

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

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| Country: | India | Project Title: | Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project |
| Lending/Financing Modality: | Project loan | Department/ Division: | South Asia Department/ Transport and Communications Division |

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: general intervention

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Country Partnership Strategy

The project will build a greenfield bridge across the Ganges River in Patna, India, consisting of a six-lane crossing of 9.8 kilometers (km), about 10 km of approach viaduct and roads, tolling and service facilities, and the widening of 3 km of a connecting national highway. The objective is to improve transport connectivity for Patna, the state capital of Bihar, and the surrounding regions, in particular the northern Bihar area across the Ganges River. The existing bridge is in deteriorating condition, restricted to two lanes, which leads to severe traffic congestion, and is closed for heavy vehicles. The proposed greenfield bridge will provide an alternative and become a critical link connecting northern Bihar to Patna and southern Bihar, ensuring access to basic services, increasing business opportunities, and promoting social cohesiveness. As Bihar is one of the poorer states in India, the proposed project is expected to have significant developmental impacts. The Government of Bihar recognizes that economic growth and delivery of infrastructure and social services to the population are instrumental in poverty alleviation. The project is part of the transport master plan for improving the connectivity between northern and southern Bihar, and is integral to the overall road sector improvements that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is already financing. The targeted impact is consistent with the country's priorities in the transport sector, i.e., increase the movement of people and goods in a safer and more efficient and sustainable manner.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Project Preparation or Due Diligence

- Key poverty and social issues.** Bihar is the 12th largest state by area and the 3rd largest by population. Almost 58% of Biharis are under 25, the highest percentage in India. The state has a significant agricultural base with a small industrial sector—about 64% of residents in the project's area of influence are farmers and a further 9% are otherwise involved in the agriculture sector. According to Government of India estimates based on 2011–2012 data, 33.7% of Bihar's population lives below the poverty line, against an all-India rate of 21.9%. According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate is 61.8% for Bihar. The Bihar plain is divided into two halves (north and south Bihar) by the river Ganges, which flows from west to east. Though Bihar is leading the growth charts among the Indian states, its per capita income at constant prices is still the lowest in the country. High intra-state disparity means that north Bihar is lagging behind. The north is predominantly agrarian and is highly prone to floods, with poor irrigation facilities resulting in low agricultural productivity. The southern end of the project area will be east of Patna, the state capital city. The bridge will cross the Raghapur Diara river island, located in the middle of the wide river, and the northern end of the bridge will be near Bidupur in the Vaishali district. A social survey found Raghapur Diara island to have extremely low levels of development. For example, only 1 of 125 respondents indicated having reliable electricity connection. The bridge will pass directly through 16 settlements, and about 9.3 million people live in the project districts.
- Beneficiaries.** Potential beneficiaries include residents, road users, tourists, businesses, and commercial services.
- Impact channels.** Features to improve road safety will be incorporated into the project sign. The project will help reduce travel times across the river for long-distance traffic and provide better access for local trips, especially for residents living on the northern banks of the river who travel to Patna to access commercial and public services. The resettlement plan will include initiatives to conduct a needs assessment for livelihood regeneration measures before implementing the project. Measures will be included in the contracting documents to encourage the hiring of local people during implementation.
- Other social and poverty issues.** The project will provide efficient and reliable all-year access to the Raghapur Diara river island, where currently only a seasonal pontoon bridge connects it to the southern shore. This will help improve the living connections on the island, especially with respect to health and education. A socioeconomic survey found that at present, children cannot attend secondary and higher education consistently because they lack reliable access to the main land, and that diseases occur disproportionately often on the island for lack of health-care facilities.
- Design features.** The improvements will provide local populations, including the poor and vulnerable, with better access to economic opportunities and higher-quality services.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. **Participatory approaches and project activities.** Meaningful consultation and social surveys were conducted in the project area of influence, which included surveys of 366 households and 8 focus groups discussions in public areas, as well as 15 key informant interviews. Community participation was encouraged to increase awareness of the project, to identify needs and concerns, to obtain suggestions for enhancing benefits and mitigating negative impacts, and to make project communities aware of the grievance redress mechanism.

2. Nongovernment organizations (NGOs) will be engaged to implement the resettlement activities and undertake continued meaningful consultation and information disclosure.

3. **Civil society organizations.** Project information will be disclosed to the public through various venues. Project information will be readily available to civil society.

