
VI. Conclusion

While there is little disagreement on the principle that APs' livelihood should not be worse off as a result of land takings, the actual operation of the principle and corresponding laws in many developing countries have, by and large, fallen short. An extensive body of literature from various countries shows that many of these APs have left behind with serious impoverishment risks. In this context, international development organizations, such as ADB, have developed useful policy guidelines to address this problem through socially sensible compensation and rehabilitation measures.

Experience has shown that loss of land, houses, and other assets are one of the major impoverishment risks. Mitigation or elimination of such asset-related risks requires that APs be adequately compensated.

To achieve this objective entails substantial legislative reforms and practice improvements on compensation standards, valuation methods, and procedural safeguards to ensure sufficient compensation for lost assets. As suggested in this paper, while each country may have its unique problems, which should be addressed through a specific package of improved measures, a range of broader strategies can be discussed and developed to deal with shared risks faced by APs in most developing countries. Regardless, we believe that the first step would be an open and honest dialogue among, and concerted efforts by, governments, international development organizations, civil societies, and APs, so that these problems are confronted and eventually resolved.

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