

**SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY**

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

<p><b>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Poverty Targeting: targeted intervention—geographic</p> <p><b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5. Design features. The project utilizes an inclusive design for community engagement to encourage peace building in a post-conflict environment.</p> <p><b>C. Poverty Impact Analysis for Policy-Based Lending:</b> not applicable.</p>
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<b>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</b>
<p><b>A. Risks in the Labor Market</b></p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H unemployment   <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment   <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L core labor standards</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>B. Affordability</b>  Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</b></p> <p>1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Communicable diseases   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Human trafficking  <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)</p> <p>2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area.  Not applicable.</p>
<b>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>
<p>1. Targets and indicators: Person days of construction work provided, per location, by sex.</p> <p>2. Required human resources: Project management unit staff as per details in the Project Administration Manual, section D.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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.