

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	India	Project Title:	GR Infraprojects Limited (GRIL) Highway Equipment Finance Project (India)
Lending/Financing Modality:	General Corporate Finance	Department/Division:	Private Sector Operations Department / Infrastructure Finance Division 1

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, through its support for enhanced connectivity, is consistent with ADB's Strategy 2030 in the following operational priorities: (i) promoting rural development, (ii) making cities more livable, and (iii) addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities. ^a The project is consistent with the country partnership strategy, 2018-2022 for India, specifically with pillar 2—providing inclusive access to infrastructure networks and social services by improving the infrastructure bottlenecks in lagging regions. ^b The project is consistent with the following elements of the Sustainable Transport Initiative of the Transport Sector Group: (i) scaling up urban transport, (ii) improving cross-border transport and logistics, and (iii) supporting road safety and social sustainability. ^c
B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Project Preparation or Due Diligence
<p>1. Key poverty and social issues. The project will contribute to poverty reduction through increased access to infrastructure, services, and markets. It will result in increased accessibility and shorter travel duration, apart from reduced travel costs and improved road safety. In addition, the project will directly and indirectly contribute to poverty reduction locally through the creation of temporary and permanent employment. The project will diversify local employment opportunities and further assist private sector development through increased access to markets and resources.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries. India's infrastructure needs continue to be unmet, especially in rural areas because of suboptimal service and availability. Poor quality or lack of road infrastructure, especially in rural areas, promotes uneven development and limits regional economic growth. Potential beneficiaries will be underserved populations in mostly rural but also urban areas, which will have better access to markets and resources.</p> <p>3. Impact channels. In the long term, the project will provide beneficiaries with access to better and more affordable infrastructure and services and better opportunities to raise their income and improve their sustainable employment. It will also improve road safety and reduce accidents.</p> <p>4. Other social and poverty issues. The borrower, GRIL, actively provides employment opportunities to local communities where conditions allow and requisite skills are available. GRIL works with local government and nongovernment organizations in the delivery of CSR programs toward delivery of community development projects in the areas where it operates.</p> <p>5. Design features. The project will support the development of road infrastructure. This is expected to contribute to improved access to services and markets, particularly for some underserved areas.</p>
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The participatory approaches to project activities for GRIL are (i) at the site and/or subproject level where the company engages with communities and other stakeholders to develop and implement mitigation measures as part of its construction or project development activities, and (ii) in planning and implementing community development activities. The community liaison team engages with different community groups to assess needs and plan intervention measures. The site management team maintains an open communication channel and communicates with stakeholders periodically to manage concerns and grievances (if any) and to share and/or gather feedback on CSR programs.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. Due diligence for the project did not find any adverse media regarding the company or any of its subprojects.^d The external audit has undertaken a review of reputational and integrity risks and has not found or reported any adverse events. The company's CSR activities ensure adequate participation of civil society organizations in broader subproject impact areas.</p> <p>3. The following forms of civil society participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. Participation plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
Gender mainstreaming category: Some Gender Elements
A. Key issues. Infrastructure developed by GRIL will be used by everyone. As such, direct benefits to women from the borrower's subprojects cannot be quantified. GRIL has committed to implement measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in its business activities following ADB's Policy on Gender and Development (1998). Key measures being committed to by GRIL

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. **Targets and indicators.** The project will support the development of infrastructure which will increase access to markets and services and also result in more local employment opportunities.
2. **Required human resources.** The borrower and ADB staff will monitor the environmental and social impacts of the project.
3. **Information in the project administration manual.** Not applicable.
4. **Monitoring tools.** The borrower will prepare and submit annual reports on environmental and social monitoring compliance to ADB. The ADB project team will review the annual reports and will conduct review missions to validate and monitor progress of the project's implementation.

ADB = Asian Development Bank; CSR = Corporate Social Responsibility; GRIL = GR Infraprojects Limited.

^a ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

^b ADB. 2017. *Country Partnership Strategy, India 2018–2022—Accelerating Inclusive Economic Transformation*. Manila.

^c ADB. 2010. *Sustainable Transport Initiative - Operational Plan*. Manila.

^d (Confidential information redacted).

Source: Asian Development Bank.