

**Government of Nepal
Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport
Department of Roads**

**NEPAL INDIA TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION PROJECT
(NITTFP)**

**Vulnerable Community Development Plan
Narayanghat- Mugling Road**

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in JV with
SAI Consulting Engineers (P) Ltd. (India)
in association with
ITECO Nepal (P) Ltd. (Nepal) &
Total Management Services (Nepal)

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Description of Project and Project Components

1. The Government of Nepal has given high priority to the expansion of the country's road transportation facility in remote areas. In this context, the **Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport** Department of Roads (DOR) is implementing a number of road projects in various parts of the country.
2. Expansion and upgrading of Naryanghat - Mugling road section is a part of activities under the NESR - T and TFP. This is a road section along the East - West highway between Kathmandu and Birgunj. The proposed project has been designed for upgrading and expansion of 33.275km of the existing road between Naryanghat to Mugling in Chitwan district as per **Asian Highway Standard**. The starting point of the road alignment is from the junction at Anptari, Naryanghat, a commercial hub and nodal point of highway going to different parts of the country in Bharatpur Municipality to Mugling in Darechok VDC in Chitwan district. Mugling is another important business centre and nodal point from where the Naryanghat - Mugling Highway (H 05) ends, connecting with the Prithvi Hi (H 04). The road is of bituminous surface. The Naryanghat - Mugling road is a part of Nepal India Trade and Transport Facilitation Project, for which the social impact assessment and census survey was carried out during March 2011. Regarding the data from the survey, the project may affect vulnerable people's communities in the area. Therefore, a Vulnerable Community Development Plan has been prepared as a precautionary measure to address impacts on vulnerable communities.
3. There are 55 households of different Janajatis, 6 HHs from dalits, 4 HHs from chepang community and 1 widow woman headed household have occupied government land on roadside and depended on trade and wage labor for their livelihood. So they will be the seriously affected family by this project. So, separate Vulnerable Community Development Plan (VCDP) is necessary as per the provision by sector wide ESMF of Department of Roads.

Vulnerable Communities in Nepal

4. In the context of Nepal, vulnerable community means communities living in a remote location who are commonly landless, marginal farmers living below subsistence level and often *ex-kamaias bonded laborers*). Moreover, these groups have no or limited access to public resources, and they almost never participate in national planning, policy, and do not partake in decision making processes or in development initiatives. As a result, their risk of falling below the income poverty line is extraordinarily high. Formal and informal studies reveal that most of the *Janajati, Adhibasi, Dalit* and generally women fall under the category of vulnerable persons in Nepal. This is also reflected in the Government's Tenth Plan (see Chapter 3) which recognizes women, disabled, ethnic minorities and Dalit groups as the prominent poor and marginalized groups. Women in all social groups and regions have been proven as more disadvantaged than their male counterpart and even among women, widows, separated divorced and women headed households are particularly disadvantaged.

Issues

6. Based on the social impact assessment of the proposed road project, consultations with the stakeholders, and findings of several secondary studies, it is found that there are number of constraining factors that does not allow the vulnerable community people to participate in the project and to derive benefits at par with others. These comprise: (i) limited exposure to emerging market; (ii) limited access to institutional credit, farm inputs and agricultural extension services; (iii) lack or poor leadership quality and lack or inadequate representation/participation in decision-making; and (v) lack of consultation with them on developmental issues. Poverty, illiteracy, landlessness/ low amount of the land holding, limited access to the available agricultural extension services (such as the improved seeds, fertilizers and improved farm practices, etc) have also been the constraining factors of their participation in the overall development process. However, it would be unrealistic to assume that all the issues mentioned above will be addressed by the project. Especially, when there are several other

programs of the government addressing most of these issues, project aims at creating assets for the community and providing individual help to the adversely impacted households. However, the project will focus on issues that are directly related to their involvement in project activities and accessing project benefits. The bottom-line is to ensure equitable opportunities for the vulnerable groups to get project benefits. The main objective of the strategy is to ensure that the vulnerable people are actively involved with the project activities and they have access to project benefits at par with the rest of the community. The strategy also aims at minimizing any negative impacts like creating further sources of social and economic imbalances between communities.

