

Social Due Diligence Report

A. SCOPE OF THIS DUE-DILIGENCE REPORT:

1. This social due diligence report examines Involuntary Resettlement and Land Acquisition issues in the proposed Shimla construction package (for CLC at Nahan, and one RLC each at Pragati Nagar and Chopal). This report also examines impacts on Indigenous People and Gender Issues. The HPSPDP project has been categorized as “C” for Involuntary Resettlement and Indigenous People.

B. OBJECTIVES OF THIS DUE-DILIGENCE REPORT:

2. The objective of Due Diligence report is to examine that all that ADB SPS social safeguards principles, ESMF and Government of India and State Government of Himachal Pradesh Regulatory requirements are met for the project life cycle.

C. SCOPE OF LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT ISSUE

3. The construction and operation of the CLC at Nahan and RLCs at Chopal and Pragati Nagar will not result in any permanent or temporary land acquisition and resettlement impacts because the land is owned by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. There is no displacement of any families in anticipation of the project implementation also.
4. There is also no encroachment by any private parties on proposed CLC and RLC sites. There are no squatters or kiosks either residing or doing any commercial activities within the proposed sites and surroundings. As the project interventions will be on DoTE land at Pragati Nagar and Nahan and DoRD owned land at Chopal, therefore, no land acquisition and resettlement requirements are envisaged.

D. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

5. There will be no impact on Indigenous peoples (IPs). All the proposed construction activities will be done within the vacant government land. This HPSPDP project is categorized as “C” for Indigenous Peoples. No Indigenous Peoples Development Plan

(IPDP) will be needed for the construction of CLC and RLCs. The tribal population in the State is 5.71%. The areas dominated with tribal population are Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur districts and Bharmour and Pangri subdivisions of Chamba districts. These are far away from the subproject sites.

E. GENDER ISSUES:

6. The proposed sub projects do not have any adverse impact on women and/or girls or will widen gender inequality. The sub projects implementation will raise skills and education levels of both the genders and will increase employability. The project will have positive impacts as it will provide direct and indirect employment to youths during implementation and operation. To create awareness among the upcoming development activities and their livelihood opportunities that are likely to come up, continuous consultation and focus group discussion with women community at subproject sites and surroundings will be conducted throughout the project implementation period for participation in income generation and livelihood related activities.
7. Further, DoP, HPKVN and other implementing agencies will also publicize skill development courses to be offered by the CLC and RLCs to the schools and colleges, this will encourage the female students to join the courses for skills up gradation and will increase employability of women folks in the Shimla and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

F. FINDINGS:

8. In the construction and operations of CLC and RLCs full or partial, permanent or temporary, physical and economic displacements are absent. There are no Project Displaced Persons (DPs); no land or structure is impacted, no common property resources are affected. Even nobody's livelihood either temporarily or permanently is likely to be affected.
9. The construction and operation of the planned CLC and RLCs under the Shimla construction package will not result in permanent land acquisition and resettlement impacts because it will be undertaken within the land available and owned by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
10. The entire HPSPDP project has been categorized as "C" for Involuntary Resettlement (IR)

impact as per the ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement, 2009 (SPS)..

11. The project has also been categorized as 'C' for Indigenous People (IP) impact as proposed CLC at Nahan and RLCs at Pragati Nagar and Chopal are not located in Tribal areas.

G. OTHER SOCIAL MEASURES AND SUGGESTIONS:

12. Although there is no land acquisition and resettlement impact for the CLC and RLCs mentioned above, even then the contractor shall ensure that the construction staff shall adhere to the following code of conduct while undertaking construction activities:

- Regularly remove trash from the site on scheduled clean-up days;
- Entire area will be declared as plastic free, smoking free and silence zone and sign boards for the purpose should be displayed at site.
- Prior to commencement of site activities and mobilization on ground, the Contractor (s) will prepare and get approved from the PWD, circulation plan for the construction phase for safe passage of traffic, including development of alternative access routes, traffic regulations, signage, etc., during construction. The Contractor(s) with support of the PWD will carry out dissemination of these information and circulation plan at key entry points to the respective destinations.
- The contractor(s) will train manpower not to hunt any bird or animals and damage the private plantation in the surroundings of CLC and RLCs sites.

H. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is concluded from this due diligence study that: the proposed construction CLC at Nahan in Sirmaur district and RLCs at Chopal and Pragati Nagar in Shimla district do not have issues of land acquisition and resettlement. All CLC/RLCs infrastructure and facilities will be built on vacant government land. Due to sub project intervention, there will be no loss of income of any person or any assets, either privately owned or publicly owned. In case any claims or complaints are submitted during the construction period, an effective and efficient Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be followed. This GRM will enhance provision of timely and sensible hearings and facilitate solutions. The consultations should be continued throughout the construction period for a hassle free implementation.

14. This Social Due Diligence Report also meets ESMF requirements for screening of project from social impacts point view in the start phase of project life cycle.