

# 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