

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Kyrgyz Republic	Project Title:	Landslide Risk Management Sector Project
Lending/ Financing Modality:	Sector Loan	Department / Division:	Central and West Asia Department / Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: Targeted intervention—geographic.

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

The project is the first ADB-financed initiative for integrated preemptive landslide risk reduction to protect rural communities in the Kyrgyz Republic. It is aligned with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic's development program for 2018–2022, which emphasizes poverty reduction, economic development, and management of disaster and climate change risks.^a Landslide risk reduction is also prioritized in the government's Concept of Comprehensive Protection of the Population and the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic from Emergency Situations for 2018–2030, the key government strategy on disaster risk management.^b The Kyrgyz Republic's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement includes its intent to prevent climate-change-related damage and losses, highlighting impacts of disasters in the absence of adaptation.^c The project will support the government's 2018–2025 program for the development of city master plans. This requires due consideration of hazard risk management, including for landslides and earthquakes.^d The project is in line with ADB's country partnership strategy, 2018–2022, under which ADB will support climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.^e The project is also aligned with operational priority 3 of ADB's Strategy 2030, to build climate change and disaster resilience.^f

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

1. **Key poverty and social issues.** The Kyrgyz Republic has a small economy, with GDP of \$8.4 billion in 2018. Its population of 6.46 million depends heavily on international migrant remittances (30% of GDP) and on gold ore production (6%–10% of GDP).^g With a Human Development Index of 0.674, the Kyrgyz Republic ranked 122 out of 189 countries and territories in 2019.^h Chronic poverty and the resultant food insecurity and malnutrition, and regional and gender disparities, are among the major issues in the country. Disasters exacerbate these problems by disrupting and destroying livelihoods, infrastructure, transport, and logistics. The poverty rate has decreased since 2010. The national poverty level in 2018, based on consumer spending, was 22.4%, but it is unevenly distributed across the country with about 75% of the poor living in rural areas and 60% residing in the south of the country.ⁱ The highest poverty rate in 2018 was observed in two southern *oblasts* (provinces): Batken (34%) and Jalal-Abad (32%). The poverty rate in Osh *oblast* (province) was 15%, and the poverty rate in the Ayusai representative subproject (Ayu village, Osh *oblast*) was 10%, with no differences between ethnic groups.^j In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant decline in income from remittances, tourism, and travel services, with an increase in returning migrants, food prices, and food insecurity among rural populations. Hardest hit were the southern *oblasts* of Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Osh, which are also areas of high landslide risk.^k

2. **Beneficiaries.** The population estimated to be directly benefitting from the project through a reduced landslide risk is largely located in Osh and Jalal-Abad *oblasts* and is estimated to be around 4,700 people (of which 50% are women), or about 950 households. For the representative subproject, landslides are perceived as the largest risk facing the village. In the event of a landslide, residents identified loss of crops or livestock, lack of access to clean drinking water, lack of food, and inability to get medical care for those in need as key concerns. Groups identified by respondents as the most vulnerable to landslides are people with disabilities, children under 5 years of age, and pregnant women. Men generally have a higher level of technical knowledge about landslide risk management than women. Both men and women equally recognize resettlement as a risk mitigation option, but also agree there are considerable challenges. Both men and women currently receive information on landslide threats, but men receive this information more regularly than women and households headed by women. Of those who received landslide risk early warning information, 55%–65% of respondents (with no major gender differences) stated that information received is sometimes irregular, late, incomplete, not always useful, unclear, and not actionable. In terms of needs, 63% overall wanted information on landslide risk, with 55% of men, 73% of women, and 54% of households headed by women.

3. **Impact channels.** The project addresses key issues of landslide risk of direct relevance to the communities living in high-risk areas of Osh and Jalal-Abad *oblasts*. The channels include (i) safer living environment for the community in landslide risk areas, (ii) protecting agricultural output from landslides and other associated risks, (iii) sustaining rural communities in areas where they have lived for generations, (iv) skills training of affected households, and (v) improving capacity of state agencies and community to forecast landslides through effective monitoring.

