

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Vanuatu	Project Title	Port Vila Urban Development Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/ Division:	Pacific/Urban, Social Development and Public Management Division

I. POVERTY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

A. Link to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

The proposed Port Vila Urban Development Project will improve urban services in the greater Port Vila through provision of storm water drainage, road renewal and repair, a sludge treatment plant, hygiene facilities in selected communities and public locations, and capacity development for government and user groups. The project supports the government's Priorities and Action Agenda 2006–2015 (PAA), which includes priority for (i) improved environment (waste disposal and treatment), (ii) provision of basic services and strengthening of social development (drainage and hygiene s to reduce communicable diseases and malaria incidence), (iii) gender and development (women in decision making and employment opportunities), and (iv) economic infrastructure (drainage to reduce flood damage and road maintenance costs). The PAA is consistent with the Asian Development Bank's country partnership strategy for Vanuatu 2010–2014,¹ particularly in supporting improvements in urban infrastructure and services..

B. Poverty Analysis **Targeting Classification:** General Intervention/Targeted Intervention - Millenium Development Goal (TI-M)

Key issues. Vanuatu does not have a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy per se, although the PAA place high priority on pro-poor development strategies. The United Nations Development Programme human development index ranks Vanuatu 126 out of 177, a mid-range among Pacific island nations. With urbanization is high as 4.2%, there is a need for expanded and quality urban services such as sanitation, drainage, and health and hygiene development. According to the Household Income Expenditure Survey 2006, Port Vila, has the most households above the food poverty line. However, there is still a high level of severity and depth in poverty in informal settlements in Port Vila compared with other parts of the country. Informal communities have a lower poverty status than peri-urban areas, although the former have more access to services such as water and electricity. The urban communities are generally in a position to afford sanitation and drainage improvements, whereas .Peri-urban and informal communities are also in need of a range of sanitation and drainage developments.

In the rural communities surveyed in the greater Port Vila area, key illnesses associated with lower wealth groups (below 50% of the median)—such as malaria, diarrhea and food poisoning, ringworm, and dengue fever—were identified. A socioeconomic survey conducted by the project preparatory technical assistance team in urban communities identified illnesses associated, in sociological terms, mostly with a wealthier lifestyle such as diabetes and hypertension. Most of the informal settlements indicated incidence of the lower wealth group illnesses, while the peri-urban areas surveyed showed a combination of illnesses associated with poverty similar to those of the informal and rural communities, as well as the “lifestyle” or higher-wealth-associated illnesses in the urban community. The project should be viewed positively as it will assist the improvement of living conditions in Port Vila through improvements in infrastructure and services —such as improved sanitation, roads and drainage, and hygiene facilities—along with associated community hygiene capacity development being planned under the project are important components which contribute to socioeconomic development and poverty reduction.

II. SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

A. Findings of Social Analysis

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities is a key implementing agency and is responsible for utilities regulation and development of infrastructure, roads, and other public works projects. Results o the community consultations have indicated a preference for drainage, with roads also being given as a high priority. Communities consulted indicated that flooding, is a significant problem due to poor drainage. A small program in self-help community drainage capacity development is suggested beside recommended drainage in identified key hotspots.

Most communities have adequate c water supply and adequate power connections for their needs. Sanitation includes water-sealed toilets, small-scale septic tanks, and open-pit latrines. Results of some of the community consultations have indicated a preference for household toilets or communal septic tank systems, with drainage and roads also being given high priority. Communities surveyed reported health issues, indicating that primary health care, particularly hygiene knowledge, is low (given that most illnesses are caused by lack of hygiene and unclean household environments). For interventions to be sustainable and for the communities to benefit, consideration should be given to financing a broader primary health care and health and hygiene program. There are numerous agencies including nongovernment organizations and primary health and sanitation projects operating in Vanuatu but

¹ ADB. 2009. *Country Partnership Strategy: Vanuatu, 2010–2014*. Manila.

