



India: Assam Urban Infrastructure Project

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| Project Name | Assam Urban Infrastructure Project |
| Project Number | 42265-024 |
| Country | India |
| Project Status | Closed |
| Project Type / Modality of Assistance | Technical Assistance |
| Source of Funding / Amount | TA 7747-IND: Assam Urban Infrastructure Project Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 225,000.00 |
| Strategic Agendas | Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth |
| Drivers of Change | |
| Sector / Subsector | Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development - Urban sewerage - Urban water supply |
| Gender Equity and Mainstreaming | Effective gender mainstreaming |

Description

The ensuing project impact will be an improved urban environment, public health and quality of life. In order to achieve the desired impact, GoA plans to invest in urban infrastructure. The outcome of the ensuing project will be improved urban services at the standards set by the Government.

Output 1: An Assam statewide urban sector development roadmap for 2011-2020 prepared, containing:

- (i) Current status of urban service delivery in Assam with sex-disaggregated baseline data.
- (ii) The strategic directions for the sector and service, with a distinct section on ensuring access of the poor, women, and other disadvantaged groups.
- (iii) The assessment on the extent to which limited urban service delivery is a binding constraint on growth, poverty reduction, gender and development, and balanced growth.
- (iv) The assessment of the binding constraints on efficient and equitable delivery of urban services, highlighting the main investment and non-investment (such as legal and capacity) bottlenecks, risks, and mitigation measures.
- (v) The list of success factors for achieving higher efficiency and economy in service delivery in the context of Assam as well as in India, including the collection of best practices in ensuring service delivery to the poor, women, and other disadvantaged groups.
- (vi) Detailed assessments of physical and nonphysical (such as legal and capacity) investments requirements and plans.
- (vii) Assessment of the strategic, legal, and regulatory framework for urban development in Assam, including the extent to which they are socially inclusive and gender-responsive.

Output 2: An investment program prepared, which shows a set of reform and capacity building activities and projects that are eligible for financing under a MFF over time. This will contain:

- (i) Details of statewide and urban local bodies (ULB) reforms, e.g., ensuring a gender balance in the composition of the bodies and ensuring women's participation in decision making, among others, required to make urban development efficient.
- (ii) Details of statewide and ULB reforms required to make physical investment meaningful and sustainable.
- (iii) Details of reforms required to improve institutional and financial governance as a result of an organizational diagnostics of the Government of Assam, which includes an assessment of how social inclusion and gender-sensitivity is reflected in the government's structure and composition, existing mechanisms, capacity and accountability of staff and officials to deliver on social- and gender-results, and even a gender analysis of its budget.
- (iv) Detailed terms of reference (TOR) for capacity building programs that include trainings on mainstreaming social and gender concerns into the programs of government, and a long-list of training providers.
- (v) Sector-wide economic, financial, social, gender and poverty analysis as well as safeguards framework.
- (vi) Updated city development plan (CDP) of Guwahati, with a distinct section that addresses poverty, social, and gender issues; and updated needs assessment for Dibrugarh.

Output 3: Technical and financial information on water supply and sewerage system in Tranche 1 towns prepared, based on which the consultants under the loan will (i) assess the cost recovery requirements and financial sustainability of the water supply sub project for Guwahati with consideration of the (lack of) capacity to pay users fees by some target beneficiaries such as the poor, women heads of households, and other disadvantaged groups; (ii) formulate an agenda for policy dialogue in the water and sanitation sector, and transport sector that incorporates the special needs and concerns of the poor women, and other disadvantaged groups in accessing these services; and (iii) assess the option for introducing management contractors for operating and managing the water supply and sewerage in Guwahati.

Output 4: Subproject Appraisal Reports (SAR) prepared for Tranche 1 financing, which are based on the readily available DPRs. SARs will have updated cost figures, and incorporates findings of other available studies. This will contain project specific economic and financial analysis as well as safeguards documents in accordance with the ADB's safeguard policy (2009).

Output 5: Management contract templates prepared for water supply and sewerage based on successful cases in India.

Output 6: A guide prepared for introducing eco-friendly, women-friendly and energy efficient equipments and facilities in the design of the sub-projects, such as light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs, energy-efficient pumps, thermo insulator and rooftop plantation, and reuse of treated sewage, etc. This will contain:

- (i) Detailed descriptions of the items with photos or illustrations, indicating where such equipment and designs have been used in Asia.
- (ii) A long-list of national and international suppliers or qualified contractors, with the advertized prices.
- (iii) Assessment on the impact of such equipment and designs on operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, based on the experiences across the world.
- (iv) Assessment of financial advantage (sum of capital and O&M costs for the same output for a given period) by comparing the conventional and the eco-friendly equipments and design.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The Government of India (GOI) has been undertaking several initiatives to promote economic development in the North Eastern Region (NER). As one initiative, the GOI held a workshop for external agencies in February 2002 to discuss possible development assistance for the NER. Subsequently, the GOI requested ADB to provide assistance for the North Eastern Region Urban Development Project (NERUDP). In response, ADB approved in 2002 an advisory technical assistance for the North Eastern Region Urban Sector Profile. The study assessed the socioeconomic situation in the capital cities of the NER, outlined infrastructure development programs and identified institutional, environmental and social issues. ADB then provided a Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) to prepare NERUDP-Phase 1 covering the five capital cities of Agartala, Aizawl, Gangtok, Kohima, and Shillong in the States of Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Meghalaya, respectively. Further, ADB provided another advisory TA to strengthen project management and institutional capabilities in the NER, and improve overall readiness for project implementation for NERUDP-Phase I. Subsequently, ADB approved the Multi-Tranche Financing Facility (MFF) for NERUDP-Phase 1 and an advisory project management capacity building TA. ADB approved another PPTA to prepare the NERUDP-Phase 2 which was completed in 2008 and included an assessment of urban infrastructure needs in the remaining cities in the NER including among others the cities of Guwahati and Dibrugarh in Assam. During the 2010 country programming exercise it was discussed and agreed to focus the ensuing project only on the state of Assam with a tentative loan of \$200 million.

