

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Pakistan	Project Title:	Jalalpur Irrigation Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	Central and West Asia Department/ Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: General intervention

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

Pakistan’s Vision 2025 envisages agriculture growth by increasing crop yields, and ensuring efficient use of water that will promote diversification into high value-added products, agro-processing, and better integration in supply chains. The government of Punjab Growth Strategy 2018 Accelerating Economic Growth and Improving Social Outcomes lists increasing agriculture productivity as one of the key strategic components of the agriculture growth. The strategy also confirms that since Punjab’s agriculture is heavily reliant on irrigation, the government is currently undertaking major investments to improve the irrigation infrastructure. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pakistan country partnership strategy for 2015–2019 includes in its list of priorities stronger water resource management and irrigation to improve agricultural productivity, increase farm incomes, and strengthen food security.^a The project is included in the Pakistan country operations business plan, 2017–2019.^b

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence

1. Key poverty and social issues. It is estimated that 29.5% of the population in Pakistan lives below the poverty line, or around 55 million people out of the estimated population in 2013–2014.^c Most poor people live in rural areas and are employed mostly as agricultural wage workers. Poverty incidence in rural areas is almost twice that in urban areas (35.6% in rural areas against 18.6% in urban areas in 2013–2014).^c The project’s targeted district of Kushab ranks fifth for having a very high poverty headcount ratio; the targeted district of Jhelum ranks seventh.^d More than 30% of children under 5 years old in Kushab district and more than 20% in Jhelum district are under weight.^e In the project area, which comprises a rural community with no source of surface irrigation supply, the major source of income is farming. The findings of the socio-economic survey show that farming is the main occupation for 72.3% of people, with the highest majority of farmers recorded in Kot Kacha, Saroba, and Tilokar villages (90.0% in each). The groundwater is brackish and not fit for cultivation, hence the farmers depend on rain for farming. In the study area, only 30% reported good quality of drinking water, while 70% informed that water quality was not good. Because of the poor quality of the groundwater, people are suffering from diarrhea and other waterborne diseases. The majority of the farmers in the project area have smallholdings and are considered to be poor. The construction of a new irrigation system and provision of irrigation water will directly or indirectly contribute to poverty reduction by increasing agricultural production and improving the income of about 500,000 rural people, most of whom are poor. In addition, the project will construct 17 water supply outlets and will also contribute to poverty reduction by increasing accessibility to safe water. Overall, the main objective of the proposed project is to increase crop production and reduce land degradation by minimizing marginal-quality groundwater use, which will ultimately boost per capita incomes of the local community directly or indirectly.

2. Beneficiaries. The proposed project will primarily benefit more than 384,000 rural people living in about 80 villages. The main source of livelihood is agriculture and livestock rearing which is also declining as their agriculture lands are turning barren because of the salinity of the underground water, which ultimately reduces crop production and increases poverty in the region. Through irrigation supply, agricultural support services, stabilized crop yield, and training in irrigated agriculture use, and related skills, the project’s direct beneficiaries will be the farmers. Nonfarming communities will also benefit from increased economic activities and employment opportunities. The irrigated agriculture will create job opportunities for on-farm and off-farm laborers. The communities will also benefit from reliable supply of irrigation water, as well as improved skills in using and managing water resources.

3. Impact channels. The expected beneficiaries of the project will be farming and nonfarming communities, who will benefit from increase in agriculture, economic activities, and employment opportunities. It is anticipated that, with the provision of water for irrigation, agriculture-related activities will increase and nonfarming, poor, and vulnerable communities will have increased labor opportunities. Moreover, during the implementation phase of the project, more job opportunities will be offered to these identified groups. Special financial assistance has already been allocated in the land acquisition and resettlement plan (LARP) for such poor and vulnerable people who will be affected by the project.

4. Other social and poverty issues. The socioeconomic field surveys found that because of the poor quality of groundwater, people in many villages are suffering from diarrhea and other waterborne diseases. It is envisaged that through the installation of the irrigation system and 17 water supply outlets, the overall quality of groundwater will be improved, thus contributing to the reduction of waterborne diseases caused by lack of available sources of safe drinking water. In addition, the proposed project area lags in terms of civic and/or social amenities. Of the 20 villages

studied in the survey, five do not have any primary schools, and most of these are available only for boys; none of the villages have working police stations; only one has a sewerage system; and only 10 have water supply systems.

5. Design features. The project directly addresses the key issue of low agricultural productivity as a result of scarcity of irrigation water. The outputs include (i) increasing quality of available water in the project area through the construction of an irrigation system, (ii) improving water-use skills, and (iii) improving farm management capacity in the project areas.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The project team conducted consultations with the local communities to assess their concerns and address their specific needs in relation to the project, including resettlement issues. Moreover, the project will include actions to reach thousands of households to be benefitted by the project. Among the key outputs, as indicated in the design and monitoring framework, are training of about 6,000 households on improved water-use and farming systems.

2. The participation of civil society organizations is not envisaged during project implementation and is rated *not applicable*.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Effective Gender Mainstreaming

A. Key issues. Findings of the initial poverty and social assessment show that women in the project areas perform a large proportion of agriculture- and livestock-related activities. They also exclusively perform household-related tasks that need water, such as preparing food, washing clothes and dishes, and cleaning the house. A few households in Saroba, Sauwal, Gharibwal, Pindi Saidpur, and Pinnanwal villages reported that women spend 40–50 minutes daily fetching water from nearby water sources, as they are too poor to afford installation and monthly water charges. While women report that they generally participate in community organizations and activities, 100% of the women surveyed claimed that very few women participate in water user associations (WUAs) because of lack of information. They also expressed desire to participate in training programs for farmers' capacity building. Further, the surveys revealed that there is a high percentage of households headed by women and/or widows (approximately 2,610 widows) in the project areas, who are among the most marginalized and have limited resources and livelihood opportunities. Finally, during consultations, among the key issues raised by women were (i) concerns regarding physical and social displacement as a result of construction of the canal project, (ii) the need for proper crossing points and/or bridges at canals to get access on both sides, and (iii) concerns about the safety and security of their children as the canal was passing through their villages.

