

## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Maldives	Project Title:	Greater Male Environmental Improvement and Waste Management Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Grant project	Department/ Division:	South Asia Department/Urban Development and Water Division

### I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The proposed project will establish an integrated solid waste management system in Greater Male including collection, transfer, treatment using advanced waste-to-energy technology, disposal, recycling, dumpsite closure and remediation, and public awareness in reduce-reuse-recycle (3R); and strengthen institutional capacities for service delivery and environmental monitoring.<sup>1</sup> The project will improve climate change resilience and disaster risk management and contribute to reduced emissions into the environment. The project area covers Greater Male (Gulhi Falhu, Hulhumale, Male, Thilafushi, and Villingili islands) and 32 inhabited islands in atolls of Alifu Alifu, Alifu Dhaalu, Kaafu, and Vaavu,<sup>2</sup> with a total population of 216,000 (approximately 104,000 men and 112,000 women) comprising the capital city of Male, 73 tourist resorts, 14 city hotels, and 177 guest houses, along with institutions and industry. The project links to the government's Manifesto of the Progressive Party of Maldives for 2013 to 2017, which explicitly aims to improve waste management in the Male area; and also ties into the 2015 National Policy for Solid Waste Management, which sets out the legal and institutional framework for solid waste management. The project will be designed to contribute to the government's objectives of achieving broad-based economic growth. The project is linked to ADB's confirmed country operations business plan, 2017–2019 for the Maldives.

#### B. Poverty Targeting

General Intervention  Individual or Household (TI-H)  Geographic (TI-G)  Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

Impacts of the project will indirectly contribute to poverty reduction. Communities will benefit from a cleaner environment with less exposure to health hazards from air and water pollution. The major positive social impacts are anticipated to arise through the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities during project construction and operation, and improve tourism economy. Unlike other countries, there are no scavengers working at the dumpsite with ties to an informal recycling market at risk of losing livelihoods as a result of the project. Employment opportunities likely to be generated from the project include construction and operation-related work, including skilled labor (technical and management positions) in the Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and potential additional employment from benefits arising from increased tourism. Thus, the additional jobs are expected to be significant. During project operation, there will be a demand for management and executive positions; however, the largest proportion of workers employed will be in administration; waste service provision including skilled and non-skilled (waste collectors, disposal and treatment facility); environmental monitoring in EPA, and tourism service providers (hotel staff). The contracts for civil works particularly waste collection, treatment, and disposal on Thilafushi Island will include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for both men and women laborers. The contractors will be required to implement appropriate measures with respect to compliance of equal pay for equal work for men and women, health and safety at construction sites and labor camps.

#### C. Poverty and Social Analysis

##### 1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries

The Maldives' atolls encompass a territorial spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, making the country one of the world's most geographically dispersed. Its population of 328,536 (approximately 157,697 men and 170,838 women as of 2012) inhabits 192 of its 1,192 atolls. As of 2011, the Human Development Index for the Maldives is medium at 0.66. The Maldives has successfully achieved its Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living under the poverty line to a mere 1% as of 2011. Starvation is nonexistent, HIV rates have fallen, and malaria has been eradicated. Despite this progress, developmental issues remain. Development in the Maldives has occurred predominantly in the capital Male and islands outside the capital are characterized by high poverty vulnerability, lower per capita income, lower employment, and limited access to social services. The Maldives' Gini coefficient stands at 0.41, and 0.3 million Maldivians continue to live on less than \$1 a day. Considering that the

<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2016. *Country Operations Business Plan: Maldives, 2017–2019*. Manila. (The project is confirmed via letter dated 17 July 2016. ADB's South Asia Department confirmed that such financial assistance can be accommodated for the 2017/2018 resource envelope. Project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA) will be provided.

<sup>2</sup> The Maldives is divided into seven zones for waste management. The project area is Zone 3 and the most populated.

