Module

Why Social Best Practices are Important?

Jayantha Perera, PhD
Development Projects Create LAR

If no adequate and timely mitigation:

Persons/communities suffer losses
- Economic, social, and environmental
- Common resources, social networks
- Cultural identity and ancestral lands
- Infrastructure facilities
Losses/Harm

• loss of subsistence
  – leads to exploit fragile ecosystems
  – generating environmental risks.

• social tensions between different groups
  – Mutual assistance suffer
  – Encroachment on public land - squatters

• distorting urban employment opportunities

• weakening social safety networks.
How Best Practices Operate?

• Through social safeguards
  – country safeguard systems
  – international best practices,
• avoid/mitigate social risks of projects
• Provide
  – strategies to implement IR programs
  – indicators to monitor IR progress
• Develop corrective measure when deviate
• Maintain the quality of projects
How Best Practices Help?

- Better understanding of LAR helps:
  - tackle difficult development challenges
  - contribute to sustainable development.

- Close adherence to social safeguards help
  - avoid delays,
  - corruption, and resource wastage.
  - Ensure deserving persons and communities receive fair compensation, resettlement assistance, and project benefits avoiding impoverishment and social tensions.
EAR and Affected People

- Good grasp of LAR best practices help APs:
  - Claim entitlements and IR assistance.
  - Discuss with project authorities.
  - Adequacy,
  - Timeliness,
  - Compensation packages and IR.

- A grievance redress mechanism – several tiers.
Key LAR Best Practices

- **Avoid:**
  - Physical displacement
  - Economic displacement
  - Other adverse impacts on population
- If unavoidable, minimize above impacts
- Consult APs and disclose information
- Improve or at least restore livelihoods
- Compensate lost assets adequately
- Rehabilitate especially those relocated
- Protect cultural artifacts and commons
Scope of LAR Best Practices

- Public/private sector
- Temporary and permanent acquisition
- Physical and economic impacts
- Associated facilities
- Voluntary Land donation
- Land pooling
- Willing seller/buyer transaction