poverty assessment an output. The discussions will form part of the participatory process for design and implementation of urban projects.

C. Participation Process

Is there a stakeholder analysis? Yes No

TA fact-finding identified major key stakeholders and mechanisms for their inclusion in the participatory process. Also, the TA is phased to allow key stakeholders participation. Thus, stakeholder analysis for project feasibility and design will be completed during project implementation.

Is there a participation strategy? Yes No

Phase 1 is entirely a participatory process, and the terms of reference (TOR) for a community development specialist include focus group discussions, participatory workshops, and other participatory meetings. Participatory meetings with varied groups such as women's groups, NGOs/CBOs will ensure understanding of key social concerns. Participatory exercises will be done at different levels, e.g., community, urban local bodies, line agencies involved in providing urban services. At the community level, discussions using participatory tools like rapid assessment will be used in gathering community information and effective decision making to arrive at key strategies.

D. Gender Development

Strategy to maximize impacts on women:

Women NGOs were consulted during TA fact-finding and identified for membership on the TA Steering Committee. Gender analysis will be conducted under the TA to identify strategies for addressing gender issues. Workshops will ensure the involvement of female members of urban local bodies, and women community leaders and other agencies to discuss the proposed project and how to address gender issues properly. The TA will identify measures to ensure participation of women in pre-design and post-design stages.

Has an output been prepared? Yes No

A gender action plan and strategy will be developed during the TA.

E. Social Safeguards and Other Social Risks

Item	Significant/ Not Significant/ None	Strategy to Address Issues	Plan Required
Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Develop a project design that avoids or minimizes resettlement. The TA Fact Finding Mission suggests resettlement can be avoided or minimized. Based on the resultant project design during the TA, no resettlement plan will be required. Should the project design require limited resettlement of a target population, a short resettlement plan will be prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None
Affordability	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/> Not significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Labor	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/> Not significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/> Not significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	The great majority of the population are Tongans and minorities are primarily expatriate workers from Australia and New Zealand, and Chinese businessmen.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other Risks and/or Vulnerabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/> Not significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No