Maldives was a low-income country 2 decades ago, its national poverty incidence has been declining in the atolls mainly because of improved living conditions. The public social safety net is weak in the Maldives. It is very important to establish a system to ensure the poor and women access improved services. This will require strong community participation in the island-based solid waste management component empowering women as change leaders. The difficulty of accessing environmental and social services and infrastructure in Male and surrounding atolls has meant that geography is a key reason for poverty and income disparity in the Maldives. There are also large expatriate communities (mostly from Bangladesh) working in the waste management sector. Potential beneficiaries include the government’s waste management company, WAMCO, tourist operators, foreign workers in waste sector, and community groups. Community groups on outer islands will be deeply involved in awareness building and behavior change campaigns to improve 3R.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes  
 The proposed project will create a healthy living environment in Greater Male and improve access to efficient and sustainable solid waste management systems. The project will improve equitable access to waste services, improve livelihood opportunities, and empower women as local community leaders.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence  
 PPTA will focus on poverty, social, and gender issues around the areas to be developed or upgraded particularly in community-based island components in the 32 surrounding islands. A special focus will also be placed on occupational health and safety of solid waste workers.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending  
 Not applicable.

**II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?  
 At the project preparatory stage, sex-disaggregated data on the range of socioeconomic indicators relevant to the project will be collected, with focus on the needs, demands, and constraints faced by the poor, women, and vulnerable groups in the project area, in terms of their equitable access to the benefits and opportunities associated with the project, particularly in the outer island communities. Project preparatory assessment will also see how the project can complement the national gender policy and framework. Women are heavily involved in waste management at the household level, with Male households paying private collectors to collect waste. A limited number of women are involved or employed in waste operations conducted by WAMCO.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to make a contribution to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women’s access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?  
 Yes     No    Please explain.  
 Women can play important leadership roles as community change agents in public sanitation, hygiene awareness, and behavioral change. The project will empower women as community leaders of such initiatives and improve local 3R practices and community health and hygiene. There is potential to employ women in jobs generated under the project, particularly in management and technically skilled positions that will be actively pursued.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?  
 Yes     No    Please explain  
 The PPTA will ascertain the labor distribution (male, female) at various stages of the waste management cycle. This will help to identify project components that will have positive and negative impacts on women. Project design will include mitigation measures for any negative impacts on women arising due to the project.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:  
 GEN (gender equity)                       EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)  
 SGE (some gender elements)             NGE (no gender elements)

**III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.  
 The Government of the Maldives’ agencies, waste operators, residents, tourists, nongovernment organizations, and business and community groups are the stakeholders. Relevant groups will be meaningfully consulted. Workshops, community mobilization, and consultations to discuss the potential needs of the community, occupational health and safety, and environment and social safeguard issues, will be conducted.

2. How can the project contribute (in a systemic way) to engaging and empowering stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly, the poor, vulnerable, and excluded groups? What issues in the project design require participation of the poor and excluded?

<p>Women from the communities will be engaged as proponents for the 3R campaign. The project will actively promote the empowerment of women as community leaders in local sanitation and promote women employment in skilled positions (management, technical) in WAMCO and EPA.</p>
<p>3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>-H Information generation and sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>-H Consultation <input type="checkbox"/>-M Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/>-M Partnership</p> <p>Active civil society organizations (CSOs) are present in the project area but this varies from island to island. During PPTA, a study will be conducted to assess level of CSO participation and identify effective ways to strengthen.</p>
<p>4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>It will be important to survey and understand the roles of the poor in community waste management and to identify opportunities for employment.</p>
<p><b>IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS</b></p>
<p><b>A. Involuntary Resettlement Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>
<p>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Project sites are owned by the government and are free of encumbrances including residential or economic uses. No physical or economic displacement is anticipated. Due diligence will be undertaken during the PPTA stage to confirm and assess level of impact, if any. In case the need for land acquisition is identified, appropriate mitigation measures will be formulated and implemented in compliance with ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement, 2009 and national regulations.</p>
<p>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p><b>B. Indigenous Peoples Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>
<p>1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p><b>V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS</b></p>
<p>1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment -M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards- M <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify: <u>Ensuring occupational health and safety standards of government</u></p> <p>2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design? Core labor standards to be included in contracts.</p>
<p><b>VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</b></p>
<p>1. Do the terms of reference for the PPTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during PPTA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact; (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions; (iv) social safeguards; and (v) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the PPTA or due diligence?</p> <p>Poverty, social, and gender analysis will be undertaken during PPTA by the IEC and community sanitation specialist.</p>

IEC = information, education and communication.

<sup>a</sup> Manifesto of the Progressive Party of Maldives for 2013 to 2017.