



Technical Assistance Report

PUBLIC

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Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA)
September 2022

People's Republic of Bangladesh: Strengthening Climate-Resilient Urban Development

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS
(as of 15 September 2022)

Currency unit	–	Taka (Tk)
Tk1.00	=	\$ 0.0100
\$1.00	=	Tk 99.9988

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
COVID-19	–	coronavirus disease
LGED	–	Local Government Engineering Department
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

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

Vice-President	Shixin Chen, Operations 1
Director General	Kenichi Yokoyama, South Asia Department (SARD)
Deputy Director General	Manmohan Parkash, SARD
Director	Norio Saito, Urban Development and Water Division (SAUW), SARD
Team leader	Jaemin Nam, Senior Urban Development Specialist, SAUW, SARD
Team members	Jennifer De Jesus Lazatin, Senior Operations Assistant, SAUW, SARD Maria Angela A. Malihan, Associate Project Analyst, SAUW, SARD SA Abdullah Al Mamun, Senior Project Officer (Urban Infrastructure), Bangladesh Resident Mission, SARD

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KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 56094-001
Project Name	Strengthening Climate-Resilient Urban Development	Department/Division SARD/SAUW
Nature of Activity Modality	Research and Development Regular	Executing Agency Local Government Engineering Department
Country	Bangladesh	
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)
✓ Water and other urban infrastructure and services	Other urban services	0.200
	Urban flood protection	0.250
	Urban policy, institutional and capacity development	0.100
Transport	Urban public transport	0.200
	Total	0.750
3. Operational Priorities		Climate Change Information
✓ OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability		GHG Reductions (tons per annum) 0
✓ OP4: Making cities more livable		Climate Change impact on the Project Low
✓ OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity		ADB Financing
		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.035
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.000
		Cofinancing
		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.000
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.000
Sustainable Development Goals		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
SDG 9.1, 9.4		Some gender elements (SGE) ✓
SDG 11.1, 11.5, 11.a, 11.b		
SDG 13.a		Poverty Targeting
		General Intervention on Poverty ✓
4. Risk Categorization	Low	
5. Safeguard Categorization	Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply	
6. Financing		
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)
ADB		0.750
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.750
Cofinancing		0.000
None		0.000
Counterpart		0.000
None		0.000
Total		0.750
Currency of ADB Financing: US Dollar		

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support climate-resilient and balanced urban development in Bangladesh through (i) identification of strategic city regions with high growth potential and vulnerability to climate change impacts; (ii) preparation of holistic development plans for identified strategic city regions; and (iii) strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant authorities to build livable cities that are competitive, inclusive, sustainable, and climate and disaster-resilient.¹

2. The Government of Bangladesh requested the TA,² which is consistent with the Eighth Five Year Plan, July 2020–June 2025³ and supports the country partnership strategy for Bangladesh, 2021–2025 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).⁴

II. ISSUES

3. **Urbanization challenge.** Bangladesh is urbanizing rapidly, exacerbating challenges in a country that has one of the highest population densities in the world. In 2020, about 63 million people, or 38% of the total population of 170 million, lived in urban areas, with the urban population projected to reach 58% by 2050 if urban growth trends continue.⁵ Although rapid urbanization has improved economic productivity through agglomeration, it has fueled demand for basic urban infrastructure and services and placed severe strain on the natural environment. Moreover, the recent economic downturn caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has seriously affected livelihoods, especially for the poor and vulnerable in urban and peri-urban areas.⁶ Bangladesh urgently needs to take action to sustain economic growth and improve the living environment, especially in rapidly growing large cities, during the COVID-19 recovery era and beyond.

4. **Disaster risk management and climate change.** Bangladesh, considered the world's largest delta, is a riverine country that is highly susceptible to climate-related and geophysical hazards because of its topography and geographic location. The land is low and flat, with more than half the country at an elevation of less than 6 meters above sea-level. Bangladesh has been long exposed to numerous climatological (e.g., drought), hydrometeorological (e.g., cyclones, storm surges, and floods), and other geophysical (e.g., landslides and erosion) hazards. The country's funnel-shaped southern coast also makes it susceptible to cyclones and storm surges, medium to high levels of soil salinity, and sea-level rise. Floods, waterlogging, and drainage congestion have become major problems in urban areas, where they cause widespread and lengthy disruptions of roads, power supply, and water supply.⁷ The situation is likely to deteriorate further with rapid urbanization accompanied by an expansion of built-up areas, intense industrial and commercial activities, and consequent loss of green areas and wetlands (footnote 3).

