REFLECTIONS ON PROJECT DESIGN

Experiences in Recent Road Projects: Some Aspects of the Process of Change

Albab Akanda, Asian Development Bank, May 2002
Some Elements of the Process

- Sensitization and commitment to poverty reduction as a central goal for infrastructure policy, and mainstreaming into operations
- Institutional Reorientation
  - Ensure that agency recognizes poverty reduction as a strategic objective
  - Set up institutional units
- Participatory Processes – Social Inclusion
  - NGOs
  - Women and Disadvantaged
  - Community Consultations – Road Users
- Contracting Industry
  - Contractors and Consultants (Knowledge-based Industries)
  - Local community contracts – routine maintenance
- Project Components
  - Targeted Activities
- Partnerships in Resource and Knowledge Pooling – Government, Communities, Private Sector, Multilaterals, Bilaterals, NGOs
- Critical Gap – Community Organization
Bangladesh Southwest Road Network Development Project (1999)

• Maintenance
  ▪ Maintenance Funding – Local Contracting Capabilities
  ▪ Routine Maintenance – Support of established initiatives

• Poverty Impact Reduction Study
  ▪ Focus and Follow-Up
    ▪ Southwest Corridor – high incidence of poverty and landlessness
    ▪ Surveys and Quantification of Benefits
  ▪ Growth Centers and Traffic Patterns
  ▪ Relocation of Industries to Khulna-Mongla and Local Employment Generation
  ▪ Potential Negative Contribution: Landlessness – Shrimp Farms

• Participation of Women
  ▪ Roadside Afforestation

• Road Safety – Continuation and Partnership (NDF, World Bank)
  ▪ Poverty Implications
  ▪ Community Awareness, Engineering, Interagency Councils
Bangladesh Southwest Flood Rehabilitation Project (2000)

- Socioeconomic Rehabilitation Fund
  - PKSF – Apex Microfinance Institution Offering Short-Term Low Interest Loans through Partner (Local) NGOs
    - Village Housing Reconstruction
    - Emergency Local Road Rehabilitation
    - Income Generating Projects
- Seed Multiplications Farms
  - Landowners
  - Landless Dependent on Agricultural Employment
- Civil Works
  - Small Earthworks of $2,500 or less awarded to Labor Contracting Societies
Laos
Rural Access Roads Project (2000)

• Accessibility
  ▪ Year-round Access
    ▪ Health: immunization; 6 percent more than a day’s journey away from hospital
    ▪ Education: Lack of teachers, school facilities (new, maintenance)
    ▪ Income, Employment: Agricultural Markets
  ▪ Ethnic Minorities – need to capture unique cultural and economic contributions
  ▪ HIV/AIDS, Trafficking – Outreach Programs in Construction and Development Activities

• Opium Poppy Reduction
  ▪ Diversion from pioneering and rotational swidden practices
  ▪ Feeder Roads
    ▪ UN International Drug Control Programme
    ▪ Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning
    ▪ Community Prioritized Locations
    ▪ Civil Works by Local Community Contractors, Simple Design

• Strategic Directions for the Road Sector - Government
  ▪ Poverty reduction
    ▪ Social and Environmental Unit
  ▪ Economic growth
  ▪ Environmental protection
  ▪ National integration
Pakistan
Road Sector Development Program (2001)

- **Road Sector Transformation Process** – National and Provincial
- **Road Reforms in Province of Sindh**
  - 160 km provincial highways - 1,200 km rural access roads
    - Length, Population Served, Economic Activity, Network Requirements, Environment, Poverty (high incidence of sharecropping, landlessness, dependence on wage labor)
- Decentralization and Empowerment of District Governments
- Local Contracting Capability
  - Register of Local Community Contractors
  - Needs Assessments – Training Programs – Work Programs
  - Partnerships with Knowledge-Based Industries (Consultants)
- Poverty Reduction Pilot Project
  - Three Districts
  - Formation of Local Groups for Road Construction and Maintenance
  - Focus on Women Groups for 2 km stretches
  - NGOs for Social Mobilization and Training
- Road Safety – Road User Associations
- Participatory Processes – Road Users
  - Community Consultations
  - Citizens’ Advisory Group as member of Steering Committee