SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country:</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>Agartala City Urban Development Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lending/Financing Modality:</td>
<td>Project Loan</td>
<td>Department/Division:</td>
<td>South Asia Department SAUW Division</td>
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I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

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

Nearly 31% of India’s population lives in urban areas, which contribute 63% of India’s gross domestic product (GDP).8 With increasing urbanization, urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India’s GDP by 2030. India’s urban growth is mainly concentrated in large cities with a population of 100,000 or more. The number of cities with a population exceeding 1 million increased from 35 in 2001 to 53 in 2011, accounting for 43% of India’s urban population, and is expected to reach 87 by 2030. To improve quality of life and attract investments to the city, thereby setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development and poverty reduction, the Government of India launched an urban development project called the Smart Cities Mission. This urban renewal and retrofitting program aims to develop 100 cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens, a clean and sustainable environment, and application of smart solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to take compact areas and create a replicable model that will be an example for other aspiring cities. This program engages with the sustainable development pillar of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) country partnership strategy (CPS) for India, 2018–2022. Pillar 3 of the CPS will address environmental degradation through mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and promoting sustainable natural resource use in the project design. The Agartala City Urban Development Project will increase economic competitiveness and growth, thereby contributing to poverty reduction. The project is consistent with the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and ADB’s CPS. The project’s contribution to poverty reduction and social inclusion will primarily be indirect. People will benefit from economic investment and growth, improvements to basic infrastructure, and continued community support.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. India’s urban population is growing. More than 50% of the country’s population is forecast to be living in cities by 2030. This is a major challenge for the government because the country’s cities lack the infrastructure (affordable housing and roads) and basic services (sanitation, water, and health care) for their current inhabitants, let alone the influx of people over the next decade. Cities in India account for 31% of India’s population and 63% of its GDP. India’s urban population is expanding rapidly and expected to reach 590 million people by 2030. In addition, the statistics on urban living in India are grim: nearly 14 million urban households live in slums and another 3 million live on the streets. The environmental implications are serious, as half of the world’s 20 most polluted cities are in India. India’s Smart Cities Mission was designed to address the poverty-related and environmental implications of this rapid growth. Job opportunities created by the Smart Cities Mission can also support India’s urban poor by offering an alternative source of income. Although direct employment benefits will not be large relative to India’s economy and its millions of poor citizens, the new jobs can make a difference to the urban poor, especially women, who have few formal employment opportunities. These opportunities could be in the skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled categories, spanning functions such as construction, project commissioning and design, business development, and operation and maintenance.

2. Beneficiaries. In the city of Agartala, 50,387 of a total of 106,220 households live below the poverty line. These poor households hold an Antyodaya Anna Yojana (priority group) ration card under National Food Security Act, 2013. The provision of infrastructure designs that consider the needs of the elderly, women, children, and the differently abled (EWCD) will facilitate increased mobility and potential economic opportunities for these groups.8

3. Impact channels. Improved roads are expected to increase EWCD access to schools, health centers, markets, jobs, and recreational facilities.

4. Other social and poverty issues. Issues of poverty, malnourishment, lack of adequate health facilities, illiteracy, and lack of economic opportunities persist. Government departments manage development programs on poverty alleviation, health, education, and provision of access to basic services.

5. Design features. The project is designed to provide improved access to better infrastructure to people in project areas, including the poor and vulnerable. A project gender action plan (GAP) details activities and strategies related to participation, orientation, and capacity building. The project will promote the use of local workers for project-related work and will involve local communities in targeting subsidy beneficiaries.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities. During project design, focus group discussions were held with mixed groups of women and men, and with women-only groups. Consultations were also conducted with institutional stakeholders. These participatory approaches will be continued. A GAP was prepared to ensure the participation of women in the project. Agartala Smart City Limited’s project management unit (PMU) prepared a stakeholder communication strategy, including a communication plan targeting the public and vulnerable groups. Community members will also be oriented on water conservation, hygiene, and sanitation.
2. **Civil society organizations.** Five nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) are active in urban development in Agartala, particularly on sustainable development, women’s development and empowerment, health, and environment. Their participation in project implementation is envisaged, particularly in community participation, information disclosure, consultation, and grievance redress.

3. **The following forms of CSO participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):**

   - Information gathering and sharing: M
   - Consultation: M
   - Collaboration: NA
   - Partnership: NA

4. **Participation plan.**

   - Yes. ☑️ No. The PMU prepared a stakeholder communication strategy, which includes a public communication plan. Dedicated social mobilizers will ensure participation and inclusion of poor and vulnerable people.

### III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

**Gender mainstreaming category:** Effective gender mainstreaming

#### A. Key issues.

The key gender indicators and issues in Agartala City are as follows: (i) the sex ratio (999 females per 1,000 males) is higher than the national urban average (929); (ii) the overall literacy rate is 86.1% and the gender gap in literacy is only 2.7%; (iii) the workforce participation rate for urban females (22.4%) is higher than the national average (15.4%); (iv) the average wage or salary received per day in urban Tripura is ₹301.52 for women versus ₹409.66 for men; (v) women’s drudgery because of the lack of road, transport, and drainage infrastructure, and accessible and safe recreational spaces has exacerbated over the years; (vi) women have inadequate jobs and/or opportunities for paid work; (vii) a high proportion of households are headed by women (16.4%); and (viii) 0.30 million households in urban Tripura are spread across 15 reported slum towns. A considerable proportion of these households have access to basic amenities (90% to electricity, 97% to household latrines, and 65% to piped drinking water). In the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, women are more vulnerable to stress and loss of jobs and livelihoods because of the lockdown that disrupted major economic activities. The baseline and end line surveys need to incorporate variables that will capture issues women face in relation to travel time, drudgery, and unpaid care work that could worsen because of deficiencies in drainage infrastructure.

