China, People's Republic of: Xinjiang Hetian Comprehensive Urban Development and Environmental Improvement

Project Name: Xinjiang Hetian Comprehensive Urban Development and Environmental Improvement
Project Number: 49307-001
Country: China, People's Republic of
Project Status: Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount: TA 9141-PRC: Xinjiang Hetian Comprehensive Urban Development and Environmental Improvement

Strategic Agendas
- Environmentally sustainable growth
- Inclusive economic growth

Drivers of Change
- Governance and capacity development

Sector / Subsector
- Transport: Urban public transport, Urban roads and traffic management
- Water and other urban infrastructure and services: Urban policy, institutional and capacity development, Urban sewerage, Urban solid waste management, Urban water supply

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
- Effective gender mainstreaming

Description
Hetian city, located in the southernmost part of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is a growing (the city’s 2015 population of 331,400 exceeds planning estimates) ethnic (87% Uygur) city, whose urban infrastructure and services are struggling to keep up with population growth. At the same time, the city faces (i) an arid climate (almost no rainfall), (ii) dependency on constrained water resources, and (iii) an encroaching desert. The boundaries for urban expansion, limited by the desert, lead to intensified urban development. Hetian (also known as Hotan) has a long history as an oasis town on the Southern silk route and is renowned for its jade and carpets. Traditionally isolated, a planned railway linkage from Golmud, Qinghai, through Hetian and Kashi, to South and Central Asia, will increase growth pressures. Tourism growth will follow stability and Hetian remains a desirable place to settle from within the Hetian prefecture. Preserving Hetian’s unique cultural heritage while addressing challenges associated with growth-driven urban development is a difficult, but necessary task.

The Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) technical assistance will focus on Hetian’s two neighborhoods, several citywide interventions, and supporting recommendations for changes to the urban development master plan, particularly on non-structural elements. The impacts are environmental and social conditions in western People’s Republic of China (PRC) improved and a well-off and harmonious society in Hetian city with environment, society, and economy developing in a sustainable way. The outcome is living conditions in line with a revised and inclusive UDMP improved. The project will deliver five outputs: (i) water supply, wastewater, and reclaimed water infrastructure renovated and expanded; (ii) environmental solid waste infrastructure and equipment improved; (iii) urban transport infrastructure constructed; (iv) public transportation system and equipment improved; and (v) capacity developed and skills built. Outputs (i) and (ii) are concentrated in the two neighborhoods, while (iii), (iv), and (v) are citywide interventions. Public private partnership opportunities in (i), (ii), and (iv) will be explored.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy
Hetian city is home to most of the poor prefecture. Based on the minimum living guarantee system, the absolute poverty rate is 30% in Hetian city and 13% in rural areas. A third of all Hetian’s poor reside in the Dabazar neighborhood and 98% of the poor are from the Uygur minority. Existing water pipelines serve only 80% of the total population and only 65% have wastewater service access. As the population grows, these water and wastewater coverage percentages will decline unless service is expanded. Untreated wastewater is discharged into the main canal as one treatment plant was closed while the new one is still being commissioned. Even when the new plant is operational treatment capacity will soon be exceeded. Precious water resources are being wasted as water is used once and then discharged. In addition to solid waste, frequent “black winds” deposit large amounts of sand and dust across the city. As growth increases, the solid waste management system will be stretched unless it is reinforced and expanded. The same holds true for the public transport system, which is already a low carbon pioneer (the fleet is 100% electric and compressed natural gas). Large parts of the aged fleet need to be replaced, a situation that population growth will exacerbate.

The Hetian Municipal Government (HMG) has completed an urban master plan focused on urban regeneration, and centered on two neighborhoods, Dabazar and Kunlun Lake District. In addition to these areas, a suite of citywide interventions are planned. While the master plan is complete, HMG is willing to entertain a discussion of changes to the master plan, to help ensure that regeneration meets the needs of current and future residents of the city.

Impact
Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
Consultation and participation will be conducted through key informant interview and focus group discussion. Key informant interviews with officials at the concerned city government agencies, including Women Federation, Poverty Alleviation Office and Ethnic Minority Bureau will be conducted to understand the existing programs with respect to major issues of social inclusion and exclusion. Local people and community representatives/leaders from the project area will also be interviewed. Focus group discussion with various social groups living in the project areas, divided by gender, age, nationality, household income level, education year and occupation will be organized to discuss their needs, opportunities, and constraints brought by the project. Focus group discussion will be used to identify positive and negative impacts of the project on the local population. Discussions of social concerns and problems among different groups will be cross-checked with results from the household survey.

During Project Implementation
The project team undertook extensive consultations with project beneficiaries and stakeholders during the poverty and social analysis and in the social and ethnic minority development plan and resettlement plan preparation. The team surveyed 601 households, interviewed 23 key informants, conducted 21 focus group discussions and 18 stakeholder workshops. The consultants discussed relevant issues with the executing and implementing agencies, design institutes, project implementation units, and local government institutions.

Business Opportunities
Consulting Services
The first phase of the TA will include a review of the urban master plan for Hetian city and recommendations for improvements, as appropriate, by Tongji University which will be selected through a single-source selection method and a lump sum contract with a value of $60,000. The second phase of the TA will be implemented by a single consulting firm with two specialized teams of experts - one to prepare a design and another to undertake due diligence. Phase 1 of the TA will consist of 3 outputs: (i) initial review report, (ii) detailed recommendations report, and (iii) capacity developed to incorporate changes. Phase 2 of TA will be implemented in two overlapping stages, by a single consulting firm. Under the first stage, a project design team will design the project including appropriate schemes for urban upgrading with resettlement. Under the second stage, another team from the same consulting firm will conduct due diligence assessments.

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Timetable

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TA 9141-PRC

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization

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Request for Information
http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=49307-001

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