Objectives of VCDP

7. The VCDP is developed based on the national policies/strategies as well as ESMF/DOR. The principal objectives of the VCDP are to:
- ensure that project engages in free, prior, and informed consultation with the indigenous community wherever they are affected.
 - ensure that project benefits are accessible to the indigenous community living in the project area
 - avoid any kind of adverse impact on the indigenous community to the extent possible and if unavoidable ensure that adverse impacts are minimized and mitigated
 - ensure indigenous peoples participation in the entire process of preparation; implementation and monitoring of the sub project activities
 - minimize further social and economic imbalances within communities; and
 - develop appropriate training / income generation activities in accordance to their own defined needs and priorities

Process Followed

8. Prior to detailed social assessment, during the planning phase, screening was carried out based on group discussion with the communities in the project area in order to identify presence of any vulnerable group or any such group that have collective attachment to the project area. Apart from the consultation with the community members, consultations / in depth interviews were also carried out with the NGOs working in the area and representative of local self-government (VDCs). The screening looked into the details of vulnerable households, assessing the number of such households along the zone of influence of the proposed project. The consultations revealed that project area is dominated by *janjatis* followed by *dalits*. Based on the screening results, detailed social impact assessment was carried out. Data on socio-economic status of project affected community was collected (March, 2012) from Naryanghat - Mugling Road project. As per the information collected from the census, multi - ethnic characteristically groups lives in the project area. Among the affected households, 6 HHs from dalits, 4 HHs from chepang community and 1 woman headed (Singal Woman) houhehold.

The Plan

9. The activities to be undertaken under VCDP are two folds, namely at community level and at individual level. Individual level mitigation activities as; support allowance, Livelihood Enhancement Skill Training are included in RAP. The list of activities to be carried out at community level was arrived at through community consultations carried out during the preparation stage of the project. The consultants further verified the demands made through one to one consultation as well. Majority of these activities will not only help the vulnerable community but in general entire community. Overall

approximately 41,000 populations will benefit because of the implementation of VCDP though affected households are only 74. Underpass have been proposed in two places (including detail design) and parking zone, waiting places and following items will be constructed as per the DOR standard drawings during the construction period. In BOQ items, there is provisional sum and this heading covers Public Sservice item. The cost is NRs. 7000000.00 has been proposed for these items excluding under pass.

List of Public Service Items to be carried out under VCDP

S N	Demand	Ch:	Settlem ent	VDC/Mun icipality	HHs in this VDC (CBS- 2011)	Populati on of this VDC (CBS- 2011)	Affected Vulnera ble HHs by the Project	Populations
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under pass • Public Waiting place • Community guest house • Parking Zone 	5+236	Ramna gar	Bharatpur Municipali ty	36939	143836	-	-
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water supply • Parking Zone • Waiting place 	10+110	Jugedi	Kabilash VDC	1164	5815	44	243
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot trail to go to VDC building and health post, • Temple • Parking Zone 	11+200	Devitar					
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Water Facility • Community Hall • waiting place • Parking Zone 	13+220	Dasdhu nga					
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Toilets • Foot path to Village • Drinking Water Facility • Parking Zone 	16+360	Simalta l Bazar					
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple, • Public water tank • Toilets • waiting place • Parking Zone 	33+800	Shantib azar	Chandibha nyang	887	4978	15	83
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting place • Parking Zone • overpass 	36+000	Muglin g	Darechok	2029	9607	1 women headed 9Singal Woman)	4

8	No public demand	Dahakhani VDC	939	4803	6	33
<i>Note: above listed demands are collected from community level and these activities will implement during the project implementation phase concerning with vulnerable people as well as local people as per their need.</i>						

10. Access to basic reproductive health (RH) care by vulnerable people in the project area was far from adequate before the conflict began and has further worsened due to the decade of conflict in Nepal. Vulnerable communities in the project area in crisis were suddenly deprived of RH information and services. RH needs continue and actually increase during a crisis/conflict and post conflict transition period. The ten years of conflict in Nepal further aggravated the already weak public health system of delivering basic health services especially in the remote conflict affected areas including present project area. Health care providers are less prepared to deal with the RH needs arising from emergency, conflict or post conflict situations. In this regard, present project tends to provide RH Services to Vulnerable Communities Populations in the project affected VDC through RH trainings.

