

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Pakistan	Project Title:	FATA Water Resources Development Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/ Division:	Central and West Asia Department Environment Natural Resources and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: Targeted intervention—geographic

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

Pakistan's national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), 2009; the Government's Vision 2025; and the FATA Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), 2007–2015 articulate the government's development plans and strategies. These documents highlight the importance of developing agriculture and natural resources to improve the livelihood of the poor segments of the population who rely on subsistence agriculture. Sustainable development of water resources to bring more land under irrigation so as to enhance agricultural production is one of the priority areas to achieve the objective. The government is updating its PRSP; accordingly, the PRSP II, for fiscal years 2009–2011, is still effective and provides a framework beyond the 3-year time frame. The nine pillars of the PRSP II include macroeconomic stability and real sector growth, protecting the poor and vulnerable, increasing productivity and value addition in agriculture, and removing infrastructure bottlenecks through public–private partnerships. The FATA SDP aims to ensure the optimal and equitable use, and sustainable development of water resources to bring more land under irrigated agriculture. The strategy proposed in the SDP to achieve this goal includes (i) creating efficient management systems for water sources and infrastructure; (ii) conserving and recharging groundwater aquifers; (iii) harnessing seasonal runoff to provide additional sources for irrigation; (iv) harvesting surface water for irrigation; (v) scaling up existing efficient irrigation systems; and (vi) strengthening institutions, and building the capacity of stakeholders and service providers. In the interim country partnership strategy, 2014–2015 for Pakistan, irrigated agriculture is one of the key areas prioritized for ADB's assistance. The Medium-Term Development Framework estimated the expenditure on the irrigation sector at 32% annually since 2005. ADB's agriculture sector evaluation (2006) for Pakistan also emphasized improving irrigation.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. Poverty and food insecurity are major issues in FATA. Although the poverty incidence has declined in Pakistan during 2004–2013, the magnitude of poverty in FATA is still very high based on the number of people living in absolute poverty—the poorest (less than \$1.25 per day), and the vulnerable and poor population (less than \$2.00 per day). Most of the region's population is food insecure because of dependence on subsistence agriculture and a deteriorating natural resource base. FATA is highly food insecure, as shown by the following key measures: (i) 70% of the population is below a caloric intake of 2,100 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day (below 2,100 kcal is deemed inadequate), (ii) FATA has a mean caloric intake of less than 1,800 kcal per person per day, and (iii) FATA is characterized by one of the lowest protein intakes in Pakistan with less than 45% of the population rated as non-protein deficient.¹ The poverty incidence in FATA is about 65% with about 70% of the population regularly food insecure. The predominant rural population relies mainly on subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihood. Land holdings are very small—less than 2 hectares (ha) on average—and only 6% of the total area of 2.7 million ha is cultivated. There is immense potential for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers to bring new land under irrigation, thereby enhancing their incomes and livelihood. Water is a serious concern in FATA, not only in terms of scarcity in general but also because of inefficient use in areas where available.
2. Beneficiaries. The project will directly benefit 116,751 rural households, most of whom are poor and severely food insecure, by shifting them from rain-fed agriculture to irrigated agriculture. This will enable them to diversify and intensify agriculture production, which will result in increased household incomes. This shift is expected to lift most of the farming families in the project area above the poverty line and to enable them to become more food secure.
3. Impact channels. Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of irrigation water will result in higher cropping intensities and yields, thereby increasing incomes for the target population and reducing the incidence of poverty and food insecurity.
4. Other social and poverty issues. The project will provide some employment opportunities for unskilled labor.
5. Design features. The project design includes mechanisms to ensure transparency, community consultation and participation, and ensured access to project benefits by all community members.

