SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Emergency Assistance Project
Lending/Financing	Special Assistance Grant	Department/	South Asia Department/Bangladesh Resident
Modality:		Division:	Mission

POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

I. Poverty targeting: Targeted intervention—geographic A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy Under the 6th Five Year Plan, Bangladesh experienced GDP growth and prudent macroeconomic management that led to a decline in poverty, particularly extreme poverty, and improvement in some non-income dimensions of poverty and the gender wage gap.^a Progress was made in building human capital and providing the poorer sections of society with access to health care and basic infrastructure and services, including sanitation and rural electrification, as reflected in improved social indicators. However, progress in income and non-income indicators has not been even across the country, with districts such as Coxsbazar registering limited progress. In view of the positive outcomes under the 6h Five Year Plan, the Government of Bangladesh followed a similar strategy under the 7th Five Year Plan, with four overarching targets: (i) accelerating the average annual growth rate to 7.4% per year; (ii) making growth more inclusive, pro-poor, and environmentally sustainable; (iii) reducing poverty to 18.6% and extreme poverty to about 8.9%; and (iv) providing productive jobs for all new entrants to the labor force.^b ADB's assistance, as formulated in its country partnership strategy (CPS), 2016–2020 for Bangladesh, builds on the inclusive and sustainable growth assessment included in the CPS^c and aligns with the government's Vision 2021 and 7th Five Year Plan, whereby ADB will support. among others, easing infrastructure constraints in poverty-stricken areas. Coxsbazar District, with a population of 2,290,000 and an estimated inflow of more than 700,000 displaced persons from Myanmar since August 2017, is one of Bangladesh's most vulnerable districts, with a 16.6% estimated poverty rate based on head-count ratio and using upper poverty lines.^d Coxsbazar is one of the 20 (out of 64) identified lagging districts in Bangladesh, with the Teknaf and Ukhia Upazilas (subdistricts) among the 50 most socially deprived Upazilas (out of 509). Difficult terrain, bad roads, and insufficient infrastructure contribute to poor living conditions. Lack of arable land and consequent dependence on markets for food in Teknaf and Ukhia drive high levels of food insecurity and vulnerability to price fluctuations and food availability. The area has limited access to drinking water, particularly in remote rural areas, and only one-third of people have a drinking water source in their dwelling. This, combined with low access to improved sanitation facilities, has contributed to high levels of malnutrition. Access to health facilities is restricted by distance and the limited capacity of facilities to provide services. There are serious protection concerns related to trafficking and organized crime in Coxsbazar because of poverty and its position on the border with Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal. Displaced persons have been present in villages in Teknaf and Ukhia since 1991, but the inflow of displaced persons since August 2017 has been a significant shock to a community that already experiences underemployment, underinvestment, and poor access to services.^e The government is acting through multiple departments to respond to the influx. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, represented by the RRRC commissioner at local level, is the response operations coordinator. Camps have been set up, on-the-ground support provided, and substantial relief items distributed. The government has requested ADB to support easing basic infrastructure constraints in the project area, building on humanitarian support provided by different United Nations agencies, the World Bank, and NGOs. B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Due Diligence 1. Key poverty and social issues. Coxsbazar, especially Tekhnaf and Ukhiya, has high baseline levels of poverty and

environmental vulnerability. The poor and the very poor depend largely on daily labor for their main income source. Most settlements are in rural villages and agricultural plots interspersed with forest, plantations, and ecologically critical areas. Coxsbazar is located in a multi-hazard environment where recurrent extreme weather events undermine households' resilience and livelihoods. Unlike the rest of Bangladesh, Coxsbazar and its surrounding areas are ethnically and religiously diverse districts.^f

2. Beneficiaries. The potential beneficiaries will be the displaced persons living in the camps in Coxsbazar, with benefits accruing to the host communities that have been negatively affected by the population influx.