B. Key actions. The project will address the gender issues identified above, through the following measures: (i) installation of washing points, cattle ghats (i.e., baths), fencing, and crossing points in strategic places of the irrigation system; (ii) encouraging women's participation in WUAs; (iii) training women in water-use skills; (iv) conducting training needs analysis of WUAs and rural women to identify how to increase women's participation; (v) ensuring women farmers' participation in trainings on irrigated agricultural practices and profitable farming systems; (vi) ensuring women farmers' participation in cross-farm visits, farm fairs, and other knowledge events; and (vii) documenting lessons learned in implementing farmer training programs and ensuring women's full participation.

Gender action plan, Other actions or measures No action or measure

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category: A B C FI

1. Key impacts. The main canal, distributaries, and flood carrier channels to be constructed under output 1 will require a total of 3,283 hectares (ha) of land. Almost 99% of the required land is privately owned and will need to be acquired. Out of the 3,283 ha, 1,370 ha is agricultural land. On the main canal, 216 residential and 10 commercial structures may be affected, along with 43 tube wells and related structures. Approximately, 8,000 people may be affected. Of these, 2,920 landowners may lose 10% or more of their agricultural land, while 166 owners of residential and commercial structures may need to relocate. Under output 2, land will also be required for the 485 farm-level field channels (watercourses) to be constructed, along with over 18,910 small farm turnout structures to distribute irrigation water over 68,263 ha of farmland. Land for this will be provided by the farmer beneficiaries and local communities as counterpart support including other assets.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. A draft LARP has been prepared following the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) based on a sample socio-economic survey of 400 potentially displaced persons, and community consultations. Final LARPs divided by packages will be prepared following the notification of land acquisition under Sections 4 and 6 of the Pakistan Land Acquisition Act (1894), marking of the project boundaries in the field, census, detailed measurement surveys, and further consultations with affected persons. Under output 2, measures are provided in the project administration manual to ensure that contributions for tertiary canals are voluntary and documented.

3. Plan or other Actions.

Resettlement plan

Resettlement framework

Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan

Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix
<input type="checkbox"/> No action	
B. Indigenous Peoples	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>1. Key impacts. No further action is required</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not Applicable</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary</p>	
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS	
A. Risks in the Labor Market	
<p>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 (H) underemployment (L) retrenchment (M) core labor standards</p> <p>2. Labor market impact. The labor opportunities will increase for the local community with the implementation of the project. In this regard, the economic condition of the laborers will be improved. The Punjab Irrigation Department (PID) and Punjab Agriculture Department (PAD) will make sure that the contractor adopts core labor standards during the construction phase to meet the requirement of international labor laws. Moreover, measures will be taken to resolve underemployment issues.</p>	
B. Affordability: It is anticipated that no issue regarding compensation will occur during the implementation of the project.	
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
<p>1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): (NA) Communicable diseases (NA) Human trafficking (NA) Others (please specify) _____</p> <p>2. Risks to people in project area. As a result of implementation of the proposed project, displacement of about 216 residential structures will take place. In this regard, and to compensate the displaced persons, a fair replacement cost on market price rate will be given to them. The Safeguard Policy Statement will be followed. Moreover, the cost for income losses was included in the LARP document, where sufficient allowances according to the policy are determined for the vulnerable displaced persons.</p>	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
<p>1. Targets and indicators. The project will support continuous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) related to poverty, gender, and social inclusion indicators. Project progress reports and focused M&E and impact evaluation studies will report on gender and, to the extent possible, incorporate disability and socioeconomic disaggregated data related to access, outcomes, and other indicators.</p> <p>2. Required human resources. Internal monitoring will be done by the PID through the project management office for canals, as well as by the PAD through the project implementation office. A gender implementation consultant will be engaged to oversee the implementation of the gender action plan (GAP).</p> <p>3. Information in the project administration manual. Implementation compliance monitoring will focus on (i) the quality and amount of water availability at watercourse offtakes, including facilities built for the direct benefit of households, especially women, such as cattle baths, and water supply outlets; (ii) increased women's participation in WUAs, as well as in water-use training; and (iii) improved farm management, including women's participation in trainings on irrigated agricultural practices and profitable farming systems. The project's regular monitoring and review will report on the progress taken in achieving the GAP and design and monitoring framework targets and indicators, as well as challenges encountered and actions taken. The review will focus on compliance with covenants and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation mechanisms.</p> <p>4. Monitoring tools. The project targets will be monitored through quarterly consultant reports, mission reviews, and reports. GAP quarterly progress monitoring reports will be prepared and attached to the project reports, to monitor implementation of GAP activities.</p>	

^a ADB. 2015. *Country Partnership Strategy: Pakistan, 2015–2019*. Manila.

^b ADB. 2016. *Country Operations Business Plan: Pakistan, 2017–2019*. Manila.

^c Based on a poverty line derived from a "cost of basic needs" approach which focuses on the consumption patterns of households in the reference group.

^d M. Azeem, A. Muger, and S. Schilizzi. 2016. Poverty and vulnerability in the Punjab, Pakistan: A multilevel analysis. *Journal of Asian Economics*, 44, 57–72.

^e Government of Punjab and United Nations Development Programme. 2011. *Punjab Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*. Lahore.