

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Vanuatu	Project Title:	Greater Port Vila Urban Resilience Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Grant	Department/ Division:	Pacific Department Urban Development, Water Supply and Sanitation 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 improve urban resilience in Greater Port Vila through capacity building, institutional strengthening, and the construction of two multipurpose emergency shelters. The project supports the Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030, which aims to build “a stable, sustainable and prosperous nation,” with a development aspiration of “enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity” to disasters caused by natural hazards.^a The project is aligned with the *Pacific Approach 2016–2020* of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ADB's country operations business plan for 11 small Pacific island countries, 2020–2022,^b both of which pursue opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and human development by reducing costs, managing risks, and enabling value creation.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. Vanuatu is ranked 141 in the world on the Human Development Index.^c In 2019, services accounted for 66% of measured gross domestic product, agriculture 23%, and industry 11%.^d Tourism contributes directly and indirectly to gross domestic product and employment. Vanuatu has no cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), but it has nonetheless been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting global slowdown. Loss of household income has been widespread, especially among those with family members who depend on the tourism industry. The number of “new poor” is expected to rise because of COVID-19. In 2010, average weekly household income for Port Vila was Vt24,023 (\$214.49), or Vt4,000 (\$35.71) per capita.^e In 2010, 14.7% of Port Vila households had incomes below the basic needs poverty line of Vt2,866.^f When insufficient access to clean water, sanitation, shelter, health, education, food, and/or information is considered, children experience the highest food and health deprivation in Port Vila. The country is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Vanuatu was ranked as the economy most exposed to natural hazards based on vulnerability, and is highly exposed to geophysical hazards in 2019.^g Tropical cyclones Pam in 2015 and Harold in 2020 both hit Vanuatu causing physical destruction and extensive damage to homes and assets. Cyclones and the COVID-19 pandemic have created new vulnerabilities, and affected peoples' employment and livelihood-generating ability, personal safety, public health and sanitation, household efficiency, and food production with long-lasting repercussions. Those most vulnerable to these shocks are women in informal employment, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.

2. Beneficiaries. The project will benefit at least 15,500 people in Greater Port Vila, including 7,200 women.

3. Impact channels. The project will improve urban resilience in Greater Port Vila through capacity building, institutional strengthening, and the construction of two multipurpose emergency shelters. Ward-level consultations will provide poor and vulnerable households with a chance to participate in public awareness campaigns and in the development of their own disaster emergency preparedness plans.

4. Other social and poverty issues. There is no formal social safety net in Vanuatu, although there is a compulsory national provident fund for pensions for those in formal employment. In times of disaster the government has made payments to families.