<p>few are working in and around Port Vila, on the assumption that these areas will be adequately covered by government services.</p>			
<p>B. Consultation and Participation (C&P)</p> <p>During the master plan preparation, a community survey was conducted across Port Vila, followed by a comprehensive focus group discussion process in the communities on sanitation, drainage, health and hygiene, and the socioeconomic condition of households. Consultation on similar subjects also occurred with government stakeholders, tourism and other businesses. Further updates of community survey data and investment-specific consultations in communities directly adjacent to proposed subproject sites were also conducted.</p> <p>What level of C&P is envisaged during project implementation and monitoring?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative decision making <input type="checkbox"/> Empowerment</p> <p>Was a C&P plan prepared? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The consultation requirement is integrated into the project investment design. Women are encouraged to participate in capacity development, decision making, and employment (refer to section C and the gender action plan).</p>			
<p>C. Gender and Development</p> <p>Key issues. The meaningful participation of women in decision making contributes to the success and sustainability of assistance at the community level. Vanuatu started participating in international women's conferences in 1975, but it was only after the Beijing Platform of Action (1995), the ratification of the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (1996), and the Millennium Development Goals summit (2000) that the strategies to implement these commitments were developed within both government agencies and community-based organizations. While the Government of Vanuatu has committed itself to improving gender equality in all sectors, progress has been fairly slow. In addition, the claims of <i>kastom</i> (custom) and Christianity that women's place is subordinate to their menfolk have marginalized women's participation even further. Human resource constraints and lack of political will to make policy changes that would allow greater participation of women are significant gender challenges. Women are the makers of the home, nurturers of the children, and supporters of the men. However, their voices are not often heard in decision making. Despite the challenges, young urban women are beginning to have voices in decision making and development initiatives. This is partly credited to the work of civil society organizations to raise awareness of women's rights and build confidence, and partly to the government's commitments to closing the gender parity gap in education. In addition, as women are the main users of water and responsible for family health, their roles need to be taken into account in the construction of project infrastructure. Women will be more empowered by mandatory membership in user group committees to make decisions that will affect not only them but also their families and the more marginalized members of their communities, such as people with disabilities..</p> <p>Key actions. Measures included in the design to promote gender equality and women's empowerment—access to and use of relevant services, resources, assets, or opportunities and participation in decision-making process:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p> <p>The gender action plan includes measures that incorporate women's interests into the project design and ensure women benefit from project-related activities and outputs. These include women's participation in community consultation, employment opportunities in construction and maintenance of drainage systems and sludge treatment facilities, and an ongoing management plan that includes community and institutional components and accountability checkpoints for gender. The details are presented in the gender action plan.</p>			
<p>III. SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES AND OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</p>			
<p>Issue</p>	<p>Significant/Limited/ No Impact</p>	<p>Strategy to Address Issue</p>	<p>Plan or Other Measures Included in Design</p>
<p>Involuntary resettlement</p>	<p>Output 1: Drainage is along the road reserves. Temporary land acquisition may be an issue during construction but this cannot be identified until detailed design.</p> <p>Output 2 (Sludge Treatment Facility): Limited involuntary resettlement, in terms of land acquisition.</p> <p>Output 3: Communal facility may have very limited impact</p>	<p>Resettlement plan to be provided for the sludge treatment facility.</p> <p>A generic resettlement plan is prepared for drainage component 1.</p> <p>A land acquisition report is being prepared for the communal sanitation facility component to explain conditions and processes by which land will be provided</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

	in the case of community lands being disputed.	for the facility.	
Indigenous peoples	No adverse impacts are expected, in accordance with the definitions of the Asian Development Bank Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). Project will be positive for indigenous populations in improving living conditions. The constitution and laws since independence have been developed based on rights of <i>kastom</i> . This favors indigenous peoples in land and other rights, as part of the national legislative system.	No impact expected.	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Combined indigenous peoples plan and resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project design with a summary <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social impact matrix <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None
Labor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core labor standards	Construction contractors should seek to give opportunities to engage local labor, particularly women and youth, during construction. During operations, communal sanitation facilities will employ community residents to maintain facilities. No child labor will be used.	To be stipulated in the loan covenant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other action <input type="checkbox"/> No action
Affordability	Limited to no impact	The project may result in a small user-pays charge and/or small increases in rates from the government to fund drainage. This should be offset by socioeconomic improvements as a result of reduced flood damage, improved employment opportunities, and reduced health problems.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action
Other Risks and/or Vulnerabilities <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (conflict, political instability, etc.)	No impacts as a result of the project	No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action
IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION			
Are social indicators included in the design and monitoring framework to facilitate monitoring of social development activities and/or social impacts during project implementation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			