



Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

Project Number: 52153-001
June 2018

India: Ara Canal Water Productivity Improvement Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 5 June 2018)

Currency Unit	–	Indian rupee (₹)
₹1.00	=	\$0.01491
\$1.00	=	₹67.0645

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
GESI	–	gender equality and social inclusion
GEVI	–	gender vulnerability index
SCS	–	stakeholder communication strategy
TRTA	–	transactional technical assistance
WRD	–	Water Resources Department

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country: India Project Title: Ara Canal Water Productivity Improvement Project

Lending/Financing Modality: Project Loan Department/Division: South Asia Department/Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
<p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>India's Three Year Action Agenda (2017–2018 to 2019–2020) outlines a vision and strategy for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Improved agricultural productivity is an important avenue for contributing to local economies and poverty alleviation. The Bihar state government seeks to bolster the agricultural sector through the Bihar State Agricultural Road Map (2017–2022). The road map holds the ambitious aim of having at least one food item from Bihar on every Indian plate by 2022. The Indian and Bihar State strategies are closely aligned with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 2020 vision; all emphasize the pivotal role of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment sector in poverty reduction and social development.</p> <p>Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy. Nearly 77% of the workforce are engaged in the sector, which generates about 18% of the state domestic product. Nonetheless, there is a need to enhance agricultural productivity with improved irrigation, flood control and drainage schemes; and enhanced agricultural practices.</p> <p>The Ara Canal Water Productivity Improvement Project aims to increase agricultural productivity, restore lost irrigation potential through the restoration and modernization of the Ara canal system, which cultivable command area covers 202,000 ha. The Ara canal system provides essential water supply to farming communities in south-west Bihar, however the existing canal system is largely deteriorated resulting in water leakage. Better irrigation is expected to increase the cropping intensity; and provide additional employment and income to cultivators, agricultural laborers and landless workers (prominently women, and members of lower castes).</p>
<p>B. Poverty Targeting</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General intervention. Individual or household (TI-H) <input type="checkbox"/> Geographic (TI-G) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)</p> <p>The project contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals, goal 2: zero hunger, goal 6: clean water and sanitation, goal 7: affordable and clean energy, and goal 13: climate action.</p>
<p>C. Poverty and Social Analysis</p> <p>1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries. Bihar is one of the poorest states of India. The 2011 census data highlights that nearly 40% of the state's population is classified as poor, compared with the national average of 21.9%. The project area has disproportionately high levels of poverty, even with comparison to the Bihar State average. The Ara canal encompasses the districts of Bhojpur, Rohtas and Buxar. Around 60% of households living in these districts report earnings of less than ₹5,000 per month (\$75); as such, the majority of the population live on less than \$1.5 per day. The project is expected to contribute to poverty reduction and social inclusion by enhancing income generation opportunities for farmers, cultivators, agricultural laborers and landless workers through improved crop productivity. The institutional strengthening component of the project will furthermore assist the Bihar Government and water management authorities to implement the Indian government's own policies on the inclusion, representation and participation of marginalized groups in water resource and agriculture management.</p> <p>2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes. The project has three key outputs: (i) Ara canal system irrigation infrastructure modernized; (ii) Ara canal efficient and sustainable management, operation and maintenance established; and (iii) farmers' capacity for increased on-farm water productivity improvement enhanced. The project will directly enhance employment opportunities for poor and vulnerable cultivators, agricultural laborers and landless workers. Strengthening of the water resource management is anticipated to improve the voice and decision-making relevance of marginalized groups, particularly women and representatives of lower castes as representation of these groups is already mandated within Indian policy.</p> <p>The preparation of a resettlement plan and gender equality and social inclusion plan (GESI) includes provisions for meaningful consultations with vulnerable groups to determine their priority needs, interests and expectations. Initiatives, including activities, quotas and targets will be included and budgeted as part of the resettlement plan and GESI. Measures will be included in the contracting documents to encourage hiring of the local population, and women, during implementation.</p> <p>3. Focus of (and resources allocated to) the TRTA. Adequate TRTA resources have been allocated to engage one international and one national Social Development Expert to undertake social safeguard planning, gender analysis and poverty and social assessment.</p>

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector and/or subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program? Bihar has lowest level of social and gender development. This is reflected in the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender and Development Index (GDI);^a Bihar ranks the lowest (35th) in the all states with HDI of 0.507 (All India=0.605) and GDI 0.479 (All India=0.590). As per the NFHS 4 (2015–2016), women's literacy rates are low with substantial gender gap—in rural areas only 46.3% of women are literate, compared to 73.3% of men. Under-age marriage is widespread, 44.5% girls are married before they are 18, which limit their education, affect health due to early pregnancies, and likely contribute to the low levels of participation in family decision making. Female work participation rate in rural Bihar is lower (20.2%) as compared to national average (30%); women's share in non-agricultural wage employment is only 12% (national level 20%). Only about 25% rural women have a bank account that they use themselves and 12.6% women who worked in the last 12 months were paid in cash. Rural women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, laborers and entrepreneurs, face more severe constraints than men in accessing productive resources. They often manage households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies but their access to capital and credit is less than that of men. They experience gender biases in labor markets and wages, and have inadequate access to information about rights, opportunities, technologies, and support programs. Thus, tackling rural poverty requires attention to the way these constraints limit the contributions women can make to lift their families and themselves out of poverty. Women as well as men need opportunities to develop marketable skills, to use productivity-enhancing technologies, to benefit from training and extension, and to obtain credit. The project has the potential to positively contribute to reducing gender inequality and enhance livelihoods and quality of life of rural women. Efforts will be made to encourage and promote women's participation and decision making in water resource management, including in water user associations. The gender and development strategy will include measures to enhance women's access to information, participation in irrigation management institutions and ability to protect their interests and improve their livelihoods.

