

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Rural Connectivity Program
Lending/Financing Modality:	Results Based Lending	Department/ Division:	South Asia Department/Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

Despite progress in poverty reduction, rural poverty still remains extensive in the country. Poor infrastructures impede economic and social access, contributing to high poverty in rural areas. The RCP districts are vulnerable to climate change impact with high incidence of poverty. Extensive flooding and intense rainfalls can seriously affect rural economy and livelihoods of the poor people. The poor and women are more vulnerable because of (i) poorer access to education and health services, and economic opportunities; (ii) limited mobility; and (iii) various social restraints. Infrastructure development in these areas must be responsive to climate change impact to manage the long-term costs of investments, and to ensure that such investments deliver their intended benefits. RCP will contribute to the government's Sixth Five-Year Plan, FY2011–FY2015 which aims to foster growth rate and reduce poverty by boosting infrastructure development and improving gender equity. The program is also consistent with ADB's country partnership strategy for Bangladesh 2011–2015 which supports government's strategic thrust on poverty reduction by infrastructure development, integrating climate change consideration into sector interventions, and climate-proofing infrastructure.

B. Targeting Classification

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

RCP will focus on 13 climate-vulnerable districts where poverty is widespread. The program will improve all-weather road connectivity, expanding the access of the farmers to markets, reducing the transportation costs, ensuring better commodity prices, and improving access to education and health services. It will also expand their access to financial services, technology, and development support services provided by various agencies.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

Poverty continues to be largely a rural phenomenon (35.2% in 2010). About 75% of the population that lives in rural areas includes 84% of the nation's poor. Poverty is more acute when a household has little or no land, no productive jobs, more dependents, little education, or a female as its head. Remoteness from local markets and Dhaka and lack of access to infrastructure, including electricity and transport to local markets, are characteristics of poor areas. The program beneficiaries include road users, transport owners and operators, traders, road construction companies and impact zone people including the poor farmers. The program will provide year-round connectivity between agricultural production areas and markets, and to other parts of the country and beyond.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

RCP implementation is expected to have a greater impact on the livelihood of the impact zone population including the poor farmers. Expanded rural connectivity will provide better access to economic and social opportunities to the poor farmers. With better infrastructure, agribusiness and non-farm rural activities are also expected to grow rapidly. This will contribute directly and indirectly in cutting poverty of the poor and socially disadvantaged groups including women.

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

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

A poverty reduction specialist will be engaged under the PDA for 6-person months to undertake poverty analysis.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending.

Not applicable.

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?

Despite progress in several aspects of gender equality, women continue to suffer gender gaps in development. The number of women in the paid workforce increased, but their participation rate is only half that of the men and women's job continues to be concentrated at the low end of occupations. Women and children are the main victims of natural disasters, which

worsen their risk of becoming landless, displaced, and crime victims. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and thereby worsen the adverse impacts of natural disasters on poor women and children.

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

Gender-related actions will be built in the Program Action Plan (PAP) and in the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) matrix.

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

Yes No

It will not have any adverse impact. It will create jobs and income earnings opportunities for women.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity theme) 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 program beneficiaries include the government, LGED, road users, transport owners and operators, traders, road construction companies and the impact zone people. The program will not have any negative effect on people. The beneficiaries will participate in consultation session during the design of the activities under investment component.

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 primary stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance and LGED are already involved in the design of the program and due attention is being paid to inclusiveness of poor, vulnerable and excluded groups. The poor and excluded will be involved in rural roads rehabilitation and maintenance, and employment during road upgrading, and information dissemination.

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?

M Information generation and sharing **M** Consultation Collaboration Partnership

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? Yes No

The program design will ensure that poor and disadvantaged will be included in the consultation sessions.

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

It is unlikely that there will be involuntary land acquisition. PDA will further examine.

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

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No

It will not affect the natural and cultural resources of the indigenous peoples.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No

It is unlikely that there are indigenous peoples in project areas. PDA will further examine.

4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA 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(L) Adhering to core labor standards(L) Labor retrenchment
 Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS Increase in human trafficking Affordability
 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?

PDA will address these additional social risk issues

VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT

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 (vi) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?

- Yes No

under the PDA

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?

A poverty reduction specialist and a social development and gender specialist are included in the PDA for necessary inputs. Consultation costs will also be allocated for field level data and information collection.