¹ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Draft Report on Food Security Pakistan 2012–2013.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR	
<p>1. Participatory approaches and project activities.</p> <p>During project preparation, a consultation process with the local communities was adopted for creating ownership and soliciting their support for the project. The same participatory approach will be continued during project implementation while engaging the community organizations established under the FATA Rural Development Project. Membership criteria of the community organizations will ensure equal participation of all segments of the population without discrimination. Before initiating each subproject, it will be mandatory to enter into terms of partnership with the beneficiary community and each terms of partnership will be signed by the community organization members.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations.</p> <p>Government organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) have been consulted to assess the likely impacts of the project regarding social, gender, environment issues, and core labor standards. Interaction with the CSOs and communities will be continued during project implementation.</p> <p>3. The following forms of CSO participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing (H) <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership (M)</p> <p>4. Participation plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. In addition to community organizations, affected persons committees will also be formed and will be responsible for addressing local concerns and grievances.</p>	
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	
Gender mainstreaming category: Some gender elements	
<p>Key issues.</p> <p>FATA is a traditional society with a strict code of propriety for women. Any breach of that code is likely to result in violence in the name of "honor." Geographic and political isolation of FATA further increases the vulnerability and physical isolation of women. Gender disparities in social, legal, and political status are more pronounced in FATA than in the rest of the country. The literacy rate in FATA is only 6.7% for females and 35.8% for males, compared with 46% in Pakistan.² In FATA, women are largely seen in domestic roles performing household chores and taking care of family members; but due to prevalent poverty in the tribal areas, women also work as unpaid helpers for on-farm and off-farm activities. Because of <i>Purdah</i> (seclusion) from nonfamily male members, women do not have any role related to farm water management, which is done through a system of <i>warabandi</i>.³ However, women are the household managers and primary users of water for domestic use. Thus, water is as important for women as it is for men in the project area. The FATA multi-indicator cluster survey, 2009 noted that nearly 85% of families in rural areas collect water from sources outside their house. About 46% of households in rural areas spend 30 minutes to 1 hour fetching water, while 25% spend more than 1 hour on this task.</p>	
<p>B. Key actions.</p> <p>Based on the gender analysis prepared during project preparation and consultations with the key stakeholders, it was noted that given the culturally sensitive society of FATA, dedicated interventions addressing women's issues may create a risk of a negative reaction from locals. However, increasing women's access to project benefits, such as water for domestic use and small-scale income-generating opportunities, may address the practical needs of the women and improve their well-being.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p> <p>The project will include following actions or measures to increase women's access to project benefits: (i) include gender design features in 15% of the subprojects (e.g., washing pads, safe and easy access for water fetching); (ii) impart income-generating skill training to women in areas including kitchen gardening, food processing, raising private forest nurseries, bee keeping, and mushroom growing; (iii) placement of a social (gender) specialist in the project management unit to implement and report on gender actions, among others; (iv) incorporate gender-disaggregated data and reporting in project reporting and monitoring systems; and (v) encourage employment opportunities for women in the project.</p>	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. Detailed design of the first 3 of the total of 40 subprojects has been completed and they are confirmed for involuntary resettlement as Category C. A criterion for financing of subprojects is that there should be no involuntary land acquisition and resettlement. Therefore, all the subprojects are expected to be involuntary resettlement Category C.</p>	

² Government of Pakistan, Bureau of Statistics. Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, 2010–2011.

³ *Warabandi* is a rotational method for equitable distribution of the available water in an irrigation system by turns fixed according to a predetermined schedule specifying the year, day, time, and duration of supply.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. A national resettlement specialist will be recruited on a full-time basis to assist the FATA secretariat with involuntary resettlement categorization of proposed subprojects and monitoring of all the ongoing subprojects, specifically with regard to land acquisition and resettlement processes, and the grievance-redress mechanism, which will be established at each agency for subprojects. In the event that involuntary resettlement issues arise, the resettlement specialist will help the FATA secretariat prepare a resettlement plan in accordance with the land acquisition and resettlement framework, and will assist in implementing the plan.											
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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). <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment (M) <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment (M) <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment (L) <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (L)											
2. Labor market impact. The project will encourage hiring of labor from the local communities. Similar projects generally attract 50%–60% employment from the local areas. In FATA, the risk of child labor is minimal as the FATA multi-indicator cluster survey, 2009 indicates only 17% of children (age 5–14 years) were engaged as child laborers. Parents in FATA prefer their children to assist them in daily chores and household work. There is little to no evidence available on the incidence of forced labor. However, compliance with core labor standards in the bidding documents and agreements will be made mandatory for the contractors.											
B. Affordability. No impact anticipated. No cost implications or affordability issues affect the target communities. No water charges or fees on water will be collected from the local communities. Increased and equitable access to water will increase the income levels and livelihood benefits.											
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks 1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____											
2. Risks to people in project area: There are no anticipated risks related to communicable diseases and human trafficking.											
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION											
1. Targets and indicators. Targets and indicators include increased per capita incomes in the project areas, increased crop intensity, and increased crop yields.											
2. Required human resources. The project includes two full-time safeguards staff, a social development and gender specialist, and community outreach specialists.											
3. Information in the project administration manual. Regular monitoring of project implementation will be done by the project steering committee and project staff to measure effectiveness and quality of implementation of project activities. Progress reports will be submitted quarterly, annually, and at the end of the project.											
4. Monitoring tools. The management information system that will be established in the project management unit and project implementation units will collect and monitor project benefits. The management information system will include poverty and other indicators to measure and report on benefits to the local population.											

Source: Asian Development Bank.