¹ The TA outputs will inform the design of potential urban development projects in Bangladesh.

² The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 11 July 2022.

³ Government of Bangladesh, General Economics Division. 2020. [Eighth Five Year Plan, July 2020–June 2025: Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness](#). Dhaka. It targets to achieve 8.51% of gross domestic product growth per annum and reduce the poverty rate to 16.5% by 2025.

⁴ ADB. 2021. [Country Partnership Strategy: Bangladesh, 2021–2025—Sustain Growth, Build Resilience, and Foster Inclusion](#). Manila.

⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2018. [World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision](#). New York.

⁶ Government of Bangladesh, Directorate General of Health Services. [COVID-19 Dynamic Dashboard for Bangladesh](#). Dhaka. As of 12 September 2022, there were 2,014,887 confirmed cases, 1,958,746 recovered cases, and 29,334 deaths attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh.

⁷ ADB. 2021. [Bangladesh Climate and Disaster Risk Atlas: Hazards—Volume I](#). Manila.

5. **Sector strategies and policies.** The TA is aligned with the Eighth Five Year Plan (footnote 3), which lists sustainable and inclusive urban development as a national priority and sets objectives for urban development and strengthening good governance and management at the municipal level. Urban development objectives include improving disaster risk management and climate resilience of cities, and ensuring adequate, safe, and affordable basic urban infrastructure and services such as water supply, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, and transportation. The TA is also aligned with (i) Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100,⁸ and (ii) Strategy for Governance Improvement of City Corporations, 2020–2030.⁹

6. **City region development.** A “city region” is defined as an agglomeration of a large city (city corporation), surrounding *pourashavas* (secondary towns), and adjacent peri-urban areas (urban centers in *upazilas* [subdistricts]) with close economic and social links.¹⁰ The emergence of city regions is a growing reality in Bangladesh and provides an opportunity to deliver basic urban services more cost effectively and to a greater number of people. Through city region development, cities can become engines of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, whereby higher municipal revenues from improved urban services and economic growth and improved urban services from expanded public investment reinforce each other in a virtuous circle. City region development also contributes to improving livability in city regions by decongesting core cities and promoting inclusive economic growth through strategic planning, institutional development, and infrastructure investment that transcends restrictive administrative jurisdictions. Proper allocation of responsibilities and closer coordination among fragmented institutions in city regions and increased mobility within urban agglomerations are critical for city region development. Investment to improve city regions’ resilience to climate and disaster risks triggered by floods, droughts, cyclones, and earthquakes is also essential. The city region approach complements other ADB urban development initiatives in Bangladesh, including ADB’s support for (i) urban governance and infrastructure improvement in *pourashavas*; (ii) resilience to climate and natural hazards in coastal towns; and (iii) city-specific water supply and sanitation projects.

7. **Overview of previous city region development projects supported by ADB.** ADB’s completed first City Region Development Project and its ongoing Second City Region Development Project have contributed to enhancing the growth potential and living environment of Dhaka and Khulna regions by (i) upgrading roads, bridges, and bus terminals to reduce travel times and enhance road safety; (ii) improving storm drainage systems to reduce flooding; and (iii) upgrading water supply, sanitation, and waste management systems to meet basic urban needs.¹¹ The completed first City Region Development Project also supported the development of the Dhaka Structure Plan, 2016–2035, a framework for urban development and interagency coordination in the Dhaka region.¹² The ongoing second City Region Development Project focuses on promoting inclusive economic growth along the Southwest Economic Corridor linking Dhaka and Khulna regions. Despite progress made under both projects, key implementation

⁸ Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Planning Commission. 2018. [Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100](#). Dhaka. It sets a vision to achieve safe and climate-resilient delta areas, and identifies urban and peri-urban areas as among the hotspots.

⁹ Government of Bangladesh, Local Government Division. 2020. *Strategy for Governance Improvement of City Corporations, 2020–2030*. Dhaka. It sets common directions and targets for all city corporations for improving governance with consistency and continuity through four pillars: (i) legal instruments; (ii) organizational development; (iii) public financial management; and (iv) human resource development.

¹⁰ ADB. 2008. [City Cluster Development: Toward an Urban-Led Development Strategy for Asia](#). Manila. Bangladesh has 12 city regions, which surround 12 city corporations.

¹¹ ADB. 2010. [City Region Development Project](#). Manila; and ADB. 2019. [Second City Region Development Project](#). Manila. Dhaka and Khulna regions were selected based on government priorities and subproject selection criteria.

