

Indigenous People Development Plan (IPDP) for Khopasi - Taldhunga Sub-Project in Kavre District

I. Introduction

1. The sub-project, Khopasi-Taldhunga is one of the five core sub-projects that have been selected under the PPTA for the feasibility study. The subproject is located in Kavrepalanchowk District, Bagmati Zone, in the Central Development Region of Nepal, about 58 km. southeast of Kathmandu. The road section starts from Kamidanda, 22 km. south of Khopasi Bazar and ends in Taldhunga. The length of the proposed road is 41.4 km. The subproject will be constructed into fair weather earthen road with 4.5 m formation width. While construction and rehabilitation of roads and bridges will be the main activity of the sub-project, small-scale supplementary infrastructures and livelihood empowerment activities will be invested in the affected communities along the road corridor using a Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach.

2. The Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) is based on the assessment of the impact (positive and negative) on the affected IPs along the sub-project Zone of Influence (ZOI) and provides measures for enhancing positive impact on them in compliance with ADB's Indigenous Peoples Policy 1998. The principal objectives of the IPDP are to: (i) ensure the participation of the affected Indigenous People (IP) community in the entire process of preparation, implementation, and monitoring of project activities; (ii) ensure project benefits will accrue to IP community and mitigate any adverse impact; (iii) define the institutional arrangement for implementation of IP plans; and (iv) outline the monitoring and evaluation process.

II. Screening of Indigenous People in the Sub-project

3. Social scientists under PPTA reviewed the characteristics of the ethnic groups in Nepal and concluded that while majority of the ethnic groups were integrated into the mainstream society/culture, following 24 groups would be defined as IPs for the purpose of the Project.

- i. Mountain Districts: *Lhomi-Singsa, Siyar, and Thudam (3 groups)*
- ii. Hill Districts: *Bankariya, Baramu, Chepang, Hayu, Kusunda, Lepcha, Raute, Surel and Thami (9 groups)*
- iii. Inner Terai Districts: *Bote, Danuar, Majhi and Raji (4 groups)*
- iv. Terai Districts: *Dhanuk, Jangad/Dhangad/Urau, Khadiya, Kisan, Kusbadiya; Satar/Santhal, Meche and Munda (8 groups)*

4. Accordingly, socio-economic information of the project affected communities (including disaggregated data of ethnic nationalities) was collected during the feasibility study of the Khopasi-Taldhunga subproject through household surveys and focus group interviews. The study shows that a total of 2507 populations in the ZOI belonged to various ethnic nationalities. Among them, 148 members or 27 households (about 6%) fell under the IP category and this population was scattered in three Village Development Committees (VDCs) out of the five project affected VDCs. The identified IPs belong to the "highly marginalized" group and among them three households fall below the poverty line. The following tables below provide breakdown of the above text.

Table 1: IP Population in the Subproject Area

VDC	Population of Various Ethnic Groups	Population of IPs (<i>Majhi</i>)	Percent of IP Population
Dandagaun	533	0	0
Mahankal	591	65	11
Chyasingkharka	260	0	0
Salmechakal	95	57	6
Falametar	20	0	0
Gokule	1008	26	2.6
	2507	148	6

Source: PPTA Field Survey

III. Socio-Economic Characteristics of IPs and Impact Assessment

5. The identified IPs in the project Zol belong to the *Majhi* ethnic community. *Majhis* are at the difficult condition due to growing pressure from outside and due to lack of control and access to natural and local resources. *Majhi* settlements are found close to the riverside as fishing and boating are their main occupation. The term, *Majhi* literally means fisherman in Nepali language. *Majhis* are also famous for their local wine brewery, which they make out of fermented rice that they sell or barter for food grains or cash. Knowledge of herbs and plants is prevalent among the *Majhis* as they use them for wine and also for medicinal remedy. Illiteracy and infant mortality is very high among this community. As a result, hygiene, sanitary, health and economic condition of the *Majhi* community is very poor. *Majhi* children suffer from water borne diseases like diarrhea and typhoid. Reliance on traditional healers for health remedy is still a common practice among the *Majhis*. This community practice *tantric* rituals and worship 'river goddess.'

6. The social survey and focus group discussions with the affected communities, including the IPs demonstrate that the subproject construction will have no adverse impact on this group, i.e. it will not have any adverse consequences on the socio-economic condition and would also not lead to any disruption in community life or culture of the *Majhi* community. It has been assessed that they will rather experience significant positive impacts due to improved road access. The improved road network is expected to augment access to services of this group along with other sections of the subproject population, including increased access to health, education and market opportunities.

IV. Measures for IPs Development and Participation in the Subproject

7. This IPDP has been prepared to maximize project benefits to IPs (*Majhi*) community identified in the subproject area. The sub-project will enhance positive impacts by involving them in project wage labourst and supplementary investment packages, including livelihood empowerment and training activities. This includes: (i) If they are willing to work , it is mandatory to employ as wage labour of at least one member from each affected IP household falling under below poverty line in project construction and maintenance work; and (ii) at least one member from each of the 27 affected IP households to participate in livelihood empowerment activities, including skills training for income generation, traditional skills development and linkages with the modern market, awareness training in health, sanitation, gender and other life-skills

improvement activities. It also includes supplementary infrastructure facilities in the Majhi settlements, including latrine construction and drinking water facilities. Preference will be given to qualified *Majhi* community in recruitment of community facilitators, who will maintain frontline contact with the community in implementing IPDP activities as well as overall subproject.

