

Acknowledgment

This knowledge product on the Timor-Leste Road Sector Improvement Project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was written by Francesco Tornieri, Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development) of ADB; Miho Ihara and Gregory Gajewski, Economists of the Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBG). The authors are grateful for the contributions of many people and institutions. The feasibility study team of the LBG, Inc., in cooperation with Kai Watu Kmanek-Consultants (KWK) in Timor-Leste, completed the study in record time and with high professional standards. Dag Vegger led the team, with substantive direction from Gregory Gajewski, Economist, the LBG, Inc. This knowledge product also benefited from the support of ADB staff. Many ADB staff contributed useful comments during the review stage of the study and this paper. Marcelo Minc, Principal Transportation Specialist of the Pacific Department, and Team Leader of the Timor-Leste Road Sector Improvement Project, established an enabling environment for teamwork and encouraged the study team to identify, apply, and document innovative approaches to boost the social and gender impacts of the road infrastructure investments. Mary Rose Favis-Aquino and Ferdinand Reclamado, gender team assistants of the Gender, Social Development, and Civil Society Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, provided editorial and production assistance to the paper. Special thanks are extended to the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Public Works of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and many other government staff for their willingness to help ADB and the study team on a daily basis on all technical, financial, and institutional issues. Finally, sincere thanks are due to those who responded to the surveys and interviews. Without their cooperation, the study would have not been possible and its success, not documented in this paper.

Foreword

The Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is poverty reduction throughout Asia and the Pacific. Improving the transport sector in the developing member countries is critical to combating poverty. Lack of mobility not only impedes efforts to achieve poverty-related Millennium Development Goals but also restricts people from being assured of their basic human rights. Movement is essential if people are to have the power to be autonomous and take control of their lives. In this wider sense, improving mobility includes developing transport infrastructure and services to overcome the social, economic, political, and physical constraints to movement and thus development faced by the poor, women, and other disadvantaged groups.

Because the Asian Development Bank aims to increase knowledge sharing throughout its developing member countries, knowledge products are being developed for different technical and thematic areas. This case study highlights the innovative design features of the Timor-Leste Road Sector Improvement Project,¹ approved in 2005. The project was designed specifically to engender sustainability, and include stakeholders and beneficiaries that have been ignored in typical road improvement projects. The new aspects of the project support the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's commitment to sustainable development of community infrastructure.²



Philip Erquiaga
Director General
Pacific Department

¹ Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2005. *Road Sector Improvement Project*. Manila.

² Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works. 2004. *Priorities and Proposed Sector Investment Program (SIP)*. 2nd draft. Dili, Timor-Leste.

Contents

Acknowledgment	iii
Foreword	iv
Abbreviations, Glossary, Notes	vii
Map	viii
Executive Summary	ix
I. Introduction: Lessons from Past Projects for the Timor-Leste Transport Project	1
A. Potential of the Transport Sector to Promote Social and Gender Equity	1
B. Good Practices in Addressing Social and Gender Concerns in Transport Projects	2
C. Designing the Timor-Leste Road Sector Improvement Project	12
II. Stakeholder Consultations and Data Collection for the Project	13
A. Kickoff Stakeholder Consultation Workshop	13
B. Field Consultations	15
C. Consultations with Organizations	20
D. Integrating Women in Stakeholder Consultations—Practical Applications	22
E. Data Collection for Social Analysis and Distribution and Poverty Analysis	22
III. Poverty and Social/Gender Analyses for the Project	27
A. Determining Poverty Incidence and Estimating Project Beneficiaries	27
B. Social/Gender Analysis	29
C. Distribution and Poverty Analysis	35

IV. Socially Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Design Features of the Project	41
A. Social and Gender Issues Identified	41
B. Socially Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Design Features of the Project	43
C. Overall Expected Poverty, Social, and Gender Impacts	49
V. Successful Approaches in Designing Socially Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Transport Projects	50
A. Commitment to Social Inclusion and Gender Mainstreaming	50
B. Comprehensive Poverty, Social, and Gender Analyses	51
C. Need for Women’s Involvement in Road Infrastructure Governance	51
D. Engaging Men on Gender Issues and Concerns	52
E. Encouraging Community Buy-in and Maximizing Stakeholder Consultations	52
F. Providing Innovative Options	53
G. Partnering with Local and International NGOs	53
H. Developing a Project-Specific Gender Action Plan	54
VI. Conclusion: Lessons from the Timor-Leste Transport Project for Future Transport Projects	55
Appendixes	
Appendix 1: Community Empowerment Initiative	57
Appendix 2: Indicators for Ranking Districts for Survey Locations	62
Appendix 3: Methodology to Determine Poverty Incidence	66
Appendix 4: Villagers’ Perspectives of their Poverty (Inputs to Social Analysis)	69
Appendix 5: Economic Benefit Distribution Analysis (Inputs to Distribution and Poverty Analysis)	74
References	78

Abbreviations

ADB	—	Asian Development Bank
COI	—	corridor of influence
DPA	—	distribution and poverty analysis
ENPV	—	economic net present value
GOTL	—	Government of Timor-Leste
HIV/AIDS	—	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
INGO	—	international nongovernment organization
MPW	—	Ministry of Public Works (Timor-Leste)
NGO	—	nongovernment organization
PIR	—	poverty impact ratio
PMU	—	project management unit
PWD	—	Public Works Department (Timor-Leste)
STI	—	sexually transmitted infection

Glossary

<i>suco</i>	—	village
<i>aldeia</i>	—	hamlet

Notes

Timor-Leste uses the US dollar (US\$) as its official currency.

All data in boxes, figures, and tables were generated for the present study by the authors.

Other sources are cited directly in the text.