4. Forms of civil society organization participation envisaged during project implementation – Civil society will be part of the grievance redress mechanism. NGOs will be engaged to implement the resettlement activities and undertake continued consultation and information disclosure. Assessed as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

Information gathering and sharing = M; Consultation = L; Collaboration = L; Partnership = L

5. Participation plan.

Yes No

NGOs will ensure that affected persons, particularly the poor and vulnerable, will be involved in the project, both by being employed under the project where possible and actively engaged in resettlement and rehabilitation activities, such as a livelihood restoration program for those who qualify.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: some gender elements

A. Key issues. Most women in the project area are involved in household work since rural women rarely engage in outside work, with the exception of very poor households. The project will improve connectivity and provide better access to health services, higher levels of education, economic opportunities, and social interactions for women, especially those living on the northern banks of the Ganges River. Women who live in the northern part of Bihar will be able to access higher-quality services in the state capital of Patna, which is located in the southern part of Bihar across the Ganges River. Land acquisition and resettlement will affect 56 households headed by women. Special attention will be given to these households to ensure that they are equally well or better off than before the project.

B. Key actions. Proactive features include: (i) incorporating gender-sensitive design in administrative buildings, including separate toilets and rest areas for men and women, and adequate lighting for pedestrians; (ii) conducting grassroots road safety and safe mobility campaigns and involving the participation of women (target: 30% as trained facilitators and 50% as beneficiaries); (iii) providing all project affected communities and all contractors' personnel with awareness training on sexually transmitted infections, before and during construction (target of 50% participation by women and poor households); and (iv) prioritizing women in civil works. Provisions are in the bidding documents for the civil works contractors to ensure that all applicable labor laws will be complied with, including not employing child labor for construction; encouraging employment of the poor, particularly women; and equal pay for men and women for work of equal value. The social development and gender specialist from the project management and authority engineering (PMAE) team will monitor this.

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. **Key impacts.** An estimated 18,171 persons from 1,594 households, and 153 structures, will be affected, and about 256.58 acres of private land will need to be acquired.

2. **Strategy to manage the impacts.** A resettlement plan was prepared in line with ADB and Government of India policies and regulations. An experienced NGO will be engaged to assist the executing agency in facilitating involuntary resettlement activities.

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| 3. Plan or other Actions | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No action | |
| B. Indigenous Peoples | Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI |
| 1. Key impacts. Involuntary resettlement will impact 1 (one) Scheduled Tribe household. This household is not distinctive and is integrated into the dominant population. It freely interacts with the outside community. Special attention will be paid to this household during the implementation of resettlement activities. | |
| Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |
| 2. Strategy to address the impacts. Special assistance has been provided in the Resettlement Plan. | |
| 3. Plan or other actions. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action | |
| V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS | |
| A. Risks in the Labor Market | |
| 1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L). | |
| L unemployment L underemployment L retrenchment L core labor standards | |
| 2. Labor market impact. Construction is expected to generate employment opportunities for local communities. Men and women will be paid equally for equal work. Provisions are in the bidding documents for the contractors to ensure that all the civil works comply with core labor standards (e.g., no child labor; no bonded labor; no work discrimination regardless of gender, race, and ethnicity; and freedom of association and collective bargaining). | |
| B. Affordability | |
| Local noncommercial traffic will not be tolled. More reliable and safer connectivity will reduce public transport costs. | |
| C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks | |
| 1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): | |
| L Communicable diseases L Human trafficking | |
| 2. Risks to people in project area. | |
| The social assessments did not identify any significant social risks such as HIV/AIDS or human trafficking. The executing agency will ensure that civil work contractors disseminate information at worksites on the risks of sexually transmitted diseases. All contracts will include clauses on these undertakings, and the executing agency will strictly monitor compliance during implementation. Affected communities will be provided with awareness-raising sessions on communicable diseases, human trafficking, and basic hygiene. | |
| VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION | |
| 1. Targets and indicators. The social development specialist of the PMAE team will establish relevant performance targets and indicators, and their data sources. | |
| 2. Required human resources. The implementing agency has a social safeguard focal point. A resettlement and social development and gender team will be part of the construction supervision and project management consulting teams. A social development specialist from ADB's regional department will oversee the implementation. | |
| 3. Information in the project administration manual. The frequency of project reviews, monitoring, and timing of completion reports is included in the manual. | |
| 4. Monitoring tools. The PMAE team will undertake overall monitoring. | |