

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tuvalu	Project Title:	Outer Island Maritime Infrastructure Project – Additional Financing
Lending/Financing Modality:	Additional financing	Department/ Division:	Pacific Department Transport, Energy and Natural Resources

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY
Targeting Classification: general intervention
<p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>The mission of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2016–2020 (Te Kakeega III) is to achieve a greater level of security and prosperity for all Tuvaluans; achieve higher standards of quality health and education; and develop and maintain good relations on the international stage. The strategy has 13 focus areas, one of which concerns infrastructure and support services, including maritime infrastructure and services on the outer islands. It also supports the objectives of the Tuvalu Social Development Policy 2016, i.e., protection of the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, quality social services, safe use of public infrastructure, and a regulatory environment that promotes social wellbeing and protection. The project is aligned with the Pacific Approach 2016–2020 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), notably by increasing connectivity through transport infrastructure, and its Midterm Review of Strategy 2020, which emphasizes transport development as a key driver of economic growth.^a ADB’s country operations business plan, 2017–2019 for Tuvalu prioritizes maritime transport with the outcome of a “safe, reliable, and sustainable maritime transport system for increased, more efficient, and safer movement of people and goods.” The harbor development under the current project and the proposed additional financing will increase mobility and access to services on Funafuti, promote economic development, and improve people’s livelihoods on the islands.</p>
<p>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Project Preparation or Due Diligence</p>
<p>1. Key poverty and social issues. Niutao is an outer island with a land area of 2.7 square kilometers. Its population growth is negative because of outmigration, unemployment, limited business opportunities, lack of a high school, and poor health facilities. It has a communal market garden run by the <i>Kaupule</i> (local government council), and several households grow their own fruit (papaya, breadfruit, bananas, and coconut) as well as swamp taro. Many men fish locally, including at the proposed harbor site, and the women sell the excess catch. Apart from government jobs, the only other income opportunities for women are the sale of handicrafts to the local handicraft shop. Tuvalu’s economy and people rely on maritime transport to access goods and essential social services, with the only hospital on the main island of Funafuti. The government ship visits Niutao every 2–3 weeks. Te Kakeega III refers to the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which indicates that poverty rates are rising and that 26% of the population in 2010 lived below the national basic needs poverty line (24.8% on the outer islands, 27.5% on Funafuti). The government said it would formulate a national hardship assistance policy (HAP) to deal with rising poverty, but this has not yet occurred.^b The Education For All (EFA) 2015 Review found that Tuvalu is on track to achieve EFA Goal 2 of 100 per cent of eligible students attending school, which is compulsory in Tuvalu up to 15 years of age. The report found that girls are performing better than boys.^c The island nation’s major health issues stem from non-communicable diseases, notably diabetes, heart problems and hypertension, and cerebrovascular illness. Tuvalu has only one hospital, in Funafuti, which has 30 beds and provides secondary-level care for the outer islands with 8 medical officers, 20 nurses, 10 paramedical staff, and 10 support staff.</p>
<p>2. Beneficiaries. Local residents of Niutao will be the primary beneficiaries of the additional financing (project), which will provide safe transportation to and from the island. The main users of the shipping services are government workers who need to travel to Funafuti; shipping crews who currently need to handle the transfer of passengers and cargo from the ships to shore; users of freight transport services and retail entrepreneurs of local businesses; high school students attending school on other islands; people visiting families residing on other islands or returning home from visits; and patients needing hospital attention. The new accessibility and safety standards will particularly benefit the elderly, pregnant women and small children, and disabled and sick people, who find it hard to negotiate the physical transfer from ship to shore.</p>
<p>3. Impact channels. The project will indirectly address poverty, social, and gender issues by creating safer and more time-efficient access to the ships from Niutao to other islands in Tuvalu. This will facilitate more regular supplies of food and access to services on other islands, and increase economic possibilities. It will also increase the safety of the workboats entering the coral reef to access the shore. Some poor people will be able to find short-term employment in unskilled work during construction, and longer-term impacts could stem the outmigration to Funafuti.</p>
<p>4. Other social and poverty issues. Additional development concerns in Niutao include the threat of natural disasters, especially cyclones; unemployment and lack of industry on the island; and poor food security—including the need for saltwater-resilient food crops and technology. Health services are poorly resourced and below basic standards, and the health clinic on the island lacks basic supplies and equipment. Major assistance in these areas is provided by the governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the Commonwealth of Learning assists in education.</p>

5. Design features. Key design features include a safe harbor with a jetty for the transfer of people and cargo from workboat to shore. Currently the transfer from the workboat to the existing facility requires walking about 30 meters on a coral reef and 50 meters on sand and dry coral to land. Passengers often negotiate this slippery surface barefoot or in flip-flops. Better safety will be ensured by the new jetty; public training on sea safety and first aid; a small first aid room equipped with a bed, chair, and the requisite supplies; and lifeguard equipment. A truck and crane at the site will facilitate the safe movement of cargo, which currently is carried by passengers and the local population. These movements will also be assisted by local stevedores and overseen by a security manager. The design includes training for workers and local communities on HIV/AIDS, other communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, and gender and cultural awareness, as well as measures to ensure the rights and equity of those who own land in the construction area with adequate compensation and grievance mechanisms. The felled trees and vegetation from the construction site will be made available to local women for use in handicraft production and to men for building and repairing homes, gardens, and pig pens.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The government and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Funafuti—e.g., the Department of Lands and Survey, Department of Gender Affairs, Marine and Ports Service, National Council of Women, Disability Association of Tuvalu, Red Cross, and the Tuvalu Family Health Association—were consulted during project preparation. The field mission to Niutao met several male and female *Kaupule* members and conducted focus group discussions with separate groups of older men, pregnant women, youth, landowners, fisherfolk, and women from the local council. In addition, an in-depth interview was conducted with an elderly man living with disabilities.^d These groups will continue to be consulted at various stages throughout the project cycle, with a specific focus on landowners, fisherfolk, poor women, and people living with disabilities.