¹² Government of Bangladesh, Capital Development Authority. 2015. [Dhaka Structure Plan, 2016–2035](#). Dhaka.

issues remain related to (i) interagency coordination for decision-making,¹³ (ii) holistic analysis of growth potential and climate and disaster resilience, (iii) timely implementation of project activities of a diverse nature, and (iv) long-term sustainability of newly created assets.

8. To sustain economic growth and improve the living environment in urban and peri-urban areas, particularly during COVID-19 recovery era and beyond, the TA will facilitate upstream solutions that underpin the formulation of forward-looking, impact-oriented, balanced, inclusive, sustainable, and climate- and disaster-resilient urban development in strategic city regions.

9. By supporting the preparation of climate-resilient and balanced development plans for strategic city regions, the TA will contribute to the following ADB Strategy 2030 operational priorities (OPs): tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability (OP3); and making cities more livable (OP4). The TA will also contribute to strengthening governance and institutional capacity (OP6) by improving the capacity of relevant authorities to deliver better urban services.¹⁴ The TA is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goals 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and 13 (climate action).¹⁵

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

10. The TA is aligned with the following impact: growth potential and living environment in urban and peri-urban areas improved (footnote 3). The TA will have the following outcome: climate-resilient, balanced, inclusive, and sustainable urban infrastructure in strategic city regions improved. The outcome supports the government's past and ongoing efforts to sustain national economic growth and reduce the poverty rate.¹⁶

B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities

11. **Output 1: Strategic city regions with high growth potential and vulnerability to climate change impacts identified.** The TA will support the identification of strategic city regions with potential to be engines for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and social and cultural development. The TA team will (i) review the government's development policies and existing studies; (ii) assess the impacts of previous and ongoing urban development projects, including the first and second City Region Development Project;¹⁷ (iii) conduct climate and disaster risk assessment of all city regions; (iv) assess the concentration of poor and vulnerable communities in each city region; (v) develop specific indicators to select strategic city regions in a systematic and integrated manner;¹⁸ and (vi) identify urban infrastructure requirements and priority sectors to achieve inclusive and sustainable

¹³ 42 national agencies, 12 city corporations, and 335 *pourashavas* are involved in the development of urban areas. Key national agencies include (i) Urban Development Directorate, (ii) Public Works Department, (iii) Department of Public Health Engineering, and (iv) Local Government Engineering Department.

¹⁴ ADB. 2018. [Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific](#). Manila.

¹⁵ United Nations. 2015. [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). New York.

¹⁶ The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

¹⁷ This will also include a review of ongoing and planned projects in other sectors, such as transport, to explore and enhance synergies.

¹⁸ The indicators will be developed focusing on sustainable economic growth, living environment improvement, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

economic growth and address vulnerability to climate change.¹⁹ The TA team will also conduct consultations with stakeholders from relevant authorities, civil society organizations, and the public to understand development gaps. Based on the assessment results, the TA team will identify at least two strategic city regions and propose these to the government, while also identifying urban infrastructure requirements and priority sectors for the proposed strategic city regions. This will enable the government to systematically prepare and decide on future investments to achieve its targets in a timely manner (footnote 3).

12. Output 2: Climate-resilient and balanced development plans for strategic city regions prepared. The TA will support the preparation of climate-resilient and balanced development plans for at least two strategic city regions that will be identified under output 1. The TA team will (i) develop comprehensive and holistic development plans for the identified strategic city regions including structural, spatial, and action plans; (ii) conduct comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability analysis for the identified strategic city regions; (iii) explore opportunities for the private sector to participate in the provision of urban services; (iv) identify representative subprojects under priority sectors; and (v) conduct preliminary feasibility assessments for representative subprojects focusing on technical, financial, and economic viability as well as measures to build climate and disaster resilience. Gender-related elements will also be incorporated as appropriate to ensure the participation of women in the implementation of the representative subprojects. The development plans for the identified strategic city regions and preliminary feasibility assessments for representative subprojects will contribute to enhancing the readiness for the government to decide and implement priority investments.

