

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation Modernization Project (GKIMP)
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/ Division:	South Asia Department (SARD)/ Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (SAER)

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

Agriculture remains the largest employer in the country; 47.5% of the population are directly employed in agriculture and around 70% depends on agriculture in one form or another for their livelihood. As a main source of economic linkages in rural areas, it plays a fundamental role in reducing poverty. In Bangladesh, water and water management is a central concern for the government in the current Seventh Five-Year Plan, 2016–2020. The broad development goal of the plan is to drive the country's sustainable development agenda in a balance between equitable national economic progress and human development.

The plan focuses on pro-poor economic growth, sustainable development, empowerment and risk resilience. Per the 2010 national household survey data, 35.2% and 21.1% of the population in rural areas lives below upper and lower poverty line respectively. It also encourages efficient use of surface water and reduced use of groundwater in irrigation to maintain an ecological balance and minimize irrigation expenses, which the project directly relates to. ADB's Strategy 2020 supports sustainable management of natural resources and investments in water systems and other essential public services, particularly those that benefit the poor. The project responds directly to ADB's operational plan for sustainable food security and ADB's water operational plan for 2011–2020, which call for improving the productivity and efficiency of water use through (i) investing in modern irrigation infrastructure, (ii) adopting enabling policies that correctly price the opportunity cost of water, and (iii) strengthening institutions for more efficient and sustainable water management.

The government has a comprehensive water policy framework based on concerns arising out of declining irrigation areas and depletion of surface and groundwater resources during times of most need for farmers. Impacts of climate change are contributing to a loss of production, seasonal unpredictability and uncertainty. Therefore, a well-planned management system for irrigation is essential for sustaining food security and improving livelihoods consistent with the government's Seventh Five-Year Plan and ADB's priorities for poverty reduction.

The National Water Policy specifies that larger schemes will be placed under private management or joint management by the implementing agency along with the local government and community organizations. Despite a supportive policy framework and significant experience in the irrigation subsector, the outcomes of investments to date have been mediocre. The problems of low irrigation intensities and productivity on the existing major surface water schemes can be addressed through infrastructure modernization and enhanced O&M. This will improve system performance and contribute to increased agricultural outputs and rural incomes. The project is consistent with the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction and ADB's country partnership strategy, 2016–2020 for Bangladesh.

B. Poverty Targeting

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

The project will focus on rural areas where poverty is chronically higher than in urban areas. It will modernise the Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation Project (GKIP) irrigation schemes and establish new irrigation management. The estimated beneficiary population and poverty level will be defined by the project management design consultant (PMDC) during feasibility studies. The estimated beneficiary population across Kushtia, Chuandanga, Jhenaidah and Magura districts of GKIP is 2.5 million; including land owners 0.15 million.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries

The key issues are ensuring equitable access to irrigation water, and a more sustainable and cost-effective use of surface and groundwater sources. Additional problems are: (i) less cropping land irrigated due to lack of water in accordance with seasonal demands; (ii) canal infrastructure in need of repair and is unable to meet farmer demands for water; (iii) farmers increasingly dependent on supplemented groundwater; and (iv) need for improved extension services, marketing, and grain storage facilities. Beneficiaries include differentiated farmers/ water users, fishers,

women and men in the GKIP. The farmers will actively participate in irrigation water management through water management groups and water management associations. The project will directly benefit all villagers living in the scheme and improve agricultural productivity and livelihoods, where water is considered as an element in complex social-ecological systems.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

The proposed project involves strengthening institutional capacity especially at the tertiary/secondary level water management, improving water management governance, modernizing irrigation system, improving operation and maintenance capacity, and improving service delivery. Therefore, it is expected that the project will contribute in increasing irrigation water and ensuring water security and efficiency of water usages through dry season water availability and dry season irrigation coverage in GKIMP command areas. Special focus will be given to ensure farmers, including marginal, small, and landless, in the middle and the tail-end systems to have adequate access to water.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.

The poverty and social analysis (PSA) prepared by the PMDC will be reviewed by the social development specialist under this TA to identify suitable recommendations to be implemented by the project to ensure that farmers including marginal, small and landless farmers, and the poor and vulnerable women farmers will be benefit from the project..

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?
 - o Women are not (currently) active agents in the GKIMP area; their representation is symbolic on formal bodies such as water management groups..
 - o Women's work is not seen as important and women are rarely involved in decision-making processes, especially regarding water management.
 - o For women to be meaningful engaged as (active) stakeholders there is a need for awareness raising and conscientization (though informal education and targeted action research).

The situation of women in the GKIP is tied into social and cultural perceptions of gendered roles, and a lack of a supporting legal framework and space for local participation.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to make a contribution 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 Please explain.

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

Yes No Please explain

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? Identify how they will participate in the project design.

The farmers are primary stakeholders. Due to lack of adequate drainage in the scheme, low-lying areas are subject to flooding with negative implications on the livelihoods of poor farmers. If the drainage system is not properly addressed, this problem will be exacerbated.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board employees (engineering and extension services) are institutional stakeholders.

Importantly, there needs to be a consultation process in the field involving local water users to be included in the project design and implementation.

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?

- o Increased participation of farmers at the institutional level
- o Increased participation of marginal and poor farmers in O&M
- o Provided opportunities for local communities to work in the civil works and other related works for modernization irrigation system through creating employment opportunities (creating labour contracting groups)
 Provided opportunities for active participation of women in water management through the WMA.

<p>3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?</p> <p>NGOs exist that can be engaged for WMO formation and poverty reduction programs. Larger NGOs include BRAC, Grameen Foundation, SETU, and more than a dozen smaller local groups.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information generation and sharing (M) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p>
<p>4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Nonetheless, farmers group including marginal and landless farmers, and the poor and vulnerable women farmers will be consulted</p>
IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>
<p>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the study prepared by PMDC showed that there is no indigenous people as described in ADB Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (SPS) in the project areas and affected areas..</p> <p>3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No There are no indigenous people found in the project areas and affected areas.</p> <p>4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact matrix</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p>
V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS
<p>1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating decent jobs and employment (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhering to core labor standards (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS (L), if the project employees construction workers and unskilled workers from other areas <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in human trafficking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability (M)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase in unplanned migration <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Creating political instability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creating internal social conflicts (L) if the project employees construction workers and unskilled workers from other areas <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify _____</p>
<p>2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?</p> <p>The PMDC will be requested to conduct close consultation with stakeholders and affected peoples to identify appropriate measures to address social impacts. The contractors will be required to raise awareness of their workers on spreading of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS.</p>
VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT
<p>1. Do the terms of reference for the PPTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during PPTA 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?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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 PPTA or due diligence?</p> <p>The PMDC has prepared the PSA and undertaking social safeguard due diligence works and preparing PSA report and social safeguard documents. The TA will have 1 person-month international social development specialist to assist the PMDC in ensuring that PSA and social safeguard documents are prepared in accordance to the ADB's requirements as described in the ADB's Handbook of Poverty and Social Analysis (2012) and SPS.</p>