
I. Introduction

A. Background and Objectives

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 1995 Policy on Involuntary Resettlement requires that people involuntarily affected by development projects should not only be able to restore their income levels but, where they are poor and/or vulnerable, they should be provided with special assistance to improve their living standards. This is in conformity with ADB's focus on poverty reduction.

Infrastructure development is essential for economic growth in the developing member countries (DMCs). However, population growth and land scarcity lead to involuntary resettlement whenever large projects are undertaken. When this happens, affected people face varying degrees of risk, depending on the scale of displacement. ADB's own studies have shown that while its policy had significantly improved compensation for lost assets and helped in income restoration and enhanced institutional capacity in executing agencies (EAs), about a third of those affected by projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines did not have their incomes restored after resettlement.¹ These studies showed that social investigation during project preparation was weak and potential impoverishment risks were not fully identified, resulting in inadequate income restoration. This led to recommendations to improve asset valuation methods to pay replacement value to affected persons (APs) and to better definition of impacts especially on vulnerable groups. Greater attention to income restoration measures was also proposed.

The Risks and Reconstruction Model (RRM) is considered a useful approach to identify and manage resettlement risks.² The model suggests eight risks associated with involuntary resettlement that, when identi-

fied early in the project cycle, can help plan appropriate risk reduction strategies. These risks are: landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property resources (CPRs), and social disarticulation.

This regional technical assistance (RETA) was designed to generate instruments needed to address resettlement risk management, asset valuation, and livelihood restoration. Three countries participated: Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and India. The outputs from the RETA include three country reports, four thematic papers on selected topics from the PRC, two handbooks on resettlement for the highway/road sector (Cambodia and India), a paper on asset valuation in involuntary resettlement, a set of training modules on RRM, and a paper on impoverishment risk by Dr. Michael Cernea. Case studies and field research provided inputs for the country reports.

B. Scope of Work

The following activities were carried out in each participating country:

- (i) Identified key stakeholders;
- (ii) Reviewed data on involuntary resettlement as applied to risk management;
- (iii) Identified gaps, risks, and options for research in sector/project data;
- (iv) Identified causes and people at risk;
- (v) Identified resource, policy, gender specific constraints;
- (vi) Proposed possible solutions;
- (vii) Planned and conducted research in each country;
- (viii) Prepared reports incorporating the findings; and
- (ix) Planned and conducted national workshops.

¹ Asian Development Bank. 2000. *Special Evaluation Study on the Policy Impact of Involuntary Resettlement*. Manila. Available: www.adb.org/Evaluation/reports/ses-resettlement.asp

² Cernea, Michael M. 1997. The Risks and Reconstruction Model for Resettling Displaced Populations. In *World Development*. 25 (10).

C. RETA Countries

Information on the focal agencies, contact persons, and local consultants in each country that participated in the RETA is given below:

1. Cambodia

Focal Agency: Ministry of Economy and Finance

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2. India

Focal Agency: National Highways Authority of India

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3. People's Republic of China

Focal Agency: Ministry of Land and Resources

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