13. Output 3: Capacity to develop innovative, sustainable, and climate- and disaster-resilient subprojects strengthened. Through the implementation of outputs 1 and 2, the TA will actively engage relevant central and local government authorities and facilitate and strengthen the participatory and integrated urban planning process. The TA team will prepare and implement capacity building programs for knowledge transfer and institutional strengthening of relevant authorities. The programs will focus on (i) integrated urban planning along with climate-resilient measures; (ii) integrated multisector solutions for synergetic and transformative urban development; (iii) proper allocation of institutional responsibilities; and (iv) sustainable urban service delivery, including digitalization of municipal services, resource mobilization, land use regulations, citizen and civil society organization engagement (including participatory design and citizen monitoring of delivery standards of urban services), and building codes at the municipal level. To ensure the replication of high-quality urban planning, development, and management, capacity building activities will include training, workshops, and/or seminars for officials from relevant authorities and strategic city regions.

C. Cost and Financing

14. The TA financing amount is \$750,000, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7). The TA will have an estimated climate financing for adaptation of \$35,000 to cover costs of training, seminars, and conferences. The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 2.

15. The government will provide counterpart support in the form of counterpart staff, office accommodation, office supplies, data and information, and other in-kind contributions.

¹⁹ This will also take into account the government's plans for (i) development of economic corridors and special economic zones, and (ii) decongestion of core city areas.

D. Implementation Arrangements

16. ADB will administer the TA and the Local Government Engineering Department under Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives will be the executing and implementing agency of the TA. The Urban Development and Water Division of ADB's South Asia Department will carry out TA administration, supervision, implementation oversight, and communication with consultants and stakeholders. The Local Government Engineering Department, as the executing and implementing agency, will implement the TA and be accountable for the TA outputs. A consulting firm specialized in urban planning and development will be engaged using quality- and cost-based selection with a 90:10 quality–cost ratio.

17. Implementation arrangements are summarized in the table.

Implementation Arrangements			
Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	October 2022–December 2024		
Executing agency	LGED		
Implementing agency	LGED		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	Firm: QCBS (90:10)	Urban planning and development for strategic city regions	\$750,000
Disbursement	Disbursement of TA resources will follow ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2020, as amended from time to time)</i> .		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, LGED = Local Government Engineering Department, QCBS = quality- and cost-based selection, TA = technical assistance.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

18. **Consulting services.** ADB will engage the consulting firm following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated staff instructions.²⁰ A multidisciplinary team of international and national experts through a firm will be required to provide support during TA implementation to develop and implement activities to achieve the target outputs.

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

19. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$750,000 on a grant basis to the Government of Bangladesh for Strengthening Climate-Resilient Urban Development, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

²⁰ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the TA is Aligned with			
Growth potential and living environment in urban and peri-urban areas improved (Eighth Five Year Plan, July 2020–June 2025: Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness) ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
Outcome Climate-resilient, balanced, inclusive, and sustainable urban infrastructure in strategic city regions improved	By 2025: Priority investments for at least two strategic city regions approved and implementation commenced by the government (2022 baseline: NA) (OP 4.3.1)	Government reports, ^b government websites, and published information	R: Change in political leadership may slow down the approval and implementation of urban infrastructure investments for strategic city regions
Outputs 1. Strategic city regions with high growth potential and vulnerability to climate change impacts identified 2. Climate-resilient and balanced development plans for strategic city regions prepared	By 2023: 1a. An assessment report on development policies, existing studies, impacts of previous and ongoing urban development projects, and city region-wide climate and disaster risks and concentration of poor and vulnerable communities completed (2022 baseline: NA) 1b. A report on specific indicators for systematic and integrated selection of strategic city regions completed (2022 baseline: NA) 1c. At least two strategic city regions, with three priority sectors each, identified for priority investment (2022 baseline: 0 prioritized city regions) By 2024: 2a. Development plans for at least two strategic city regions, with three representative subprojects each under priority sectors, completed and submitted for approval to the government (2022 baseline: 0 development plans completed) 2b. Comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability analysis for at least two strategic city regions completed (2022 baseline: 0 analyses completed) 2c. Preliminary feasibility assessments of at least three representative subprojects prepared and submitted for approval to the	1a–1c. Government websites, reports, and planning and policy documents 2a-2c. Government reports and consultant reports	R: Change in the administrative procedures and/or leadership in relevant authorities may delay submission of required data and completion of the report R: Domestic issues and health-related concerns may hinder the participation of targeted government staff in the planned knowledge events