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

The baseline and socio-economic survey proposed during the TRTA will specifically look into the situation of women in the project areas and identify relevant gender issues. The GESI will be prepared for the project as part of the TRTA in order to identify women's interest and needs. Specifically, the GESI will aim to: (i) promote women's participation in project planning, design and implementation; (ii) maximize women's access to project benefits; (iii) provide opportunities to increase women's skills, incomes and participation in decision making; and (iv) minimize social vulnerability. Based on the consultations with women, efforts would be made to maximize benefits for rural women. The project design would ensure equitable representation from all social groups especially the Scheduled Castes, and other minority groups, such as women. Provisions will be included within the bidding documents for the civil works contractors to ensure that all applicable labor laws will be complied with, including not employing child labor for construction; providing hygienic gender specific toilet facilities; encouraging employment of the poor, particularly women; and not differentiating wages between men and women for work of equal value. To ensure that all gender issues are addressed, two Social Experts with gender specialization will be engaged to implement the GESI plan.

The project will explore opportunities to support the Bihar Water Resource Department and Bihar Department of Agriculture to establish their gender budget cells (GBC), as per the government requirement.

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

Yes No, measures are explained above.

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.

Main stakeholder groups include: Government agencies, project beneficiaries (farmers, cultivators, agricultural laborers, water users), affected and vulnerable persons, NGOs, business and community groups including the Water User Associations. All stakeholders will be meaningfully consulted and kept informed about the project as part of the stakeholder communication strategy (SCS) (explained below). The environmental management, resettlement and GESI plans all have provisions for meaningful consultation and information sharing with affected peoples including vulnerable groups.

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 SCS will be designed during the TRTA by the social experts. The SCS will include workshops, community mobilization, and consultation with vulnerable people on the potential needs of the community, social-related issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, child labor, environment and social safeguard issues. Priority needs and expectations will be included in the project design where possible; either as part of the institutional strengthening component which aims to assist pre-existing governance bodies to respond to the needs of the population or the project's GESI plan.

3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations (CSOs) in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design? Information generation and sharing Consultation Collaboration Partnership.

As part of the TRTA, the social experts will identify active CSOs in the project area and involve them as part of the SCS and other relevant plans (GESI, resettlement and environmental management plans).

<p>4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how should they be addressed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Poor and affected persons impacted by land acquisition, including non-title holders living along the Ara canal embankment, will be consulted and surveyed as part of the resettlement plan. Physical and/or economic displacement caused by the project will be compensated according to SPS 2009 and the Indian and Bihar States own resettlement and rehabilitation laws and regulations.</p>
IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS
A. Involuntary Resettlement Category <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The project team identified the presence of at least 200 non-title holders living along the embankment of the Ara canal system during the reconnaissance mission. Under ADB SPS 2009, squatters and/or encroachers are entitled to compensation if their physical and/or economic assets will be displaced by the project. The extent of involuntary resettlement impacts will be assessed during the TRTA by the social experts (one international, one national and one resettlement officer) who will also prepare a resettlement plan(s).</p>
<p>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
B. Indigenous Peoples Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>An initial screening of the project area using secondary data suggests that there are no scheduled tribes living on scheduled land in the project area. The Water Resource Department produced a Concept Report drawing from primary and secondary data; the report confirms that no indigenous peoples reside in the project area. As part of the TRTA, the social experts will assess and verify the indigenous peoples categorization.</p>
<p>2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process? <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p>
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"/> L Creating decent jobs and employment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Adhering to core labor standards <input type="checkbox"/> L Labor retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Increase in human trafficking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Increase in unplanned migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Creating political instability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L 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?</p> <p>A construction supervision consultant will be in place to monitor core labor and health and safety standards. Awareness building sessions for communicable diseases will be carried out for civil works laborers as part of the SCS and environmental management plan. The ADB project team will regularly monitor health and safety and Core labor standards during Mission visitations and via social and environmental monitoring reports produced by the BWRD.</p>
VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT
<p>1. Do the terms of reference for the transaction TA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during transaction TA 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>Adequate TA resources will be allocated to engage one international and two national consultants – one social expert and one resettlement officer to undertake social safeguard planning, gender analysis, and poverty and social assessment.</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 transaction TA or due diligence?</p> <p>A full-time social expert will be engaged and located at the BWRD premises to support the implementation of all Resettlement, SCS and GESI Action Plan-related activities.</p>

^a Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. 2009. *Gendering Human Development Indices: Recasting the Gender Development Index and Gender Empowerment Measure for India*. http://www.in.undp.org/content/dam/india/docs/gendering_human_development_indices.pdf