

Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project
Bangladesh

G. Environment and Social Measures

4. Indigenous Peoples Development Plan

87. ADB's *Policy on Indigenous Peoples* does not state that all ethnic minorities are to be treated as indigenous people, but it does relate the concept of indigenous peoples to ethnic minorities, among others. An indigenous peoples development plan (IPDP) is necessary for this Project, because (i) slightly over one-half of the population of the project area is made up of ethnic minority groups; and (ii) while there is significant diversity among the groups, there are traditional patterns of resource use and social organization that are distinct from the mainstream. The IPDP provides a framework for the full participation of all ethnic minority groups in the detailed planning and implementation of the Project and these mechanisms have been developed through extensive consultations with the communities and their representatives in the Project area. The main aims of the IPDP are to (i) improve the living conditions of all the ethnic minority groups by improving the rural communication network, which will give better access to education, health, and trading centers and decrease the costs of transportation and consumables; (ii) create job opportunities in construction and road development works for those groups; (iii) offer skill development and credit to develop income generating microenterprises in the remote areas; and (iv) facilitate empowerment of the ethnic minority communities through strengthening their participation in local development activities.

88. The objectives of the IPDP have been incorporated into the Project's detailed planning and implementation framework and these will be addressed through (i) comprehensive consultations with the involved individual communities and villages, which will be a precursor to the development of each annual plan for the rural infrastructure component; (ii) the CDCs formed under the Project to identify, implement, and manage small-scale infrastructure projects having all local ethnic minority groups represented in their membership; (iii) where possible, local NGOs representing specific ethnic minority groups carrying out the skill development and training activities in their tribal groups; (iv) local indigenous NGOs being employed to work with the NGO credit providers; and (v) where roads are upgraded in a particular area, ethnic minority groups in that area being given priority for job opportunities associated with the construction. The PMU will be responsible for BME of the IPDP. The data gathered during the benchmark and socioeconomic survey on each of the ethnic minority groups will be used as base line indicators to monitor the Project's impact on each group.

Taken from the main text,

[Report and Recommendation of the President](#)
[\(RRP: Ban 32467\)](#)