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
3. Capacity to develop innovative, sustainable, and climate- and disaster-resilient subprojects strengthened	<p>government (2022 baseline: 0 assessments prepared)</p> <p>By 2024:</p> <p>3a. At least 200 staff from relevant authorities (at least 20% of them women)^c with increased knowledge on climate-resilient urban planning (2022 baseline: NA) (OPs 3.2.2, 6.1.1)</p> <p>3b. At least 80% of participants in knowledge events, at least 20% of whom are women, reported increased knowledge and awareness of emerging economic and development issues and possible solutions^d (2022 baseline: NA) (OPs 3.3.2, 6.1.1)</p>	3a-3b. Workshop or seminar reports and feedback surveys	
Key Activities with Milestones			
<p>1. Strategic city regions with high growth potential and vulnerability to climate change impacts identified</p> <p>1.1 Assess development policies, existing studies, impacts of previous and ongoing urban development projects, and city region-wide climate and disaster risks and concentration of poor and vulnerable communities (Q4 2022–Q2 2023)</p> <p>1.2 Develop specific indicators for systematic and integrated selection of strategic city regions and identify at least two strategic city regions along with three priority sectors for each (Q2 2023)</p> <p>1.3 Conduct stakeholder consultations to present drafts and preliminary findings and finalize the strategic city regions and priority sectors (Q3 2023)</p> <p>2. Climate-resilient and balanced development plans for strategic city regions prepared</p> <p>2.1 Prepare development plans for selected strategic city regions and conduct climate risk and vulnerability analysis for selected strategic city regions (Q3–Q4 2023)</p> <p>2.2 Conduct preliminary feasibility assessments for at least three representative subprojects (Q4 2023)</p> <p>2.3 Conduct stakeholder consultations to present draft feasibility studies and finalize and approve feasibility studies (Q1 2024)</p> <p>3. Capacity to develop innovative, sustainable, and climate- and disaster-resilient subprojects strengthened</p> <p>3.1 Develop training programs to build capacity and encourage stronger engagement among stakeholders (Q2 2024)</p> <p>3.2 Conduct workshops and training programs for stakeholders (Q3–Q4 2024)</p> <p>TA Management Activities</p> <p>TA management will be ongoing throughout the life of the TA and will include hiring consultants, managing contracts for technical studies on a regular basis, and conducting an annual TA review to monitor the utilization of TA funds, progress on TA performance indicators, and consultants' performance.</p>			
Inputs			
<p>ADB: \$750,000 from Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7)</p> <p>Note: The government will provide counterpart support in the form of counterpart staff, office accommodation, office supplies, data and information, and other in-kind contributions.</p>			

ADB = Asian Development Bank, NA = not applicable, OP = operational priority, Q = quarter, R = risk, TA = technical assistance.

- ^a Government of Bangladesh, General Economics Division. 2020. [*Eighth Five Year Plan, July 2020–June 2025: Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness*](#). Dhaka.
- ^b Annual reports of ministries and departments, budget documents, economic surveys, special departmental reports, government website disclosures, and other TA-related documents.
- ^c This will include at least 70% of women staff in relevant authorities.
- ^d Issues include (i) integrated urban planning along with climate-resilient measures; (ii) integrated multisector solutions for synergetic and transformative urban development; (iii) proper allocation of institutional responsibilities; and (iv) sustainable urban service delivery, including digitalization of municipal services, resource mobilization, land use regulations, citizen and civil society organization engagement (including participatory design and citizen monitoring of delivery standards of urban services), and building codes at the municipal level .

Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities:

The expected values and methodological details for all OP indicators to which this TA will contribute results are detailed in Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

Source: Asian Development Bank.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
A. Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	385.1
ii. National consultants	173.4
b. Out-of-pocket expenditures	
i. International and local travel	48.1
ii. Reports and communications ^b	25.2
iii. Office operations ^c	20.7
iv. Equipment ^d	5.0
2. Surveys	20.0
3. Training, seminars, and conferences ^e	35.0
4. Contingencies	37.5
TOTAL	750.0

Note: The technical assistance (TA) is estimated to cost \$800,000, of which contributions from the Asian Development Bank are presented in the table. The government will provide counterpart support in the form of counterpart staff, office accommodation, office supplies, data and information, and other in-kind contributions. The value of the government contribution is estimated to account for 6.3% of the total TA cost.

^a Financed by the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7).

^b Includes costs of printing reports, publications, and other knowledge material to be used during workshops and seminars. Wherever possible, electronic versions of reports and publications will be used.

^c Includes hiring of office operations staff.

^d Includes purchase of information and communication technology equipment, supplies, software, and licenses. Equipment will be turned over to the government upon completion of the TA project.

^e Includes hiring of venues; resource persons; expenses related to travel and lodging of guests and speakers; and other expenses relating to training, seminars, workshops, forums, and conferences.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=56094-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants
2. Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities