

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Kiribati	Project Title:	South Tarawa Water Supply Project (Additional Financing)
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/Division	Pacific Department/Urban Development and Water Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY
Poverty targeting: general intervention
<p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>The project’s objectives—infrastructure development, improved public health by reducing waterborne illnesses and disease, and better hygiene practices—are aligned with the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2020–2023; the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pacific Approach, 2021–2025; and ADB’s Strategy 2030 and its operational priorities of making cities more livable and tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability.^a The Pacific Approach serves as the country partnership strategy between ADB and the Government of Kiribati and outlines the key priority areas for ADB’s support in the country. The project supports the following KDP key priority areas: harnessing our human wealth, growing our economic wealth and leaving no one behind, improving our health, protecting our environment and strengthening resilience, good governance, and developing our infrastructure. Strategies to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction include developing and improving economic infrastructure (e.g., utilities and water) and encouraging human resource development for domestic and foreign labor markets.</p>
<p>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Transaction TA or Due Diligence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key poverty and social issues. Kiribati’s economic growth fluctuated during 2000–2009. Real rates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth had risen by a high of 5.2% by 2012 and 5.8% by 2013, followed by solid growth of 2.4% in 2014. Kiribati’s economy has performed relatively well during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic with GDP growth of 1.3% in 2020 and 10.7% in 2021. However, Kiribati has the lowest GDP per capita of all Pacific developing member countries (\$1,650 in 2021), and poverty and hardship are widespread with 21.9% of its population under the basic needs poverty line in 2019. About 19% of South Tarawa’s population is under the basic needs poverty line. Despite the high rates of poverty, food poverty in South Tarawa is about 3.7%—below the national rate of 5.1%.^b General population health issues are contributing to loss of productivity and increasing marginalization and vulnerability. During 2014–2016, 80,000 cases of illnesses related to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) coverage were reported in South Tarawa, including diarrhea, dysentery, conjunctivitis, and fungal infections (e.g., ringworm). In 2016, The Ministry of Health estimated about 10% of recorded deaths of children under 5 years of age were attributed to diarrhea and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin and 3% to volume depletion, which can be triggered by dehydration because of vomiting and/or diarrhea commonly associated with gastroenteritis. Environmental factors, including the challenge of climate change, and agricultural food production impact people’s daily lives and well-being. 2. Beneficiaries. Primary project beneficiaries are residents of South Tarawa, including poor households and households headed by women (20%–25% of all households). Of the 9,444 households in South Tarawa, 50% report the Public Utilities Board (PUB) water supply as the main source of their drinking water. Among the other households, 20% source drinking water from rainwater tanks, 19% from wells, and 1% from other sources.^c 3. Impact channels. The main impacts on the poor and vulnerable will come from improved access to a safe water source through a reticulated water supply and improved hygiene, both of which will help health outcomes. 4. Other social and poverty issues. An analysis of the household income and expenditure survey indicates that a large proportion of the population is vulnerable to falling into poverty because they lack employment opportunities and proper access to basic services such as water and sanitation. Lower employment rates and other social issues are being dealt with through other government programs. 5. Design features. With population growth, the current water supply sources—the groundwater lenses at Bonriki and Buota—will become increasingly insufficient, leading eventually to a collapse of the current water system. The project will provide safe water through the construction of two desalination plants with sufficient capacity to meet the water needs of all households in the project area. Each household will be provided with a metered water tap. Appropriate water fee structures and other interventions such as community service obligation payments will support ongoing water system maintenance, while providing water supply services to subsistence-based urban households.
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participatory approaches and project activities. Extensive stakeholder consultations were carried out during project preparation and are ongoing during project implementation including (i) workshops with key stakeholders, (ii) community consultations with South Tarawa residents, (iii) interviews with government and nongovernment

agencies, (iv) presentations to ministerial and PUB staff concerning project preparatory approaches and findings, and (v) consultations with development partners.

2. Civil society organization participation. The project has a stakeholder communication strategy, and its WASH program uses nongovernment and community-based mobilizers and trainers to implement participatory activities.

3. Approaches of civil society organization participation envisaged during project implementation. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during the implementation of the community engagement program, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): nongovernment organizations (H), women (H), and international nongovernment organizations (H).

Information gathering and sharing (H) Consultation (H) Collaboration (M) Partnership (L)

4. Participation plan. A stakeholder participation plan was developed focusing on information, education, and communication approaches. Community information programs, consultations, and feedback are major tools of the project to support sustainable water supply to households. Community engagement is included in the project design and reflected in the gender action plan (GAP), environmental assessment and review framework, resettlement framework, and the contract provisions recommended for the implementation of the project.

Yes No Other plans and/or frameworks

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming

1. Key issues. Women in Kiribati are economically, socially, and legally disadvantaged. Gender gaps exist in land rights and access, political participation, and labor participation rates. Kiribati women are underrepresented in formal government institutions such as local island councils and Parliament. In South Tarawa, women-headed households are more likely to be impoverished than households headed by men. Women are affected to a great extent by the health issues related to inadequate water supply. As water collectors and carriers, they tend to be exposed to harmful pathogens in water and risk becoming ill. They also bear the brunt of caring for other household members who are sick because of unclean water. The increasing urban drift has made living conditions on South Tarawa worse than on the outer islands, and overcrowding contributes to the stresses faced by women and girls. Gender-based social barriers are decreasing in urban areas, where women have more opportunities for education or paid employment, better access to services, and more exposure to media and information. The Kiribati Family Health and Support Study published in 2010 shows that violence against women is prevalent, reporting that 68% of ever-partnered women aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner.