#### B. Key actions.

**(GAP)** ☑️ Other actions or measures ☑️ No action or measure

The project aims to reduce the travel time of men, women, and children to workplaces, markets, schools, and hospitals. It has the potential to provide jobs to local women and men through skills enhancement and increased participation in tourism-related trade and commerce. The project promises to provide usable public and recreational spaces for women and children. Well-lit, pedestrian-friendly, and access-friendly roads and footpaths will ensure the safety and security of women and children. Informing consultations with local communities, the GAP includes targeted activities to ensure women and vulnerable groups are included in project benefits. To maximize outreach, the project will involve women’s groups, collectives, and self-help groups, and mechanisms for social mobilization. Project staff and stakeholders will be sensitized to gender issues. Savings in women’s travel time will be evaluated by baseline and end line surveys, and pre- and post-client satisfaction surveys will evaluate EWCD inclusivity. The implementation of gender equality and women’s empowerment features will be supported by adequate resources and arrangements for effective implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Agartala Smart City Limited will recruit a gender; community consultation; and water sanitation, and hygiene experts to support GAP implementation and assess COVID-19-response actions.

### IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

#### A. Involuntary Resettlement

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<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>F1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key impacts. No land acquisition from private sources is envisaged. The road project will temporarily impact 309 vendors, hawkers, and kiosks (1,020 family members) who are using the covered drains beyond the road for display and sale of their goods. Of these, 43 vendors (142 family members) are assessed as vulnerable. The vendors, hawkers, and kiosks will be temporarily relocated during the construction of roads, after which they will be allowed to return to their previous location (covered drains) beyond the road. Thirteen temples on the right-of-way of a government road are also assessed as affected. Two projects are proposed to strengthen ecotourism (Maharaja Bir Bikram College Lake and Ujjayanta Palace). The tourism project is proposed on government land where there are no nontitled persons, and no resettlement impact is envisaged.</td>
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#### 2. Strategy to address the impacts.

For the selected project components to be implemented under the project loan, a resettlement plan for the road project and due diligence reports for two projects—the Maharaja Bir Bikram College Lake and Ujjayanta Palace—have been prepared.

#### 3. Plan or other Actions.

- Resettlement plan ☑️
- Resettlement framework ☑️
- Environmental and social management system arrangement ☑️
- Information gathering and sharing ☑️
- Consultation ☑️
- Collaboration NA
- Partnership NA

- Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan ☑️
- Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework ☑️
- Social impact matrix NA

#### B. Indigenous Peoples

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<td>Key impacts. Scheduled tribes in Agartala constitute 4.9% of the total population. They are assimilated within mainstream society and do not conform to the definition of indigenous peoples in ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement</td>
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2009. The project is not expected to have any impact on indigenous peoples. Is broad community support triggered?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable.

3. Plan or other actions.

☐ Indigenous peoples plan  ☐ Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan
☐ Indigenous peoples planning framework  ☐ Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework
☐ Environmental and social management system  ☐ Indigenous peoples planning framework
☐ Social impact matrix  ☐ No action
☒ 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):
   - Unemployment: L
   - Underemployment: L
   - Retrenchment: L
   - Core labor standards: M

2. Labor market impact. Contractors' agreements will contain clauses to ensure adherence to core labor standards. Contractors will be encouraged to hire local people for construction works and operation and maintenance. Child labor is prohibited.

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):
   - Communicable diseases: L
   - Human trafficking: H
   - Others (please specify): NA

2. Risks to people in project area. Contractors and construction workers will be made aware of communicable diseases, including HIV and COVID-19. In collaboration with the project management consultant (PMC), the project implementation units (PIUs) will raise awareness among contractors and workers of risks and mitigation measures.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. The design and monitoring framework and GAP contain the key targets and indicators to be regularly monitored during implementation.

2. Required human resources. The PMU will include a social safeguards officer and a gender officer, who will report to the project director. The social safeguards officer will be responsible for implementing the social safeguards plans. The gender officer will be responsible for implementing the GAP. The PMC safeguards staff and the contractor's social supervisor (gender and resettlement) will support the PMU and PIUs in implementing these plans and frameworks, training, conducting capacity building, managing databases, and preparing monitoring reports.

3. Information in the project administration manual. The project administration manual describes in detail the monitoring and evaluation arrangements, including social and gender inclusion aspects. The PMU will be responsible for submitting consolidated semiannual monitoring reports, including for all safeguards and the GAP.

4. Monitoring tools. The PIUs and the PMC will assist the PMU in preparing semiannual compliance and social safeguards monitoring reports. ADB will undertake a midterm review of the project 18 months after loan approval. This will cover social development and safeguard issues and midcourse corrections, if required. ADB will undertake an evaluation 1 year after project closure. Lessons learned will be documented.