



Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

November 2019

Bangladesh: Climate and Disaster Resilient Small-Scale Water Resources Management Project

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 13 November 2019)

Currency unit	–	taka (Tk)
Tk1.00	=	\$0.0118
\$1.00	=	Tk84.81

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CSO	–	civil society organization
GAP	–	gender action plan
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
TRTA	–	transaction technical assistance
WMCA	–	water management cooperative association

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of Bangladesh ends on 30 June. “FY” before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, e.g., FY2017 ends on 30 June 2017.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

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INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Climate and Disaster Resilient Small-Scale Water Resource Management Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Sector Loan	Department/Division:	SARD/SAER

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

The Climate and Disaster Resilient Small-Scale Water Resource Management Project proposes to improve productivity and profitability in agriculture through effective, participatory, and sustainable small-scale water management. The overall impact will be increased food security and rural livelihoods resilience to climate change-induced disasters amongst project beneficiaries. This impact will be achieved through three key outputs: (i) participatory subproject development; (ii) development of small-scale water resources infrastructure with climate and disaster resilient features; and (iii) Upazila- and water management cooperative association-level value chain development.

The project impact will support the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (FY2009–FY2011), which identifies water resources development and management as a critical sector for addressing the impacts of climate change, pro-poor economic growth, and food security.^a In addition, the project outputs align with multiple state plans, including the Seventh Five Year Plan FY2016–FY2020, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Bangladesh Climate Change, and Disaster Strategy and Action Plan 2009 and related guidelines issued by ministries and agencies concerned, and the draft Local Government Engineering Department Business Plan 2019–2021.

The project will contribute toward two priority investment areas of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) country partnership strategy (CPS) for Bangladesh, 2016–2020: (i) improving rural livelihoods, and (ii) providing climate and disaster resilient infrastructure and services.^b ADB's Strategy 2030 also calls for increased investment in rural development and food security through improved market connectivity and agriculture value chains. The project is included in ADB's country operations business plan for Bangladesh, 2019–2021 as an investment project supporting agriculture, natural resources and rural development.^c

The project is expected to contribute toward multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including: (i) Goal 1: no poverty, (ii) Goal 2: zero hunger, (iii) Goal 5: gender equality, (iv) Goal 6: clean water and sanitation, (v) Goal 8: decent work and economic growth, (vi) Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, (vii) Goal 10: reduced inequalities, and (viii) Goal 13: climate action.

B. Poverty Targeting

General intervention Individual or household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.).

The project will benefit poor rural populations within the area of the subprojects by increasing diversification of crop and non-crop production for higher value and yield, including introduction of climate-resilient cropping technologies. The outcome will be to increase climate resilient agricultural productivity and profitability in selected geographic areas.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. **Key issues and potential beneficiaries.** The project beneficiaries will include poor farmers, men and women from landless families, households headed by women, traders, processors, logistics operators, and consumers of agricultural produce especially fruit and vegetable crops. Based on the international poverty line of \$1.90 per person per day, poverty in Bangladesh significantly declined from 48.9% in 2000 to 24.3% in 2016/17.^d Nonetheless, about 85% of the poor live in rural areas. Agriculture and fisheries provide nearly half of all employment and supports over 70% of the population (footnote b). The rural poor face multidimensional and cumulative barriers to improved livelihoods and living standards. Key issues include limited assets, under-employment and unemployment, high number of dependents and climate vulnerability. The rural poor also suffer from limited access to credit, infrastructure, including water, electricity and transport to local markets.

2. **Impact channels and expected systemic changes.** Project implementation is expected to improve rural livelihoods and increase food security in the impact zone. Adoption of new technologies through provision of knowledge and training will assist participants along the value chain. Reductions in food losses and improved continuity of supply of safe food will benefit consumers. This will contribute directly and indirectly in reducing poverty levels of the poor and socially disadvantaged groups, including women. The project is also expected to generate short-term skilled and low skill employment for local people during civil works construction. The poor and marginalized groups, such as women, will benefit from social inclusion targets for civil works as part of the project gender action plan (GAP).

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the transaction TA or due diligence. A poverty and social assessment will be conducted during the transaction technical assistance (TRTA) to assess the needs and interests of the poor and ultra-poor within the beneficiary population. A participatory approach will be adopted in the project design and implementation, including in each subproject identification and formulation.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending. Not applicable.

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?