2. Civil society organizations. CSOs were consulted during project preparation and will be consulted again during project design, construction, monitoring, and completion. CSOs will also be contracted to run the sea safety and first aid training as well as the training on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and gender and cultural awareness.

3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):
 H Information gathering and sharing H Consultation M Collaboration Partnership

4. Participation plan. Yes. No.
 The project administration manual contains a stakeholder communication strategy and plan involving national and local CSO groups.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming

A. Key issues. Compared with other islands in Tuvalu, women on Niutao are better represented in decision-making bodies, leading three of the six *Kaupules*. However, women still defer to traditionally assigned gender roles at home and in agriculture and fisheries. Women do not fish in offshore boats and are limited to collecting shellfish on the reef. The role of tending to animals and gardens is reserved for the men. Employment for women outside of government jobs is scarce in Niutao, and their main income comes from the sale of handicrafts. They receive A\$100 from the *Kaupule*-run local handicraft shop for a pandanus mat, which takes 3–4 days. This work provides the main income for many local families, who rely on local gardens and fishing for a lifestyle that is mostly on the edge of subsistence. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the improved harbor facilities will increase economic opportunities on the island for women and men. Niutao has one health clinic staffed by a midwife with diploma-level training, a nursing assistant, and a sanitation officer. All women attend the hospital in Funafuti for the birth of the first child, and the new harbor facilities will improve their access and make their transport safer.

B. Key actions.

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

Women will be included in all community consultations, at a minimum rate of 40%. The new facilities will have lighting and safety and security features, which will give women and children safer access to transport to other islands, e.g., to use social services, attend school, or go to family gatherings. The passenger terminal will also include separate toilets for men and women as well as priority seating for women and people with disabilities. Women will be economically empowered by the development of a canteen at the harbor run by the women's council, an outlet for handicrafts, and access to the trees felled to clear the construction site for use in their handicraft production. Women will also get access to a minimum of 10% of the unskilled work during the construction period and to at least 30% of work in the project management unit. As clan ownership of land is often in the name of men, it is essential that women get full access to information and are aware of their rights to the equal distribution of funds.

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts. The project sites will be a combination of government and private lands owned by families or clans. The government will establish an annual lease agreement with willing landowners where private lands are required. The proposed sites are unencumbered, except for crops and trees and potentially some graves. Failure of negotiations with landowners will not result in compulsory acquisition by the government.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. A due diligence report was prepared and confirmed the proposed land agreement under negotiated settlement. A third-party verification will be required to ensure transparent, fair, and non-coercive negotiations.

3. Plan or other Actions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action (due diligence report) | |

B. Indigenous Peoples

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. **Key impacts.** The project will not impact any distinct and vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples; 96% of the population in Tuvalu is Polynesian. – Is broad community support triggered? Yes No

2. **Strategy to address the impacts.**

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). Low

L unemployment underemployment retrenchment core labor standards

2. **Labor market impact.** Very few residents of Niutao have employment outside of government. Short-term unskilled work opportunities will include construction, food preparation, washing, and the selling of local supplies. Additional income-generating activities will be derived from a canteen run by local women, and an outlet for handicrafts. Ongoing employment at the harbor will include stevedores and a security guard.

B. Affordability Not applicable

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
 Others (please specify) _____

2. Risks to people in project area.

All contractors will be required to provide awareness training on sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, gender and cultural issues for construction personnel and surrounding communities in the project area. The MCT as the implementing agency will also undergo this training.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. **Targets and indicators.** All data will be sex-disaggregated. A quota of 10% women was stipulated for unskilled work during construction, with preference to be given to unskilled workers from poor households, and a quota of 30% women for the project management unit. A quota of at least 40% women applies to all community consultations, which involve women and men in both separate and concurrent discussions. The number of women able to use felled trees for handicrafts will also be a target. The harbor site will have a canteen run by women, and separate toilets for men and women with access for people with disabilities.

2. **Required human resources.** A gender and social development specialist is required as a core member of staff to ensure that vulnerable groups are actively involved and that gender issues and sex-disaggregated data is tracked through the monitoring framework. They will be responsible for the implementation of the gender action plan.

3. **Information in the project administration manual.** The reports will include sex-disaggregated data gender participation indicators in community consultations, training activities, and employment statistics. Gender issues will be mainstreamed throughout reports, with a separate section addressing ongoing issues for women at project sites.

4. **Monitoring tools.** Tools will include minutes taken at meetings, consultation reports, and records from training and workshops, and records of employment data. The project management unit will submit quarterly reports to ADB and the government on the progress of gender action plan activities. All data collected will be sex-disaggregated.

^a ADB. 2016. *Pacific Approach, 2016–2020*. Manila; and ADB. 2014. *Midterm Review of Strategy 2020: Meeting the Challenges of a Transforming Asia and Pacific*. Manila. ^b Government of Tuvalu. 2016. *Te Kakeega III: National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2016–2020*. Funafuti.

^c Government of Tuvalu. 2015. *National Education for All 2015 Review in Tuvalu*. Funafuti.

^d This was in lieu of a focus group discussion with a larger group of people with disabilities, who were holding a separate meeting with the ADB and the consultants mission at the same time.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.