5. Design features. The project includes the construction of two multipurpose emergency shelters that will be able to withstand cyclone risks; will be accessible for people with disabilities; will include kitchen facilities, water, sanitation, and emergency lighting; and will be located near existing health clinics to enable the facilities to also be used as triage centers during health emergencies.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR			
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The project will include poor and vulnerable people through development of the public awareness campaigns, training, and the development of disaster emergency preparedness plans. They will be consulted on the design and implementation of the shelters.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. The project will consult with nongovernment organizations and civil society organizations that represent communities and gender issues. The project will strengthen partnership between ward secretaries and the community disaster and climate change committees.</p> <p>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) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M) Information gathering and sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H) Consultation Collaboration Partnership</p> <p>4. Participation plan. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA) will implement a participation and communications strategy for ongoing engagement with stakeholders in project planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>			
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT			
Gender mainstreaming category: Gender Equity			
A. Key issues.			
<p>Vanuatu is a signatory to major international and regional agreements on gender equality including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality commitments include the National Constitution, the National Gender Equality Policy 2015–2019, gender-responsive budgeting in some ministries, gender mainstreaming through appointment of women to boards and committees, reserved seats for women in Port Vila Municipal Council elections, and the creation of a gender and protection cluster. Women are rarely key stakeholders in urban planning and design and, as a result, urban infrastructure does not always meet their needs or priorities. Women make up 37% of MOIA employees, and 16% of Port Vila Municipal Council employees. Key gender issues include limited participation and leadership roles in decision-making, a high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), limited access to employment and skills development (women make up 40% of the formal labor force and are more likely to work in the lower-paid informal sector), and poor market conditions and facilities. The impacts on women of climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards include increased pressure to fulfil their responsibility for sourcing food, clean water, and shelter for their families despite the disruption of physical infrastructure (roads, public transport, markets, and telecommunications). COVID-19 is also exacerbating the challenges women face in all spheres including employment and the ability to earn an income, and the increased incidence and severity of GBV.</p>			
B. Key actions			
<p>The project will promote gender equality and women’s empowerment through meaningful participation and inclusion of women in leadership and decision-making opportunities, particularly in urban planning and management; training opportunities for women; gender-responsive urban development actions plans, such as the Greater Port Vila Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan; specific measures to respond to GBV including public campaigns and GBV referral pathways; and gender-responsive resilient infrastructure, such as multipurpose emergency shelters with design features for women including markets and separate sanitation facilities. MOIA will monitor the gender action plan on a quarterly basis using a template provided by ADB. The design and monitoring framework includes specific gender actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p>			
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES			
A. Involuntary Resettlement			
Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI			
<p>1. Key impacts. The two multipurpose emergency shelters will be located on government land. During construction of the new shelter at Freshwota Market, a temporary marketplace will be provided.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. A resettlement plan for the two shelters has been prepared.</p> <p>3. Plan or other Actions.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix </td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix
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<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. The proposed project is not expected to impact any distinct and vulnerable group of indigenous peoples as defined under ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable.
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). <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L) core labor standards
2. Labor market impact. The project will create employment opportunities during the construction, operation, and maintenance of shelters. Construction contractors will be encouraged to hire local labor, particularly women and youth. Community residents will be employed to maintain the facilities. Contractors will be required to comply with core labor standards.
B. Affordability
The project will reduce indirect costs (e.g., time and health costs), and will protect communities through the provision of emergency shelters.
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): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L) Communicable diseases <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____
2. Risks to people in project area. COVID-19, sexually transmitted infection, and HIV/AIDS awareness-raising will be provided to construction workers and community members in the project area.
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
1. Targets and indicators. The social and gender targets in the design and monitoring framework include the number of female beneficiaries and the number of wards with improved urban environments.
2. Required human resources. The consultant team includes international and national specialists.
3. Information in the project administration manual. Information is included on timing of project reviews, submission of progress reports, and monitoring templates.
4. Monitoring tools. Monitoring tools will include quarterly progress reports on gender action plan implementation, and semiannual safeguard monitoring reports.

^a Government of Vanuatu, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination. 2016. *Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan. National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030*. Port Vila.

^b ADB. 2016. *Pacific Approach 2016–2020*. Manila; and ADB. 2019. *Eleven Small Pacific Island Countries: Country Operations Business Plan, 2020–2022*. Manila.

^c United Nations Development Programme. 2019. *Human Development Index Ranking 2019*. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/2019-human-development-index-ranking>.

^d ADB. 2019. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2019*. Manila.

^e Government of Vanuatu, National Statistics Office. 2012. *Vanuatu Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2010*. Port Vila. The World Bank defines the new poor as “those who were expected to be non-poor in 2020 prior to the COVID-19 outbreak but are now expected to be poor in 2020.” (M. Nguyen, N. Yoshida, H. Wu, and A. Narayan, 2020. *Profiles of the New Poor because of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Washington, DC.)

^f United Nations Development Programme. 2013. *Vanuatu Hardship and Poverty Report—Analysis of the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Report*. Port Vila and Suva.

^g Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and Ruhr University Bochum – Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict. 2019. *The World Risk Report 2019*. Berlin.