3. Impact channels. The various infrastructure interventions and the provision of basic services through the project will improve living conditions at and build the resilience of the camps in the project area. The rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads will accelerate relief distribution, improve mobility in the camps, and facilitate economic activities and income generation. The provision of clean water and access to sanitation and latrines in and around the camps will improve the health of the communities and prevent waterborne diseases, especially among women and children. Access to electricity and better lighting will result in safer mobility for women and children and help bridge the demandsupply gap for fuel and energy household consumption. The interventions in disaster risk management will enhance the ability of the affected communities to respond to disasters.

4. Other social and poverty issues. ADB support aims at easing basic infrastructure constraints in the project area and builds on and complements humanitarian support provided by the government and NGOs through ISCG.

5. Design features. The project outputs of the ADB-supported emergency grant are (i) water supply and sanitation improved; (ii) environment resilience and disaster risk management strengthened; (iii) energy sources provided; and (iv) access roads improved. II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR 1. Participatory approaches and project activities. ADB's project team consulted with key stakeholders, including government administrators, government line departments, ISCG, development partners and camp officials, affected populations in the camps and host communities, and other stakeholders involved in humanitarian and disaster relief assistance or project preparation to maximize synergy and complementarity of the ADB grant. 2. Civil society organizations. The project team will consult with national and local CSOs and communities during project implementation, as needed, on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical public and social infrastructure. Consultations and focus group discussions will have equitable representation and participation of women and disadvantaged groups. The project team will consult with the public, especially with affected households, local governments, and beneficiaries, to solicit their opinions and participation in preparing, updating, and implementing the resettlement plan. 3. The following forms of CSO participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): \boxtimes (H) Information gathering and sharing \boxtimes (H) Consultation \square Collaboration Partnership The ADB processing team has engaged since the ADB emergency project was conceptualized with ISCG in Dhaka and Coxsbazar to ensure that the views of CSOs and NGOs are adequately reflected in the design of the ADB project. 4. Participation plan. The project team has reflected consultative and participatory approaches in the GESI action plan and relevant sections of the social and environmental safeguards documents. ☐ Yes. \boxtimes No. III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming A. Key issues. Women and girls, which comprise 52% of the distressed and traumatized displaced population, live under appalling conditions and lack adequate food, water, sanitation, medical care, access to assets, and livelihoods. The current crisis has disproportionately affected women and girls and further exacerbated gender inequalities. Women and girls in the host communities have also been negatively affected by the influx of men in the community, with incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence widely reported. Key gender issues include lack of (i) safety and security; (ii) adequate health care services, including prenatal and neonatal health care; (iii) employment and income-generation opportunities; and (iv) access to basic services such as clean water and sanitation and basic education. Time poverty is another aspect because gender norms tend to be reinforced in times of emergency, thus undermining women's ability to seek livelihood opportunities. Many women lack or have lost legal documentation (e.g., proof of citizenship) and are unable to access humanitarian assistance and support. The government and the development partners have come together to address the specific and unique needs of these women and children through coordinated efforts led by the ISCG and the GIHA working group, which the project team consulted in the finalization of the GESI action plan. **B. Key actions.** 🛛 Gender action plan Other actions or measures ☐ No action or measure The project team has discussed the GESI action plan with ISCG and the GIHA working group in Coxsbazar. The action plan will include women's active participation in accessing water through tube wells, piped water supply, and mobile water carriers; provide safe spaces for women and adolescent girls in the camps; increase the use of alternative energy sources for household chores; and increase women's participation in wage employment in construction. IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES В A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: A С 🗌 FI 1. Key impacts. The project team formulated subproject selection criteria to avoid land acquisition and involuntary resettlement impacts and social risks. Impacts are expected to be minimal and limited to the temporary movement of structures and possible impact on some trees. 2. Strategy to address the impacts. The project team has prepared and disclosed a resettlement framework, following ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement (2009) and government laws and regulations, to guide planning studies and detailed designs of subprojects. The project will make sure that implementing agencies have adequate capacity to prepare resettlement plans, if required, through consultant support. The project team will establish a grievance redress mechanism and will consult with stakeholders in project areas during implementation. 3. Plan or other actions. Resettlement plan Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan \boxtimes Resettlement framework Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples Environmental and social management planning framework system arrangement Social impact matrix **B. Indigenous Peoples** Safeguard Category: A B ⊠ C 🗌 FI 1. Key impacts. The project team formulated subproject selection criteria to avoid impacts on tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities⁹ No impacts on tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities are anticipated as a result of project interventions