4. **Other social and poverty issues.** While the project focuses on reducing disaster risk, it will not support aspects of insurance and other disaster finance mechanisms. Access to health services, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities remain limited, especially in rural areas.

5. **Design features.** The project will reduce landslide exposure and vulnerabilities of rural populations and their livelihoods. The project will reduce direct landslide risks, improve systems for landslide monitoring, and strengthen landslide risk capacity. Notable design features include (i) strengthening capacity of local communities through

targeted training, planning, and awareness raising; (ii) installing monitoring equipment through partnership between state agencies and local communities; (iii) engaging and empowering women and vulnerable people in landslide risk management; and (iv) restoring fertility of land where civil works are carried out.
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities. During subproject planning and implementation of subprojects and capacity building activities, the project will consult and engage with representatives of the MES, local authorities, and beneficiary communities. The project will prioritize involvement of all segments of residents, with a special focus on women, the poor, and vulnerable groups, through tailored consultation techniques to capture specific priorities of the key target groups. Local communities around the representative subproject were consulted to inform them about the project and to seek their input on the project design. This process will be continued during project implementation.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. Civil society organizations will be recipients of training on landslide risk management and will be members of the project coordination group.</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"/> Information gathering and sharing (M) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration (N/A) <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership (N/A)</p> <p>4. Participation plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No For each subproject and capacity building activity, the PIU with support of a PIC social safeguards and gender specialist will prepare a plan for appropriate consultation and training activities.</p>
III. GENDER AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming
<p>A. Key issues. Women in the Kyrgyz Republic face limited employment opportunities. They are poorly represented in decision-making processes and face higher risks from natural disasters like landslide events in rural areas. The country's score on the Gender Inequality Index for 2018 was 0.381, ranking it 87th out of 162 countries.^h Female labor force participation is 45% compared to 75% for men. The average women's salary is 73% of that of men.^l Jobs are limited in rural areas, and Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces have the highest unemployment rates.^m Data on landslide events during 2009–2019 show that women and children comprise 70% of casualties from landslides compared to men (29%). More women and the elderly are left behind in rural areas as heads of households because of higher male labor migration rates in the southern provinces (especially in Osh and Jalal-Abad <i>oblasts</i>). However, religious conservatism impinges on women's involvement in activities outside the home and on their access to resources and information crucial to natural disaster response.ⁿ Women's participation in decision-making in landslide risk management remains weak because of this. MES staff and other stakeholders have low capacity to implement gender-sensitive standard procedures, landslide risk assessment, planning, mitigation, and resettlement. Sex-disaggregated data related to disaster risk management are also sparsely available.</p> <p>B. Key actions. The project will protect approximately 4,700 people or about 950 households from landslides, with approximately 11% of these being households headed by women. The MES will develop and adopt a landslide risk management plan that will include (i) activities and targets to improve women's representation in landslide risk management decision-making structures and mechanisms, as well as promote the role of women as technical specialists; and (ii) capacity building on gender-sensitive landslide risks and vulnerability assessment and planning. Sustainable asset management and operation and maintenance plans will be developed and implemented, identifying roles and responsibilities of community representatives, at least a third of whom are women. The project will conduct gender-informed vulnerability mapping, collect sex-disaggregated data, and develop a web-based landslide risk database and maps. The project will also build capacity of communities on gender-sensitive standard procedures and landslide risk mitigation. Women in the communities will participate in training on landslide risk mitigation, community risk assessment and planning, and on-site landslide monitoring.</p> <p><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
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. The project's category is B for involuntary resettlement. Under the representative subproject, (i) about 11 households will need to be temporarily relocated locally and (ii) 27 hectares of land will have to be taken out of production for 2–3 years during civil works. Similar impacts are expected on other subprojects.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Affected households will be provided with temporary mobile houses and awarded cash compensation. The project administration manual and land acquisition and resettlement framework elaborate criteria for subproject selection to avoid significant and permanent impacts, and guidelines and the process for preparing a resettlement plan for each subproject. A grievance redress mechanism will be fully operational after the project is approved. Core labor standards will be monitored under the GAP by the PIC.</p> <p>3. Plan or Other Actions.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system <input type="checkbox"/> planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> No action</p>

