

- Households who are destitute and living in severe poverty in the project area may find themselves in a similar situation post-RAP implementation as they had limited assets, which were fairly replaced, and a limited livelihood to restore. The poverty situation of these households is not caused by the project and not technically the project's responsibility.

Lessons and recommendations

- Ensure that the role of the project is clear regarding vulnerable households.
- A participatory approach should be used to define what vulnerability means in the context of the project communities. The project should engage with government and the communities to understand how vulnerability is defined locally, so that the community understands that those households in danger of impoverishment will be supported by the programme.
- On projects with significant impacts a committee should be formed with membership from government agencies and community and company representatives to support the project to develop criteria to identify vulnerable households and to review grievances.
- The company should work with government services to ensure they take responsibility for destitute households whose situation is not caused by project impacts.
- The project can choose to help households who were already vulnerable before the project development through other community development initiatives.

Special measures to support vulnerable people

Lessons and recommendations

- The needs of women are often ignored on resettlement projects with livelihood restoration, with cash compensation, employment and farming opportunities targeted mainly at men, leaving women vulnerable to impoverishment.
- A comprehensive baseline survey or study should be undertaken with specific criteria to identify vulnerable households who are at risk of impoverishment because of the project. The indicators developed should be aligned with statistics collected by local development agencies.
- A transitional hardship committee, comprising company, community and government representatives, should be formed on complex projects. The committee should define what severe poverty is in the local context and develop criteria and indicators to monitor vulnerability. The committee can play a role in vetting applications for transitional support and for assessing grievances and signing off on exit processing from the programme.
- A dedicated budget should be allocated to support vulnerable households.
- There should be specific measures, where appropriate, to support informal land users and owners lacking formal proof of ownership of assets, and to address the impacts on vulnerable women.
- Vulnerable groups may need support from specialists in order to understand the land access and resettlement process, and to negotiate royalties and development agreements where appropriate.
- On land access and resettlement projects it is preferable to offer all households (vulnerable and non-vulnerable) a consistent package to avoid conflict.