Is broad community support triggered? 🗌 Yes 🛛 🛛 No				
2. Strategy to address the impacts. No action required.				
3. Plan or other actions. 🛛 No action				
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS				
A. Risks in the Labor Market				
1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M),				
and low or not significant (L).				
🛛 (L) unemployment 🖾 (L) underemployment 🗌 retrenchment 🖾 (M) core labor standards				
2. Labor market impact. This project will not have significant labor market impact as it will generate short-term informal				
market labor opportunities.				
B. Affordability				
The project will contribute to restoring the income and livelihood of affected people and does not have any direct impact				
on affordability, since it will mostly target the rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical public and social infrastructure.				
However, high demand for construction materials-and related price escalation-may restrict local communities'				
access to affordable construction materials.				
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks				
1. The impact of the following risks are rated high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):				
🛛 (H) Communicable diseases 🛛 (H) Human trafficking				
2. Risks to people in project area. ISCG is assessing risks of human and drug trafficking; child labor; sex work; and				
sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; and will flag them as needed within the framework of the project-				
supported public consultations and awareness campaigns, as indicated in the GESI action plan.				
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION				
1. Targets and indicators. The design and monitoring framework includes social and/or gender and development-				
related indicators and targets at the output level, which are reflected and expanded in the GESI action plan.				
2. Required human resources. The LGED, RHD, the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, and the Department of				
Public Health and Engineering will serve as both executing and implementing agencies. The project team will recruit a				
full-time social development expert for the PIU in addition to the two part-time social development experts assigned to				
RHD and LGED project activities. The expert will liaise with the Bangladesh Resident Mission's Gender and				
Development Team on the timely and effective implementation of all social and/or gender and development design				
features and the GESI action plan.				
3. Information in the project administration manual. Social and/or gender and development design features are				
consistently reflected in section VIII (Gender and Social Dimensions) of the project administration manual. The GESI				
action plan is adequately costed in the relevant budget items of the detailed cost estimates, with terms of reference for				
the social or gender and development experts included in the consultants' outline terms of reference.				
4. Monitoring tools . The project team will establish a system at the PIU for the collection and analysis of district data disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnicity. The project quarterly progress reports will present the disaggregated data				
and will include, as an attachment, GESI action plan implementation progress.				
ADB = Asian Development Bank, CSO = civil society organization, FY = fiscal year, GDP = gross domestic product, GESI = gender				
equality and social inclusion, GIHA = Gender in Humanitarian Action, ISCG = Inter Sector Coordination Group, LGED = Local				
Government Engineering Department, NGO = nongovernment organization, PIU = project implementation unit, RHD = Road and				
Highways Department, RRRC = Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission.				
^a Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning. 2011. 6th Five Year Plan, FY2011–FY2015: Accelerating Growth and Reducing				
Poverty. Dhaka; and ADB. 2016. Bangladesh: Consolidating Export-Led Growth—Country Diagnostic Study. Manila.				
^b Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning. 2015. 7th Five Year Plan, FY2016–FY2020: Accelerating Growth, Empowering				
Citizens. Dhaka. [°] ADB. 2016. Country Partnership Strategy: Bangladesh, 2016–2020. Manila.				
^d Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning. 2017. Preliminary Report on Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016.				
Dhaka.				
^e Needs and Population Monitoring and Assessment Capacities Project Analysis Hub. 2018. <i>Rohingya Crisis: Host Communities Review.</i>				
^f United Nations Development Programme. 2017. Social Impact Assessment of the Rohingya Refugee Crisis into Bangladesh: Key				
Findings and Recommendations.				
⁹ Groups or population identified as Indigenous Peoples within the context of ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement will be referred to				
in this document as tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities (following the request of the Government of Bangladesh).				
Source: Asian Development Bank.				