2. Key actions. Most project outputs include specific gender design features to facilitate and ensure women's project participation and access to project benefits since women will be the key drivers of behavioral change and support for water supply sustainability and project success. The project includes a target for new connections that will benefit 100% of women-headed households. A key element of the project is an information, education, and communication program that will be gender inclusive and gender sensitive, with key messages for men and women to promote healthy water choices and security of the PUB water system. The number of professional women engaged by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (MISE) and PUB will be increased. The project will help in gender mainstreaming by ensuring that women participate fully in community-oriented project activities and awareness-raising activities, as per the GAP. Project gender strategies include (i) separate consultations with men and women to ensure that women's opinions are heard and men are involved, (ii) relevant labor standard and equal pay clauses for women employed in project activities, (iii) consultation with women concerning the design of water taps and other water supply hardware, (iv) the provision of financial literacy training for women to support water supply payments, (v) the engagement of women and men as community mobilizers for a WASH campaign, (vi) the provision of awareness training on sexual harassment for all MISE project staff and contractors, and (vii) the provision of gender sensitivity training to project implementers including the project management team and selected MISE and PUB staff. A project GAP was prepared to avoid any potential harmful effects on women, with specific actions that will allow women to benefit from the project. Women accounted for 58% of participants in the community consultations held to elicit input into the project design.

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. It is expected that the desalination plant will be on government-leased land, and of the 19 sites identified for the placement of storage tanks and pumping stations, 9 will be on government land and 10 on private land. The reticulated water supply network is expected to be aligned along the road reserve areas and will be installed with input from community members and landowners. Some assets will likely be affected and need to be compensated in line with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and pertinent government laws. So far, an estimated 33 persons will be affected by the location of storage tanks and pumping stations; the number of people affected by the other project components, such as solar photovoltaic or distribution network elements, has yet to be determined pending the confirmation of the exact location during the detailed design. Nonetheless, that number is not expected to be significant because priority will be given to the use of government-owned and reserved areas.

<p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. A resettlement plan and a resettlement framework (mostly for the laying of water pipes) were prepared to guide land resettlement and compensation and have been updated following detailed engineering design. Mitigation measures include compensation to displaced persons for lost land, structures, crops, and trees at replacement value; income restoration; employment opportunities; and additional allowances for vulnerable households. A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is established to (i) record and prioritize complaints, (ii) settle grievances in consultation with complainants, (iii) inform aggrieved parties about solutions, and (iv) forward unresolved cases to higher authorities.</p>	
<p>3. Plan or other actions.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No action</p>	
<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>	
<p>1. Key impacts. Indigenous peoples safeguards will not be triggered. The project will not impact any distinct and vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples as defined under ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement. Kiribati is a single indigenous ethnic group. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable (a GRM will be established for all beneficiaries).</p>	
<p>3. Plan or other actions.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p>	
<p>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</p>	
<p>A. Risks in the Labor Market</p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for the country, region, or sector's labor market.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unemployment (M) <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment (L) <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment (L) <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (L)</p> <p>2. Labor market impact. The unemployment rate in South Tarawa according to the 2020 Census data is 15.3%. The project will finance construction activities and is likely to have a positive impact on the labor market. All employment terms will comply with national labor laws and regulations.</p>	
<p>B. Affordability</p> <p>A user-pays approach to the water supply will be formulated and adopted with consideration of affordability and willingness-to-pay.</p>	
<p>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</p> <p>1. The impact of the following risks is rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking (NA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____</p> <p>2. Risks to people in project area. The risks associated with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections will be mitigated by employing as many people for construction as locally as possible and providing a gender violence awareness and prevention program designed to empower women and sensitize men.</p>	
<p>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</p>	
<p>1. Targets and indicators. Impact targets and indicators concern the infant mortality rate, incidence of dysentery and diarrhea in South Tarawa, access to water supply, rates of hand washing, and percentage of government staff who participate in gender sensitivity, hygiene, and sanitation training.</p> <p>2. Required human resources. The project management unit includes an international social development and gender specialist as well as a national safeguards manager to support the project implementation arrangements and monitor the poverty and social impact of the project.</p> <p>3. Information in the project administration manual. The project administration manual provides information on the frequency and timing of project review, monitoring, and completion reports.</p> <p>4. Monitoring tools. Monitoring and evaluation surveys will be undertaken at baseline and inception, midterm, completion, and project evaluation points.</p>	

^a Government of Kiribati. 2020. *Kiribati Development Plan 2020–2023*. Tarawa; ADB. 2021. *Pacific Approach, 2021–2025*. Manila; and ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

^b Government of Kiribati. 2021. *Kiribati 2019–2020 Household Income and Expenditure Survey Report*. Tarawa.

^c Government of Kiribati. 2021. *2020 Population and Housing Census*. Tarawa.