8. The following paragraphs summarize the activities targeted to the IPs.

- a) **Literacy and Awareness Building:** The project will introduce adult literacy, which will help generate awareness and increase access to services and resources of the identified *Majhi* community in the Zol. Adult literacy will be imparted in local language, which will help the community to retain and value their language and culture. Awareness program will be introduced in primary health care, better hygiene and sanitation and improved reproductive health. Training in gender awareness, child care and maternal health will also be introduced.
- b) **Income Generation and Employment:** The project will provide skills training in income generating opportunities focusing on promotion of indigenous skills and knowledge and increasing their productive capabilities. Training in fishery, establishment of and linkages to local market, boat repair and maintenance, and river cleaning campaign will also be promoted. At least one member from the IP households falling below the poverty line will be employed in construction/maintenance work throughout the project period and at least one member of the identified IP households will participate in income generation program sponsored under IPDP. Both men and women will participate in the income generation program.
- c) **Improved Service Delivery:** Linkage building and networking of these groups with local and national level organizations and service providers, including the District Education Office (for scholarship programs for *Majhi* children), District Women Development Office, District Small Industries and Skills Training, National Nepal *Majhi* Upliftment Society, National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities will be promoted through the help of project staff.
- d) **Supplementary Infrastructure:** Special funds will be put aside for building pit latrine and safe drinking water facilities in *Majhi* settlement and the project staff will ensure that these facilities are properly built and used.
- e) **Participation in the mainstream subproject activities:** Inclusive measures have been developed to maximize project benefits and opportunities to these groups along with other disadvantaged groups through mainstreaming and targeted approaches. Mainstreaming approach includes increased participation and proportionate representation of IPs in various groups and committees under the sub-projects so that their needs, priorities, interests and perspectives are reflected in project planning and implementation. Targeted approach will cater disadvantaged IPs along with other disadvantaged caste groups through livelihood enhancement skills training activities to enable them to take full advantage of project opportunities and benefits, including employment opportunities. Livelihood enhancement skills training will be targeted to these groups on the basis of their specific needs and priorities, including promotion and upgrading of traditional skills for modern market requirements. These activities will be covered under the Community Empowerment budget heading under the social development plan of the project.

V. List of IP Development Activities and Cost

9. The list of activities targeted to the IPs and cost allocated for these activities is presented in the following table. Other administrative costs for survey, social assessment, and preparation of IPDP will be financed under Project Management Services.

Table 2: Activities and Budget

S. N.	Activities	Duration	# Participant	Cost (Rs.)
1	Adult Literacy Classes	6 months	15 persons	20,000
2	Health and hygiene training, including child care	2 months	15 persons	10000
3	Funds for latrine construction, & safe drinking water facilities		27 HH	25,0,000
4	Skills in Income Generating Activities, including agriculture, livestock, fishery, skills training	1-3 months	15 persons	50,000
5	Awareness on clean River, Boat repair maintenance	3 days	15 persons	10,000
6	Gender Awareness Training	3 days	15 persons	10,000
7	Reproductive Health	5 days	15 persons	30,000
	Total cost			130,025

Note: The above activities will be further consulted with the identified IPs and prioritized accordingly. At least one member from each identified IP household will participate in one of the five program activities listed above according to his/her preference. The types of activities under IPDP will not exceed five.

VI. Consultation, Participation and Disclosure

10. In addition to the social survey disaggregated by gender, caste and ethnicity, separate focus group discussions using participatory tools were held with IPs in each affected VDC to assess socio-economic conditions, cultural practices, access to and control over resources and services and the likely impact (positive and negative) of the project on IP population. Accordingly, IPDP has been prepared. The DIST (District Infrastructure Support Team) with support from the DTO (District Technical Office –/DIU will hold another round of focus group discussion with the affected IPs to update the IPDP during the implementation.

VII. Institutional Arrangement

11. Social Development Specialist will be placed in the Central Infrastructure Support Consultancy (CISC) and a Social Development Officer will be placed in the District Infrastructure Support Team (DIST) to support PCU and DIU to implement IPDP activities. The Social Mobilization Team at the district level consists of 1 Social Development officer, 2 Social Mobilizers and 1 Community Facilitators. Preference will

be given to the *Majhi* population in recruiting Community Facilitators, who will ensure front line contact with the IPs to support the implementation and monitoring of the IPDP. Social Mobilizers under the supervision of the social development officer will be responsible for overseeing the work of Community Facilitators and developing linkages of IP groups with district and national level organizations for access to and delivery of services in line with the assessed needs of the IPs.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation

12. The EA will establish a Trimester monitoring system to monitor the implementation of the IPDP. The PCU will conduct regular monitoring and training services to ensure IPDP are implemented effectively and the provided services are satisfactory to the targeted IPs. A survey of existing socio-economic status and cultural practices of IPs has been carried out during sub-project feasibility study/design, will be the basis for establishing the baseline data to monitor the project impacts on IPs. PCU will prepare quarterly monitoring reports in line with the proposed IPDP activities and submit it to ADB for its review.

IX. Implementation Schedule

Activities	Responsible Persons	Time-Period
1. Update IPDP with community feedback during preconstruction phase	Community Facilitators and Social Mobilizers	First 6 months of the project start-up date
2. Disclosure of updated IPDP to IPs; submit the updated IPDP to ADB	District and Central level Social Development Experts/officer will support DIU and PCU	First 6 months of the project start-up date
3. Implementation of IPDP	DIU with support of Social Mobilization Team	Starting 8 months of the project start up date
3. Monitoring and Supervision	PCU and DDC/DTO/DIU supported by District and Central level Social Development Expert, External Evaluation Team	Bi-monthly by the District Social Specialist and Bi-annually by the Central Social Specialist