



Results of Collaboration for Social Inclusion in the Trung Son Hydro Power Project, Vietnam

Photo: Simone D. McCourtie/World Bank

The Trung Son Hydropower Project (TSHP) was designed with a strong gender action plan for the implementation of its large livelihood, minority and resettlement program. While the plan and overall aim were considered very good practice, external evaluators found that the actual attention to ensuring men and women were benefitting equally was not being provided as planned during the early stages of implementation.

To address the shortcomings, the project requested technical support from the EAP Gender and Energy Facility to help update the design, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms for their livelihood, ethnic minority and resettlement programs to ensure men and women would benefit equally from the services provided and that monitoring mechanisms would be in place to capture disaggregated progress and results.

Collaboration among World Bank social and energy specialists, the local Vietnam Women's Unit, and not least the Social and M&E teams of the Trung Son Hydro Power Project (TSHP), has helped TSHP to operationalize its stated commitments to gender equality and to enhance its overall effectiveness. With the help of just a short period of technical assistance from the EAP Gender and Energy Facility of the World Bank, teams were able collaborate to take rapid action to address identified weaknesses during early implementation. This helped to ensure that the TSHP project is now equipped with simple updated working mechanisms targeting gender equality and which can assist the project to achieve its development objectives of providing least-cost electric power to support Vietnam's further economic development and improvement of living standards through the development of hydropower resources in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner.

The facility helped to leverage results in five areas: (1) promoting gender equality in access to compensation under the resettlement plan; (2) strengthening the overall monitoring system of the livelihood improvement activities; and enhancing the capacities of TSHP staff on gender-aware data collection and reporting; (3) increasing rates of participation by women in livelihood activities; (4) reviewing training content and methods, and coaching district Women's Union in their use; and (5) developing and successfully piloting cost-effective, appropriate, and innovative solutions to reach out to the most vulnerable ethnic Hmong populations and inform them about project impacts and compensation in their own language.

Results

Improved Access to Compensation

The facility supported the review of mechanisms and procedures under the Resettlement Plan (RP) to promote the direct access of women to resettlement compensation. By September 2015, about 70 percent of the compensation had already been paid out. For the remaining 30 percent, the

facility helped to revise the compensation receipt that up until that point had included only the name and signature of the “head of household.” The revised format included the names of both husband and wife and removed the signature of the head of household, replacing it with the signature of “receiver,” formally enabling the receipt of money by wives. Initial doubts among TSHP staff regarding the feasibility of this approach—mainly caused by perceived mobility constraints of women—were cleared through consultations with the resettlement committee, the local banks, and the

district women’s unions. As of December 2016, this resulted in an approximate 10 percent increase (of the remaining 30 percent) in joint husband and wife receipt of compensation since December 2015. Furthermore, an agreement was facilitated between TCHP and the District Compensation Management Board (DCMB) that Land Use Certificates would indicate the names of both husband and wife in accordance with the Land Law of 2013. Rigorous analysis from Vietnam has shown that, on balance, land-use rights held exclusively by women or jointly by couples result in beneficial effects such as increased household expenditures and women’s self-employment, and lower household vulnerability to poverty.

Increased Participation of Women Beneficiaries

Outreach to women was enhanced considerably through training for CLIP staff (Community Livelihood Improvement Plan) and through promoting the application of specific gender criteria for the establishment of the common interest groups (CIG). Criteria included that at least one third of participants in each training course were women,



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or at least two courses held with mostly women; at least two women in each CIG or at least one CIG with mostly women in each community; gender-balance in decision-making in all CLIP activities; and promotion of competent women to become CIG's group leaders. This update to the CLIP program resulted in large increases in women participation in CIG activities and leadership roles.