B. Indigenous Peoples	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>1. Key impacts. Due diligence has concluded that all ethnic minority people do not meet the characteristics of indigenous peoples under ADB's SPS. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Strategy to address impacts. N/A</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p>	
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS	
A. Risks in the Labor Market	
<p>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 (L) <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment (M) <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment (L) <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (M)</p> <p>2. Labor market impact. The project will have a direct positive impact through opportunities for employing local labor during civil works and providing skills training to affected households under the land acquisition and resettlement plan.</p>	
B. Affordability. Not expected to be an issue.	
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
<p>1. The impact of the following risks are 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): In-migration of local population into project villages (H)</p> <p>2. Risks to people in project area. Where construction labor housing areas are established in or near residential areas and local communities, there will be short-term risks of the spread of communicable diseases. To mitigate the risk, the MES will require contractors to (i) guarantee occupational health and safety measures; (ii) distribute or request that the local health officer distributes information or conduct awareness campaigns; (iii) ensure that all work camps have explicit policies on zero tolerance for the use of illegal drugs, sexual harassment, and the use of prostituted women; and (iv) seek to maximize use of local residential workers. Environmental and social grievances will be managed through the grievance redress mechanism established as part of the environmental monitoring plan.</p>	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
<p>1. Targets and indicators. The project design includes structural and non-structural measures. Women and vulnerable people from affected families and villages are encouraged to apply for construction work opportunities.</p> <p>2. Required human resources. The PIC includes a national key gender specialist and is assigned to supporting review, update, implementation monitoring, and reporting on the GAP and gender-related indicators in the DMF.</p> <p>3. Information in the project administration manual. The DMF and GAP will be included in the project administration manual and will form part of the periodic progress monitoring requirement under the project.</p> <p>4. Monitoring tools. The MES through the PIU will establish a project monitoring system with key performance indicators. The PIU with support of the PIC will submit periodic project progress reports on key indicators including the progress and targets of the DMF and GAP and social safeguards.</p>	

ADB = Asian Development Bank, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMF = design and monitoring framework, GAP = gender action plan, GDP = gross domestic product, MES = Ministry of Emergency Situations, PIC = project implementation consultant, PIU = project implementation unit, SPS = Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).
Source: ADB.

- ^a Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2018. *The Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Period 2018–2022: Unity. Trust. Creation.* Bishkek.
- ^b Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2018. *Concept of Comprehensive Protection of the Population and the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic from Emergency Situations for 2018–2030.* Bishkek.
- ^c Kyrgyz Republic. 2015. *Intended Nationally Determined Contribution. United National Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement.* Bishkek.
- ^d Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2017. *The program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the development of master plans for settlements of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2025.* Bishkek.
- ^e ADB. 2018. *Kyrgyz Republic. Country Partnership Strategy, 2018–2022—Supporting Sustainable Growth, Inclusion, and Regional Cooperation.* Manila.
- ^f ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific.* Manila.
- ^g Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2020. *Main Directions of Fiscal Policy for 2020–2023.* Bishkek.
- ^h United Nations Development Programme. [2019 Human Development Index Ranking.](#)
- ⁱ National Statistical Committee. [The poverty level of the population in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2018.](#)
- ^j ADB. 2021. *Landslide Risk Management Sector Project: Poverty, Gender, and Social Assessment.* Consultant's report. Manila (TA 9726-KGZ).
- ^k ADB. 2020. *COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic: Socioeconomic and Vulnerability Impact Assessment and Policy Response.* Manila.
- ^l National Statistical Committee. 2018. *Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2013–2017.* Bishkek.
- ^m National Statistical Committee. [Employment statistics.](#)
- ⁿ National Statistical Committee and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. 2018. *Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Snapshots of Key Findings.* Bishkek.