11. The overall development of any target beneficiaries cannot be achieved without their active participation. This VCDP focuses on the target beneficiaries namely Vulnerable Community People (VCPs) so that with appropriate opportunities, support and disciplined guidance; they will be able to participate in their development activities. Their communicative as well as problem solving skills will increase their confidence. This VCDP also considers the empowerment of VCPs as an important strategy, which will enable them to defend their rights. Thus, they become the key role players in their own development. In order to be people centric, the VCDP provides settings where VCPs can be more effective in meeting their needs for themselves. The strategy of the project here is to nurture initiative, self organization, local resource control and self-reliance with the current context of development promotion. Participatory processes will be utilized by the project in organized and well coordinated ways so as to increase the access of control over resources and movements of those who have been excluded from such control. Local ownership and control over resources will be the important focal points of the project enabling the IPs to control the forces that shape their livelihoods. All this will be done through:

- Awareness campaigns among them for ensured participation of these categories of people. Efforts and endeavors will be made to lobby and advocate the active participation of VCPs in community development programs.
- The present project will incorporate gender equity as a critical element of its strategy by creating sensitivity and awareness of gender issues in the economic, social and legal spheres.
- Championing the rights of VCPs is an important strategy for the project. By giving a voice to the voiceless, the project aims at facilitating the involvement of IPs in the process of their own self help development.
- The development programs will be emphasized focusing on VCPs by mobilization of local resources through effective implementation of pro-poor activities. The project will raise awareness, enhance local capacity and develop social capital of IPs through social mobilization process to enable people to be organized for collective action, by pooling resources and building solidarity that will ultimately help to fostering a culture of peace at local levels in the road influence area.
- The focus will be given to the entire communities through out the project area for the general programme and special programme will be designed for VCPs.
- With the collected information, need assessment will be done and prioritization of the activities will be tested to assess the socio-economic and technological viability so as to assure optimal use of resources and efforts.
- The intended beneficiaries (VCPs) will be organized into different functional groups/institutions/organizations to plan and undertake demand led development activities identified and prioritized by themselves.

- On going monitoring, technical back stopping, supervision and the follow up of the programme will be an in built process.
- The planning, designing, implementation and supervision of the programme will be made in direct involvement of the target beneficiary groups/communities i.e. VCPs.
- The relevant stakeholders will be duly coordinated for harnessing common efforts for the collaborative actions in the project area having organized the coordination meetings among relevant stakeholders.
- The stocktaking of existing services and facilities will be made among IPs so as to prevent the duplication and make intervention of lacking program activities in the project affected VDCs.
- The beneficiary groups and communities (VCPs) will be linked up with existing service providers for quality service delivery in the project area. For this, the capacity of service providing agencies will be strengthened for quality service delivery.
- The plans and program will be developed and integrated having coordinated with local government bodies like VDCs, municipality and DDC, government line agencies, different I/NGOs, beneficiary communities, other project/programmes and relevant stakeholders.
- The capacity of line agency of district and civil society to manage and implement development activities will be strengthened by strengthening strategic information system and operational research and strengthening civil society and institutional capacity building.
- For transparency and accountability of the support and inputs provided by the project to the beneficiary HHs and communities (VCPs), public audits will be carried out so that the transparency could be maintained.

12. The VCDP will consist of a number of activities and include mitigation measures of the potential negative impacts through modification of sub-project design and development assistance to enhance distribution of sub-project benefits to VCPs. Where there is land acquisition or structural losses in the ethnic/indigenous communities, the program will ensure that their rights will not be violated and that they will be compensated for the use of any part of their land in a manner that is culturally acceptable to them. The compensation measures will follow the ESMF of the GESU/DOR.

13. The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and the VCDP will be implemented simultaneously in close coordination with each other. **Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport** will be the Executing Agency (EA) and Department of Roads (DOR) will be the Implementing Agency (IA) for the entire SWRPA. Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at DOR, headed by the Project Manager (PM) will be established at the central department, which will be responsible for the overall planning, implementation and coordination of the proposed sub-project as well as the overall SRN Program. The same unit and institutional arrangement established within DOR for VCDP implementation will also be responsible to implement the VCDP activities.

14. The estimated cost of implementing VCDP is NRs. 7.2 million.