	September 2015 (%)	October 2016 (%)
Women Participation in CIG		
Women leading a CIG	4	22
CIG with at least two women members	13	60
Women CIG members	17	38
Women attending CIG meetings	n/a	41
Women participants in CIG training	30	60

Innovative Communication Solutions

Ethnic minority women were not properly informed about benefits and the impact of the TSHP on their livelihoods, according to early evaluation findings. The facility helped implement the commitment of TSHP to an inclusive communication campaign addressing information gaps of ethnic minorities, nonliterate individuals, and the remote and most vulnerable through a Radio+USB pilot to communicate a series of 12 programs in Hmong language targeting women. The series covered information related to entitlements and compensation; project impacts; and awareness on health, childcare, and water management, among others. Low-cost Radio+USB were distributed in five Hmong villages to 109 people, including 99 women and 10 village women's union members and village heads. A post-pilot survey on 39 percent of the recipients three weeks after the pilot found that 98 percent had used the sets to access the full 12 communication programs, 100 percent understood the messages, 100 percent had increased their understanding of the project, and 100 percent liked the programs. Moreover,

The Trung Son Hydro Power Project (TSHP) is a 411 million power generation and flood control project (of which 330 million was financed by the World Bank).

It is being built on the Ma River in Thanh Hoa Province in Vietnam by December 2017. The Project will support the Vietnam Electricity utility EVN to strengthen its capacity for implementing environmental and social safeguards. It is estimated that about 2,430 households are affected to some extent by the project, with a total of 10,449 affected people. Of these, 98 percent are ethnic minorities. Of these, 98 percent are ethnic minorities. A key objective of TSHP is to improve, or at least restore, livelihoods and living standards of affected households and villages while allowing them to maintain their cultural identity.

The project costs include US\$40.52 million (including IBRD 20.91 million) for resettlement and livelihood regeneration to be implemented mainly through the Resettlement, Livelihood Restoration, and Ethnic Minority Development Plan (RLDP). The RLDP includes: (i) a Resettlement Plan (RP) to provide full compensation to those losing houses, land or other assets due to impacts of the reservoir, dam construction and downstream of the dam, and for effective relocation of households or shops when necessary; (ii) a Community Livelihoods Improvement Plan (CLIP) in affected villages to enhance the community's capacity to restore, maintain and sustainably use its human, social, natural, financial and physical resources after being affected by the project; and (iii) an Ethnic Minorities Development Plan (EMDP) to ensure that the development process fosters full respect for cultural identities in the project-affected area, taking into account their development needs and aspirations in preparing and implementing RLDP.

During 2015 and 2016, the East Asia and Pacific Gender and Energy Facility of the World Bank provided technical assistance to TSHP for the implementation of its social and environment impact management activities under the RLDP.

48 percent had lent the set to neighbors and relatives, further spreading information. The TSHP is considering scaling up the communication activities using the Radio+USB approach to all affected households in the project areas and to replicate the programs in relevant ethnic minority languages.

Targeted Training

The facility helped the TSHP strengthen collaboration with the District Vietnam Women Union and their support to the Ethnic Minorities Development Program. Training contents were updated and better targeted to the beneficiaries and coaching was provided to the DWUs on delivery methods to make the trainings more participatory. The training was also adjusted to allow participation of both men and women. As of October 2016, 1,097 beneficiaries have been trained (73 percent women) on a range of social, health, and economic issues relevant to their improved livelihoods in the area.

Better Monitoring for Results

The implementation of livelihood improvement activities requires quality data to follow up on progress, analyze initial results, and base annual plans on evidence of what works and for whom. The facility supported the development of a monitoring system for the Community Livelihoods Improvement Plan (CLIP), including the establishment of a user-friendly database to capture sex-disaggregated information on the Common Interests Groups (CIG) established under the CLIP. The database is helping TSHP keep an accurate account of CIG participants and CIG leadership and has allowed the project to track Commune's Livelihood Support Committees and CIG activities. Once the monitoring system was established, TSHP and CLIP staff was trained in its use. The system is at present fully operational and updated on a regular basis. As a result, the TCHP is now able to document its success in reaching both men and women and to inform further refinements of how to ensure the livelihoods, resettlement, and ethnic minority programs benefit both male and females in the Trung Son area.



The East Asia and Pacific Social team of the World Bank leads the Gender and Energy Facility in close cooperation with the Energy Global Practice of the World Bank. The facility aims to improve the development effectiveness of energy projects in EAP by making them more socially and gender inclusive. The facility is funded by the Asia Sustainable and Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE) and Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP).

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