SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Afghanistan	Project Title:	Northern Flood-Damaged Infrastructure Emergency Rehabilitation Project
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Lending/Financing Modality:	Project grant	Department: Division:	Central and West Asia Department Afghanistan Resident Mission

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty Targeting: targeted intervention—geographic

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

From April to early June 2014, heavy rains were experienced on several occasions over many parts of northern Afghanistan. Combined with snow and glacier melt, the storms resulted in flash floods, causing widespread destruction and loss of life. While Afghanistan experiences flash floods in most years, the 2014 northern floods were exceptionally severe. Based on the height of floods, scouring of previously stable riverbeds, and extent of destruction in some valleys, it is likely to have been a 1 in 100-year flood. The proposed emergency assistance grant will assist village institutions repair or reconstruct irrigation and road infrastructure damaged by the severe flooding. Assistance is also provided to repair government-managed irrigation systems in the north and road infrastructure including damaged or destroyed pavements, bridges, and retaining walls. The country partnership strategy (2009–2013), interim country partnership strategy (2014–2015), and country operations business plan (2014–2015) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Afghanistan support the achievement of inclusive growth by focusing on investments in infrastructure that will lead to higher economic growth, connect the poor to markets, and increase their access to basic productive assets and social services.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence

- 1. Key poverty and social issues. In most cases, in the absence of the proposed (or another similar) project, full irrigation would not be feasible for several years, causing widespread hardship and hunger. Moreover, the types of emergency repairs undertaken to date by the villages are not durable and will likely be lost again in the next flood, probably during 2015. Without the project, agricultural production would be limited. In these circumstances, and where substantial areas of land can be brought back into production in 1 or 2 years, the economic and financial returns are likely to be high. The road and irrigation sectors are key aspects of the government's poverty reduction strategy, the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Much of the damaged village road infrastructure to be repaired or reconstructed was built in the last 10 years under the National Solidarity Program.
- 2. Beneficiaries. The damage and loss assessment estimates that the irrigation components have the potential to positively impact more than 100,000 flood-affected households, and road reconstruction and rehabilitation components more than 87,000 flood-affected households (with necessary overlap of the two categories, which cannot be quantified). This equates to at least 650,000 flood-affected people in 15 of the most severely affected provinces. The main beneficiaries will be landholders previously benefiting from irrigation systems, and road users (not the poorest people in these provinces), however, those likely to provide employment to the large rural populations. Half of the farmers are subsistence farmers. The World Bank report on Poverty Status in Afghanistan based on the national risk and vulnerability assessment, 2007—2008 notes that while 38% of the population lives below the poverty line, a further 50% are only just above it (120% of the poverty line), making them extremely vulnerable to poverty in the event of economic shocks or natural disaster. Of the project provinces, Laghman and Kunar are classified as national risk and vulnerability assessment high poverty provinces, while Badakhshan and Bamyan are mountainous and therefore highly inaccessible (so dependent on local food stores) during winter.
- 3. Impact channels. The implementation modality for the village irrigation and roads component is similar to that of the National Solidarity Program, enabling farmers and local laborers to undertake the construction under the guidance of MRRD. As such, local communities will benefit from both infrastructure and construction income, which can be immediately applied to cope with damaged housing and economic assets.
- 4. Other social and poverty issues. Humanitarian needs (food, shelter) in the aftermath of the floods are being addressed by government and nongovernment agencies in each province.
- 5. Design features. The project utilizes an inclusive design for community engagement to encourage peace building in a post-conflict environment.

C. Poverty Impact Analysis for Policy-Based Lending: not applicable.

II. PARTICIPATION AN	D EMPOWERING THE POOR
	rize the participatory approaches and the proposed project nt of the poor and vulnerable in project implementation.
If civil society has a specific role in the project, summariz Not applicable.	re the actions taken to ensure their participation.
3. Civil society organizations. Explain how the project ensurproject implementation.	ures adequate participation of civil society organizations in
as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): M Information gathering and sharing M Consultation Society organizations will be integrally involved through Development subprojects and several Ministry of Energy at 5. Participation plan. Yes. No. The project is an emergency assistance grant to resto	gh contracting for most Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and and Water subprojects. re critical damaged infrastructure. Project works will be
Social safeguard issues are not considered significant.	tional Solidarity Program (community contracting) modality.
III. GENDER A	ND DEVELOPMENT
Gender mainstreaming category: no gender elements	
This situation is exacerbated following an emergency we Harmful practices such as domestic violence, child marriag likely to become more common. Where food and resource hunger; children, particularly girls, are withdrawn from sc local transport networks, they have limited control over	ost are unable to access their human rights in Afghanistan. hen food insecurity, indebtedness, and desperation rise. ge, and bonded labor, already prevalent in the country, are as are insufficient, women and girls are more likely to face hool. While women carry out farm labor and benefit from income earned or access to services. By alleviating an project contributes to mitigating a social situation where the s.
IV. ADDRESSING SOC	IAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES
infrastructure. It will not support subprojects that require in 2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not required. 3. Plan or other Actions. Resettlement plan Combined re	to reconstruct and rehabilitate existing flood-damaged voluntary resettlement. esettlement and indigenous peoples plan esettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning
	egory: 🗌 A 🔲 B 🔯 C 🔲 FI
	hnic groups across its 34 provinces. None of these groups feguard Policy Statement (2009) for operational purposes. No
Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable.	
3. Plan or other actions. Indigenous peoples plan Indigenous peoples planning framework Environmental and social management system arrangement Social impact matrix No action	 ☐ Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan ☐ Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework ☐ Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
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V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS				
A. Risks in the Labor Market				
 Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market H unemployment ☐ underemployment ☐ retrenchment ☒ L core labor standards 				
2. Labor market impact. The project is likely to have a significant local impact on incomes through community-based construction work. Core labor standards, particularly related to child labor, are to be enforced and is covenanted.				
B. Affordability				
Not applicable.				
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks				
1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):				
☐ L Communicable diseases ☐ L Human trafficking				
Others (please specify)				
2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area.				
Not applicable.				
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION				

- 1. Targets and indicators: Person days of construction work provided, per location, by sex.
- 2. Required human resources: Project management unit staff as per details in the Project Administration Manual, section D.
- 3. Information in project administration manual: MRRD and MEW, separately, will provide ADB with (i) quarterly progress reports, and (ii) consolidated annual reports including key implementation issues and solutions.
- 4. Monitoring tools: The quality control monitoring engineers of the PIU will oversee all construction in the field and report through PMU and PMO directors. Review missions will be biannual.

MEW = Ministry of Energy and Water, MRRD = Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, PIU = project implementation unit, PMU = project management unit, PMO = project management office. Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.