In Guwahati, currently, only 30% of the population has access to piped water supply. According to the water supply DPR (2008), the city has been divided into four water supply zones; one north of the Brahmaputra river and three to the south. In south Guwahati, the west zone is being financed under Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission (JNNURM), the central zone by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the east zone has been identified for ADB assistance. Further, urgent investments are needed for sewerage treatment given that significant incremental wastewater will be generated from the water supply subprojects. In addition, there is no sewerage system in Guwahati except in some government or township areas. Consistent with the water supply zones, the sewerage DPR (2008), also divided Guwahati into three main sewerage catchments: one on the north side of the Brahmaputra river and two on the south. On the southern side of the river, one catchment roughly corresponds to the water supply west zone. The other covers the central and east water supply zones serving a combined projected 2025 population of nearly 1,500,000. The DPR identifies various sub-catchments including an area roughly corresponding to the east water supply area, proposed for ADB assistance. In addition to Guwahati, the city of Dibrugarh also suffers from prolonged local flooding during the annual monsoon. Because of the lack of sewerage and inadequate solid waste management much of the areas in the two cities drainage system becomes choked and severely polluted with un-treated wastewater. In Guwahati, solid waste management improvements are envisaged through the JNNURM. This would complement the proposed ADB assistance in providing water supply and sewerage facilities in the city, thereby reducing the pollution load and health risks.

Over two decades, rapid economic and population growth have resulted in significantly increased motorization rates and vehicular traffic in the streets of Guwahati. The road network has rapidly deteriorated, and the absence of proper traffic management has severely affected mobility in the capital city of Assam. Lack of an efficient, reliable and safe public transport system in the city has worsened this situation and congestion, air pollution and road accidents are increasing, impairing Guwahati's further economic development. Recognizing the need to solve this issue, the Guwahati Development Department of the Government of Assam, through the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), is planning to create a more sustainable urban transport system to meet the accessibility needs and mobility requirements of the city. As part of this exercise, the Master Plan for Guwahati Metropolitan area (2025) has been prepared by GMDA that envisions a planned, clean and beautiful city by the year 2025, and includes a comprehensive mobility plan developing several corridors for implementation of an effective and reliable mass-transportation system.

The PPTA (TA 4678-IND) for NERUDP-Phase 2 identified a number of urban infrastructure sub-projects for investment under a MFF modality. For Guwahati these included water supply, sewerage, transportation and social amenities. For Dibrugarh investments in drainage, solid waste management and basic services for the poor were identified. The proposed ensuing Project provides a good opportunity for Government of Assam (GoA) and ADB to start a long-term strategic urban development partnership covering water supply, sewerage treatment, drainage and solid waste management, and development of a Bus-Rapid Transit System (BRTS) corridor around the same areas in project cities.

Policy dialogue with GoA among others will also focus on an integrated approach for the sustainable improvement of the urban environment. Based on lessons learnt when considering the urban sector, the infrastructure-driven approach should no longer prevail, but instead be replaced by a strategic, holistic, and integrated approach. The ensuing project will aim at integrating different urban sub-sectors to improve the overall urban environment and quality of life of the population, notably the poor and women, in the selected cities. For example, water supply will not be considered independently but will systematically be associated with sewerage. The urban transport corridor improvement will not only focus on mobility but will be considered as an opportunity to integrate the improvement of other municipal services and facilities, such as drainage, sewerage, water supply, feeder roads, street lighting, non-motorized transport (pedestrian and cyclist), traffic management, and parking. Green house gas (GHG) emissions and congestion will be mitigated; public space, air quality and safety will be improved, bringing numerous benefits to the population.

Impact

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation At the State level, an Empowered Committee (EC) chaired by Chief Secretary, GoA will be established with full delegated authority to represent the State of Assam on all project issues, and provide overall guidance to the S-PPTA. The Guwahati Development Department will be the Executing Agency (EA) for Guwahati; and the Urban Development Department will be the EA for Dibrugarh. For overall management of all activities of the project, a state-level PMU will be established headed by a full-time Project Director. The consultants and other support provided by the S-PPTA will be lodged in the PMU. The S-PPTA will be implemented over a period of 6 months from January to July 2011. About 4.5 person months of international and 12.5 person months of national consultants support is envisaged for a total of 17 person months.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services ADB will engage the consultants on an individual basis in accordance with its Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by ADB and its Borrowers (February 2007, amended from time to time) and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for engaging international consultants. The disbursement under the S-PPTA will be made in accordance with the ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (May 2010, as amended from time to time). Outline terms of reference for the consultants is given in Appendix 6. The consultants will prepare inception, mid-term, and completion reports. All reports will be submitted within one week of the end of the reporting period.

Responsible Staff

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Timetable

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Concept Clearance | - |
| Fact Finding | - |
| MRM | - |
| Approval | 16 Dec 2010 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 28 Feb 2011 |

TA 7747-IND

| Milestones | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Approval | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing | | |
| | | | Original | Revised | Actual |
| 16 Dec 2010 | - | 16 Dec 2010 | 31 Jul 2011 | 15 Sep 2011 | - |

| Financing Plan/TA Utilization | | | | | | Cumulative Disbursements | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| ADB | Cofinancing | Counterpart | | | | Total | Date | Amount |
| | | Gov | Beneficiaries | Project Sponsor | Others | | | |
| 225,000.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 275,000.00 | 16 Dec 2010 | 175,595.19 |

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/42265-024/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=42265-024>

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