

Conclusion: Lessons from Timor-Leste Transport Project for Future Transport Projects

Specific approaches to the feasibility study team's stakeholder consultations and data collection efforts (Chapter II) proved to be effective in coming up with the poverty and social/gender analyses (Chapter III) of the Timor-Leste Road Sector Improvement Project. Based on such analyses and lessons from past infrastructure-related projects (Chapter I), ADB has incorporated these socially inclusive and gender-responsive features in the project (Chapter IV):

- vehicle fleet transformation program,
- labor-intensive maintenance,
- involvement of women,
- connection of rural areas with community-based initiatives,
- community empowerment initiative,
- budget allocation, and
- specific assurances.

In general, the following are the key approaches to best identify and incorporate the above socially inclusive and gender-responsive features into transport projects (Chapter V):

- commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming;
- need for a comprehensive poverty, social, and gender analyses;
- ensuring women's involvement in road infrastructure governance;
- engaging men on gender issues and concerns;
- encouraging community buy-in and maximizing stakeholder consultations;
- providing innovative options;
- partnering with local and international NGOs; and
- developing a project-specific gender action plan.

Being ADB's first attempt to mainstream social and gender concerns in the design of infrastructure-related projects in Timor-Leste, the success of the initial project design phase of the Road Sector Improvement Project provides valuable lessons for other road and transport projects in Asia and the Pacific. The good practices culled from the project serve as guideposts that can be tailored to the country or region in which they are applied for future transport projects.