

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	People's Republic of Bangladesh	Project Title:	Southwest Transmission Grid Expansion Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project loan	Department/Division:	South Asia Department/Energy Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The proposed project aims to improve electricity access in Bangladesh, which is still one of the world's poorest nations, with average per capita gross domestic product only marginally higher than the dollar-a-day international poverty standard. At present, about 74% of the population has access to electricity. People who have access to electricity also receive poor, unreliable services with frequent power shortages and low voltage. Inadequate supply of electricity is a major constraint on the country's economic growth and poverty reduction.

Electricity is crucial ingredient for poverty alleviation, industrial growth, and eventually to have quality of living standard of the people and for overall development of the economy. Total present installed generation capacity in public and private sector is 11,877 megawatts (MW), however, 700–1000 MW capacity could not be generated due to gas shortage. About 300 MW load shedding was experienced during the peak hours. Recognizing the need to further industrialize and raise the living standards of the people, the Government of Bangladesh has set its goal of providing electricity to all by 2021, and to scale up the transmission and distribution network to cater to over 30,000 MW of power demand by 2030. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting the government's program to provide reliable power supply to help reduce poverty.

The proposed project is expected to improve access to electricity and delivery of reliable power to support sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Access to reliable electricity supply will help manufacturing and service industries, including the garment sector that employs several million-poor people, particularly poor women. Agricultural production is also dependent on energy, especially electricity. Poor and vulnerable consumers, including those currently without access to the grid, are likely to benefit from the proposed project.

The project is (i) aligned with the Country Partnership Strategy, 2016–2020 of the Asian Development Bank for Bangladesh; and (ii) consistent with ADB's Energy Policy (2009), which supports installation of modern transmission and distribution systems to transmit electricity efficiently from generation facilities to consumers, including upgrading of existing systems to reduce technical losses and enable competition when open access is permitted by law.

B. Poverty Targeting

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

This project will support grid connection with un-electrified consumers.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries. The primary beneficiaries are the consumers of electricity in Bangladesh. These comprise residential, commercial, and industrial users. Poor and vulnerable consumers (including medical facilities, schools, and social utilities) in rural areas are often hardest hit by inadequate power supply, load shedding, poor power quality, and limited access. The project has components to support transmission network expansion and strengthening that will complement activities supported by other development partners.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The project will focus on improving access to reliable electricity supply in southern, western, and Dhaka areas of Bangladesh. Benefits to the poor are indirect via improved power supply to existing consumers that contributes to economic growth and employment.

3. Focus of due diligence. Poverty and social analysis will be conducted and reported in a summary of poverty reduction and social strategy, to be prepared from staff resources. Government will prepare the environment and resettlement plans for the project. ADB staff and consultants will support due diligence.

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program? The project is focused on improvements in the electricity transmission network. Increased and more reliable power supply can assist job creation and contribute towards further electrification of remote households that benefits both women and men. While women's direct participation in the project process may be generally limited to construction-related employment opportunities, additional opportunities for gender-related interventions are under discussion and will be taken forward during processing.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women's access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?

Yes No

Project benefits from traditional expansion and efficiency improvement investments are largely indirect and generally gender neutral. While poor and vulnerable women will share the benefits from improved access to power, opportunities for enhancing gender equity and women's empowerment are generally perceived to be limited. Opportunities for identifying specific gender mainstreaming opportunities will be explored during fact finding in consultation with the executing agencies particularly for the components related to rural electrification.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?

Yes No

The project will not have adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity) EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)
 SGE (some gender elements) NGE (no gender elements)

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.

The main stakeholders of the project are the people, communities, local authorities, and civil society. The affected persons will be identified during the initial design phase through stakeholder consultation, environmental examination and resettlement planning. Relevant stakeholders will be consulted during the design and implementation.

2. How can the project contribute (in a systemic way) to engaging and empowering stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly, the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups? What issues in the project design require participation of the poor and excluded?

The primary beneficiaries are residential, commercial, and industrial users. Development of electricity networks in unserved and under-served areas will support engagement and empowerment of the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups.

3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?

Information generation and sharing Consultation Collaboration Partnership

Because the social benefits of the project are primarily indirect, civil society organizations (CSOs) relevant to social impact and development will have a limited role in the project; if any such CSOs express interest in being involved, the project will make sure information flows are fully transparent and will seek their advice as appropriate.

4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed? Yes No

IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Involuntary Resettlement Category A B C FI

1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? Yes No

The project does not foresee large scale involuntary and land acquisition. If the project activities will trigger large scale involuntary resettlement due to land acquisition, if any, such project components will be excluded from the project. The proposed categorization will be confirmed during due diligence and a resettlement plan will be prepared and submitted by the executing agency.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction technical assistance (TRTA) or due diligence process?

Resettlement plan Resettlement framework Social impact matrix
 Environmental and social management system arrangement None

B. Indigenous Peoples Category A B C FI

1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? Yes No

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No

4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the TRTA or due diligence process?

Indigenous peoples plan Indigenous peoples planning framework Social impact matrix (included in a labor market analysis) Environmental and social management system arrangement None

The impacts on indigenous peoples are not envisaged, however impacts will be evaluated in the TRTA to ensure that if indigenous peoples are impacted, they will be consulted, compensated, and able to seek grievance redress.

V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS
<p>1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment (M) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability <input type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify:</p> <p>2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design? Employment opportunities will be available for skilled and unskilled workers during project implementation and operation. Standard assurances on labor and working conditions will be included in civil work contracts. The project will minimize the risk of HIV/AIDS among the workforce through awareness raising initiatives.</p>
VI. TRTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT
<p>1. Do the terms of reference for the TRTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during the TRTA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact; (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions; (iv) social safeguards; and (v) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The preparatory work will provide support to review the draft resettlement plan for the project prepared by the executing agency. The project team will also coordinate with the Executing Agency to identify specific opportunities for some gender elements.</p> <p>2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the TRTA or due diligence? Budget for engaging a social expert will be provided for he/she to conduct social due diligence during TRTA implementation.</p>

Source: Asian Development Bank.