

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tonga	Project Title:	Nuku'alofa Urban Development Sector Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Sector Grant	Department/ Division:	Pacific Department Urban, Social Development, and Public Management Division

<b>I. POVERTY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b>	
<b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</b>	<p>The Government of Tonga signed a poverty partnership agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2002 (i) to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth; (ii) to provide the population with education, health, and other basic services in an effective and efficient manner; (iii) to achieve better governance; and (iv) to address the special needs of the least well-off, more vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged groups in society. ADB's country partnership strategy for Tonga, 2008–2012<sup>a</sup> and the Tonga National Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) confirm these goals and outline a plan of action to achieve them.</p> <p>The project, to support urban development in Nuku'alofa, supports the government's development priorities, as articulated in the NSPF and ADB's country partnership strategy, in particular the key poverty reduction pillar of integrated urban infrastructure development. In addition, the project will address each of the NSPF core objectives: (i) facilitate community development by involving district and village communities in meeting their service needs; (ii) maintain and develop infrastructure to improve the everyday lives of the people; (iii) increase the performance of technical training, vocational education, and training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure; (iv) improve people's health by minimizing the impact of noncommunicable diseases; and (v) integrate environmental sustainability and climate change into all planning and executing of programs.</p>
<b>B. Poverty Analysis</b>	<b>Targeting Classification:</b> General intervention
1. <b>Key issues.</b>	<p>Through consultation, the community identified the poor as those facing hardship and on a low income including those relying on their children's income, pensioners, women heads of household, and elderly people who are not looked after by their children and have no financial or social support. A lack of employment and income-earning opportunities was also identified as a chief cause of hardship. Other identified causes included too many dependents, landlessness, the burden of family, church and community obligations, poor health, and poor family budgeting. Specific groups identified as most vulnerable and subject to hardship include children, youth, women, the disabled, and the elderly.</p>
2. <b>Design features.</b>	<p>The project will (i) provide assistance to improve utilities, including billing systems; (ii) ensure a basic household block of utility service provision (water, waste, and power) at an affordable cost; (iii) develop strategies to improve urban public health (nutrition and noncommunicable diseases); (iv) improve awareness of sexual and gender-based violence in the community and options to address it; and (v) ensure poor and disadvantaged households are actively targeted by project activities.</p>
<b>II. SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b>	
<b>A. Findings of Social Analysis</b>	<p><b>Key issues.</b> The primary stakeholders are urban households of Nuku'alofa, residents surrounding the Tapuhia Landfill, and all businesses in Nuku'alofa. Community consultations revealed that people and groups were extremely supportive of activities to improve the quality, reliability, and service of urban utilities and infrastructure. They were able to afford current basic services and were willing to pay more for water and, to a lesser extent, waste and power tariffs, if there could be demonstrable improvements. Particular note was made that the government should utilize allocated funds (road fund, waste fund) to maintain services in good order.</p> <p>The project will enhance utility management and operations; and ensure equitable, reliable, and quality water and waste management services, in addition to other urban infrastructure activities.</p>
<b>B. Consultation and Participation</b>	<p>1. Provide a summary of the consultation and participation (C&amp;P) process during project preparation.</p> <p>Field research into the social and poverty aspects of the proposed improvements to urban development began with initial consultations with primary stakeholders, followed by more detailed surveys of over 20% of urban Nuku'alofa households. Further consultation was conducted through numerous focus group discussions with women and men</p>

and interviews with key individual informants. Participation in the focus group discussions represented 10%–20% of business, government, and community groups. Selection of individuals for interviews targeted equal numbers of women and men representing a wide range of different age groups, socioeconomic, educational, employment, and occupational status.

2. What level of C&P is envisaged during the project implementation and monitoring?

Information sharing    Consultation    Collaborative decision making    Empowerment

3. Was a C&P plan prepared for project implementation?  Yes    No

Continuous C&P activities will be included in the overall social and gender activities<sup>b</sup> and will be implemented and managed by the social safeguard unit of the project management unit (PMU) and district and town officers and women's committees (focal points) trained by the community, safeguard, and gender specialist from the PMU. The focal points will assist the PMU to implement the community and gender action plan (GAP).

**C. Gender and Development**      **Gender Mainstreaming Category:** Effective gender mainstreaming

1. **Key issues.**

Livelihood enhancement such as affordable utility pricing; improved water and power use (conservation), and improved health and well-being of households and community; greater access to information; increased involvement in developing solutions for their own communities through women's committee's support, involvement in consultation and decision-making and training opportunities.

Public transport—women not utilizing buses because of safety and convenience concerns; and support for improved footpaths, bus stops, and facilities such as toilets and small stalls at formalized public transport locations around Nuku'alofa.

Roads and street lighting—improved road maintenance through the appropriate use of the road fund and fuel excise; construction of a road from Popua to Fangaloto as an alternative to Vuna Road during natural disasters; installation of street lights in Popua and Sopo to increase safety.

2. **Key actions.** Measures included in the design to promote gender equality and women's empowerment—access to and use of relevant services, resources, assets, or opportunities and participation in decision-making process:

Gender action plan    Other actions or measures    No action or measure

The GAP under the project entails measures that incorporate women's interests into the project design and ensure women's benefits from project-related activities and outputs. These include (i) developing effective, efficient, and sustainable municipal services; increasing project awareness; ensuring women's involvement in project implementation; and skills development of women, and project-affected persons so that they can be more involved in project activities; (ii) promoting gender awareness among project stakeholders; (iii) livelihood enhancement by promoting healthy communities through a range of social marketing and health promotion messages addressing project outputs (water, waste management); (iv) enhancing gender in urban planning and decision making by ensuring that gender roles and issues with regard to urban planning and decision making are given wider support and consideration to ensure an improved and sustainable urban environment; promotion of women's involvement in urban planning and governance at the community level; strengthening women's involvement in urban planning and decision making; providing gender and social safeguards support to the PMU and the Planning and Urban Management Agency; and (v) enhancing gender in monitoring and evaluation. The details are presented in the GAP.

**III. SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES AND OTHER SOCIAL RISKS**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Significant/Limited/ No Impact</b>	<b>Strategy to Address Issue</b>	<b>Plan or Other Measures Included in Design</b>
Involuntary resettlement	Limited land acquisition will be required. No structures will be affected.	Resettlement plans and resettlement framework have been prepared to guide land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework
Indigenous peoples	Tongans are indigenous and are the main beneficiaries.	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action

Issue	Significant/Limited/ No Impact	Strategy to Address Issue	Plan or Other Measures Included in Design
Labor <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Core labor standards	Positive impact. Training, vocational, and employment opportunities will be provided by subprojects and GAP activities.	Women and subproject stakeholders given priority in employment and training  Inclusion of clause in construction contracts to give preference to local labor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other action
Affordability	No impact. Will not change affordability and make tariffs more equitable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action
Other risks and/or vulnerabilities <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (conflict, political instability, etc.)	No impact	The project GAP includes measures for health promotion, including HIV/AIDS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other action
<b>IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>			
Are social indicators included in the design and monitoring framework to facilitate monitoring of gender and social development activities and/or social impacts during project implementation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

<sup>a</sup> ADB. 2008. *Country Partnership Strategy: Tonga, 2008–2012*. Manila.

<sup>b</sup> Gender Action Plan (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the report and recommendation of the President).

Source: Asian Development Bank.