

GENDER ACTION PLAN

1. Ningxia Liupanshan Poverty Reduction Rural Road Development Project, including seven rural trunk roads (266.7 kilometer [km]) and 21 feeder roads (168.3 km) in seven counties,¹ is proposed to improve rural accessibility to social services and economic centers. The project is aligned with the counties' Thirteenth Five-Year Plan covering 2016–2020 and comprises (i) improvement of priority rural roads, (ii) enhancement of rural road safety and sustainability, and (iii) impact evaluation and capacity building. The project will be a targeted intervention with a geographic focus on poverty reduction through improved access to markets, schools, hospitals, and government services and through construction and maintenance employment.

2. Gender analysis and official statistics show that women account for 48.65% of the total population in the seven project counties. But among the actual residents in the communities along the proposed rural roads (both the rural trunk roads and feeder roads), women have higher number in the sense that more men work in cities or adjacent areas (mostly construction work), either on long-term basis or seasonally, leaving women, the elderly and the children at home in villages.

3. Community consultations during the social impact assessment demonstrated that the project will have positive benefits for both women and men in terms of improved mobility, facilitating convenient transportation of potato, maize, and wheat (main agricultural products) and easier access to urban centers, social services, and income generation opportunities. Women's transport needs differ from men's. Women's role in agriculture and the household shapes their transport patterns and their travel needs. Women prefer public transport (buses or vans) to motorcycles. Women are more likely to accompany family members to hospital and children to schools as part of their primary family role. Women indicate they have less time to travel than men. Women assign greater importance to transport that is easier, faster, safer, and provides more mobility, as this in turn provides more home time for productive work. Women expect that improved access would result in more traders visiting their villages resulting in reduced time engaged in commerce and additional time for household tasks. The project involves rural road upgrading and rehabilitation, which will directly benefit rural women by improving the ease of travel and reducing the cost of local transport.

5. To maximize positive gender impacts, the project targeted an effective gender mainstreaming categorization, and a project gender action plan (GAP) has been prepared. GAP features focus on ensuring women's equitable participation in project-related public consultation, incorporating gender-responsive features in the project design, promoting increased employment opportunities for women, and building executing agency/implementing agency institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. Adequate consultation was undertaken with the communities, women's federation and county transport bureaus (CTB) to arrive at the targets in the GAP presented in table 1.

¹ The seven counties comprise Haiyuan, Jingyuan, Longde, Yuanzhou, Pengyang, Tongxin, Xiji, and counties. Yuanzhou is sometimes referred to as a district, but Yuanzhou and the other counties are referred to as "the counties" in this document.

Table 1: Gender Action Plan

Project Outputs	Activities and Performance Indicator/targets	Responsibility
Output 1: Rural trunk and feeder roads rehabilitation and upgrading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ at least 30% local women in simple road rehabilitation works during construction (baseline: 15%) • Communicable diseases prevention awareness building (minimum of 50% women participants) • Information campaign targeting local women about the availability of short-term work during construction through the All China Women's Federation 	<p>PMO will appoint a staff member as focal point to coordinate, implement, monitor and report on these activities.</p> <p>CTBs will appoint a staff member as focal point to work with design institute, WF, CDC and contractors to, implement, monitor and report on those activities.</p>
Output 2: Road Safety and improved road sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road safety: Community consultations and awareness building on road safety issues (50% women participants) and involving local women's federations including schools. • Training of women trainers for community road safety awareness building trainers (at least 3 times with more than 50% women participants) • Train and employ 22 women maintenance groups in the 7 project counties for the routine maintenance of rural feeder roads by 2021 (2016 baseline: 0) 	<p>PMO and CTBs gender focal point, WF, design institute, WF, Gender specialist.</p> <p>Community-Based Rural Road Maintenance by Women Groups in Ningxia Liupanshan (Gender and Development Cooperation Fund [2010])</p>
Output 3: Institutional strengthening and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage a gender training specialist to design and implement gender awareness training to PMO and CTBs • Provide GAP orientation/ gender-sensitive training to key EA/IA staff (each county has at least one training) 	PMO and CTBs

CDC = Center for Disease Control, CTB = county transport bureaus, EA = executing agency, GAP = gender action plan, IA = implementing agency, PMO = project management office, WF = women's federation.

6. **Budget and Implementation Arrangements.** Gender consultant support will provide guidance for implementation of the GAP, which will be financed as part of the project budget, and will be implemented over the life of the project. With support from the gender specialist, the CTBs and PMOs with a gender focal will be responsible for coordinating GAP implementation. The local units of Women's Federation will also participate in capacity development and training activities.

7. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** GAP monitoring and evaluation will be incorporated into the overall monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. The gender specialist consultant(s) will work with CTB, implementing agencies, and PMOs to orient them on GAP requirements and develop a detailed implementation and monitoring plan for gender activities. The gender specialist(s) will also provide guidance to drafting the first gender plan implementation progress report, and review the subsequent reports prepared by the implementing agencies and will submit annual report to PMO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) updated information on the status of GAP implementation shall be included in all project progress reports. ADB staff with expertise in gender issues will participate in the midterm review.