Bangladesh's women have made progress in various aspects of health, education, and work, but still face sizable gender gaps.^e Their participation in formulation, implementation and management of development projects in environment, agriculture and natural resources sector is still very limited. Key constraints include: (i) culturally determined inhibitions to women's participation in public activities; (ii) their resulting lack of skills and experience in public participation, leadership and management activities; and (iii) a widespread lack of recognition of their activities in the productive and economic spheres.

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

During project preparation, a GAP will be developed based on meaningful consultation with women and men beneficiaries. The GAP will consider how to: (i) formalize and build upon women's engagement in the project; (ii) guarantee women's representation in the water management cooperative associations (WMCAs); (iii) ensure women's participation in the WMCA microfinance activities and (iv) build women's capacity to effectively participate in decision-making, both within the community and executing agency. The TA will incorporate the perspectives and interests of most vulnerable women; those from landless families and households headed by women consider the gendered impact of climate vulnerability. Also, the project will deliver a training program on climate- and disaster-resilient modern farming for the farmers including small-holder women farmers (e.g., technology applications to build climate- and disaster-resilience).

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

Yes No

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?

The TRTA will be undertaken with active participation of the local population (including marginalized groups; women, the poor and Indigenous Peoples), local governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) active in local development processes, government agencies and institutions involved in project implementation and its operation and management, and other stakeholders. All stakeholders will be consulted about the constraints and deficiencies of existing infrastructure/facilities and/or institutional arrangements. The TRTA consultants will use multiple methods to ensure stakeholder consultation is culturally relevant and gender sensitive, for example, through use of participatory rural appraisal methods at the subproject level.

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 project will support skills development of WMCAs for efficient use of water management infrastructure, including climate and disaster resilience aspects, to improve the productivity and profitability of agriculture activities, and for ensuring gender and social inclusion in all aspects of water resource management.

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?

(M) Information generation and sharing (M) Consultation (M) Collaboration Partnership

NGOs will play a role in consultation, assessment and formation of WMCAs and information sharing about the project outputs.

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? Yes No

None anticipated, however the TA poverty and social assessment will confirm whether any specific issues need to be addressed in the project design.

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

Insignificant involuntary land acquisition and/or economic displacement may occur under output 2: development of small-scale water resources infrastructure with climate and disaster resilient features. While the project intends to use negotiated settlements or voluntary donation for land requirements, the TRTA consultants will assess the extent to which involuntary impacts are likely and, if required, resettlement plan(s) will be prepared.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA 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

Bangladesh is home to 27 ethnic groups of 1.6 million people, the largest group, Chakma, accounts for 28.0%. The second largest group, Marma (12.8%) and other 25 ethnic groups account for the remaining 59.2%.^f A desk-based assessment suggests that the project is unlikely to impact or benefit IPs because IPs are not present in the project locations. The project will focus on four hotspots of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100: (i) the Barind and drought prone areas; (ii) the coastal zone; (iii) the Haor and flash flood areas; and (iv) the river systems and estuaries. The extent to which Indigenous Peoples are present within the subproject areas will be assessed during the TRTA.

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No Not known. The TRTA will confirm.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No Not known. TRTA will confirm.

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

- Indigenous peoples plan Indigenous peoples planning framework Social impact matrix
 Environmental and social management system arrangement None

V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS

1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?

- Creating decent jobs and employment Adhering to core labor standards (H) Labor retrenchment
 Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS Increase in human trafficking Affordability (M)
 Increase in unplanned migration Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters Creating political instability Creating internal social conflicts Others, please specify _____

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?

All civil works contracts and operation and maintenance will ensure national core labor standards are implemented, including with respect to child or forced labor, non-discrimination and the right to freedom of association. Any tariffs or fees introduced through the project to local peoples will be based on an affordability assessment to insure inclusion of the poor and ultra-poor.

VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT

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? Yes No

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?

One international specialist and one national expert will be dedicated to undertaking all safeguards and social development (gender) assessments and document preparation during the TRTA. One per-month (international) and four person-month (national) will be available under the TRTA.

^a Government of Bangladesh. 2009. *Steps Towards Change: the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (Revised), FY2009–FY2011*. Dhaka.

^b ADB. 2016. *Country Partnership Strategy: Bangladesh, 2016–2020*. Manila.

^c ADB. 2018. *Country Operations Business Plan: Bangladesh, 2019–2021*. Manila.

^d World Bank 2017. *Bangladesh Continues to Reduce Poverty but at a Slower Rate*. Washington DC.

^e ADB 2017. *Bangladesh Gender Equality Diagnostic of Selected Sectors*. Manila.

^f Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. 2012. *Population and Housing Census 2011: Socioeconomic and Demographic Report*. National Series, Vol. 4. Dhaka.