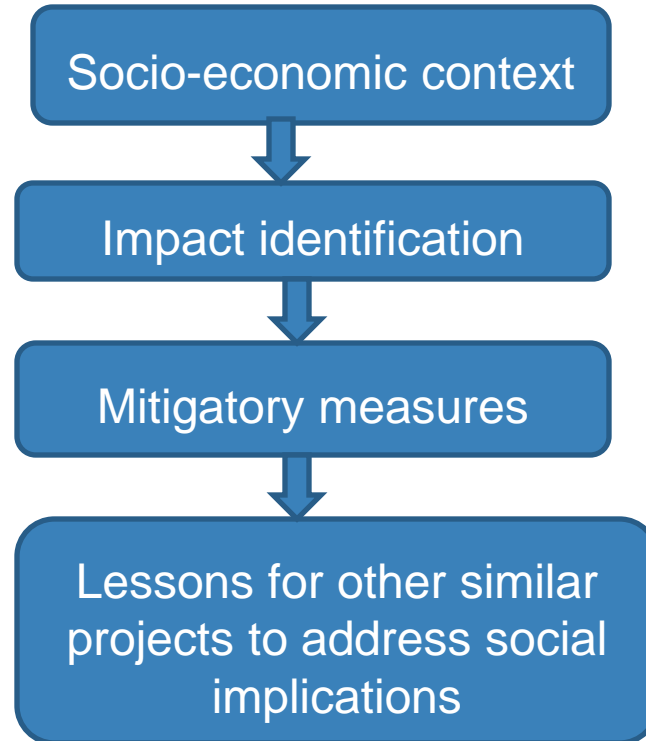


Social Impacts and mitigation process – Lessons from Jaffna Seawater Desalination plant K. Jinapala (Sociologist of Lanka Hydraulic Institute)

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Purpose of the presentation



Project area Map



Project area Map



Socio-Economic Context of the project area- contd...

- 500m radius from intake/ out fall free from fishing activities
- Land of RO plant undeveloped scrub
- Nearest community beyond 750m radius from project activities

Socio-Economic Context of the project area- contd....

- 100 to 150 fishermen in boats roam across intake and out fall area
- Road to community falls across coastal belt proposed for intake and out fall pipe laying
- Buildings are 2 m away from the road edges identified for water transmission pipe line

Socio-Economic context of the project area

- Marginal fishing performed with traditional fishing methods
- Daily income ranges from 10 to 15 USD (confined to 15 to 20 days/a month)
- No multiday boats for medium or large scale fishing
- Community faced with 2 disasters (Tsunami and civil war)

Project corridor

- Fishery is the main livelihood activity in all 3 villages located in the project's vicinity
- Two Boat landing sites on left and right of the project area



Boat landing site



Project site



Boat landing site

Potential influence of the socio-economic context on the project- contd

Strengths

project location free from livelihood activities

Macro-level support for the project

Project friendly community in the immediate vicinity (Thalayadi village)
-livelihood activities supported under ongoing loan

Weaknesses

Fishing activities in the vicinity

Unhappy community in the vicinity (2 villages of 3)

Drinking water is not a felt need of the community in the vicinity

Potential influence of the socio-economic context on the project

Opportunities

Safe drinking water may become a felt need of the local community

High possibility for convincing the community of the need of the proposed project in Jaffna

Possible pressure from Jaffna community to the regional and local politicians

Threats

Manipulation of vulnerable community in the vicinity by regional and local politicians

Conflicts over project generated benefits (among communities in 3 villages)

Possible interferences by culprits to spread wrong messages to the coastal community

Possible negative impacts - contd..

Obvious negative impacts

Some disturbances for free mobility of the fishermen in the project area

Disturbances to coastal road

Loss of common property in the villages (4 ha of RO plant land perceived as common property)

Perceived negative impacts

Possible damages to the nets due to intake and outfall

Reduction of fish population

Project area become high security zone

Possible negative impacts

Obvious negative impacts

Noise and dust during construction in RO plant

Construction related disturbances in the water transmission line area

Some possible disturbances during operation (noise, road congestion)

Perceived negative impacts

Compel to travel long distance to launch boats to the sea

Madal padu cannot operate in front of RO plant

Positive impacts

Obvious positive impacts

Access to safe drinking water to the local people and people from Jaffna

Presently neglected land put in to economic purpose

Improvements to roads in the project area

Perceived positive impacts

Employment opportunities for local people

Project assistance to livelihood enhancement in the operation phase

CSR programs of the project operators

Mitigatory measures suggested and progress of implementation-contd..

Measures suggested addressing community concerns

- Demarcation of intake and out fall during construction
- Surface of intake will be made smooth
- Illumination to indicate the locations of intake and out fall

Measures suggested addressing community concerns

- Effective project grievance redress mechanism
- By pass access in coastal area during construction
- Alternative access to shops, houses and institutions in water transmission area during construction
- Advance notice to communities prior to construction

Lessons learned from the project

- Need to interact with the communities having stake irrespective of their distance from the RO plant site
- Public awareness should be a process in community sensitive projects
- Need strategies to have training built in to livelihood activities
- Engagement of social mobilisers from the local community

Recommendations

- Continuous engagement of communities in all 3 villages
- Strengthen local level grievance redress procedure
- Outreach among RO water users on water conservation and paying tariffs.
- Capacity building and active engagement of key boundary partners (DS, GNs, Leaders of CBOs)
- Assistance to livelihood activities focused on locally sustainable systems.
- Awareness of Divisional Secretary's of GNs in project beneficiary area