

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Sector	Department/Division:	Urban Development and Water Division South Asia Department

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Targeting classification: General Intervention

Poverty is one of the major constraints on the country's economic and social development. Substantial attention has been given to reduce poverty, and Bangladesh has made significant and steady progress in this area. The percentage of the population in poverty has decreased from 40.0% in 2005 to 31.5% in 2010. Most of the Millennium Development Goal achievements of the country are impressive. Still, extreme-to-low poverty is significantly visible and remains scattered throughout the country. Urban poverty continues to be a major agenda for the country's socio-economic development with poverty rates declining by 7.1 percentage points during 2005–2010. Despite the positive changes, the poverty ratio remains relatively unchanged in large cities such as Dhaka (32.0%–30.5%). A major cause of this low achievement is rapid rural–urban migration because of a shortfall in urban services and opportunities in smaller cities and adjacent peri-urban and rural areas. The project aims to improve the governance and infrastructure of participating municipalities.

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

Bangladesh is on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals in poverty reduction, inclusive growth, and social development. The country has focused on the above-mentioned issues in its latest strategic document—the Sixth Five-Year Plan (SFYP) 2011–2015.^a Higher standard of living, better social justice, and more equitable and sustained socio-economic environment for citizens are enshrined in the SFYP. To promote equitable, sustainable, and inclusive growth and reduce poverty, the SFYP's strategies stress more balanced urban growth through proper institutional reform involving the establishment of locally elected and accountable municipalities, property tax reform to strengthen their financial autonomy, proper land use planning, and improved infrastructure and road network. Human development is also a crucial strategy of the SFYP, with focus on good governance. The SFYP strategy also emphasizes quality and efficient essential public service delivery. To achieve this it is necessary to develop a system of accountability and transparency to ensure availability and appropriate and adequate services for the poor including women and girls. The SFYP strategy puts emphasis on establishing equal opportunities for women and on gender equality and social inclusion. The SFYP also focuses on inclusive and holistic aspects in the design of strategies, policies, and programs. Given its commitment to the already present mandate of improving urban development, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will continue to assist the government in expanding access to municipal infrastructure and services, including municipal transport, drainage, water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, and other urban services with significant impact on urban public and environmental health.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues: Bangladesh is a country with rapid urbanization. Rural–urban migration, particularly towards big cities such as Dhaka and Chittagong, is still high and increasingly making the cities unlivable. The majority of migrants grapple to find places in the already cramped slums. Access to economic opportunities and social services are limited in the rapidly growing urban areas, with poor urban facilities. Lack of accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and effective financial management are manifestations of weak municipal governance.

2. Beneficiaries: Men and women including the poor of the project *pourashavas* (municipalities) will benefit from the project through better access to municipal services; taking part in municipal decision making from the planning stage; raising voice in different forums to address their needs; building leadership; better water supply; improved infrastructure; and better health, hygiene, and environment through a project awareness raising program. The poor of selected slums will benefit from improved environmental sanitation.

3. Impact channels: Through the participation of the poor and women in municipal decision making forums, such as the town-level coordination committees (TLCCs), ward-level coordination committees (WLCCs), poverty reduction and slum improvement standing committees, and women and children affairs standing committees, the project will open up critical opportunities for the poor and women to raise their voices. Provision of project funds to slum improvement activities, footpaths, street lights, toilets, tube wells, and rubbish bins will be supported and directly benefit the poor and women in the project area. Women-friendly infrastructure will promote greater mobility for women. Project-generated infrastructure work including construction will benefit the poor and vulnerable by providing short-term employment opportunities. Improved municipal services, e.g., health service, immunization activities, and water supply, will benefit the poor and women. A series of awareness programs and construction of public toilets in public places and slum improvement activities will promote human resource development, especially among the poor and vulnerable. The poverty reduction action plan and gender action plan (GAP) and allocation of a workable budget

from *pourashava* revenue setting on a perennial basis will address specific needs of the poor and vulnerable and will also improve gender equality, women's empowerment, and gender mainstreaming.

4. Other social and poverty issues: Project intervention will not be sufficient to address all the needs of the poor and women such as safety, security, unemployment, education, and health. However, through its intervention the project will aim at reaching out and engaging with various departments such as Social Welfare and the Department of Youth Development, nongovernment organizations, and community-based organizations to ensure complementarity of action. *Pourashavas* can take the initiative to facilitate knowledge convergence among different government and nongovernment stakeholders through effective functioning of TLCCs. This will give *pourashavas* more inclusive and sustainable growth prospects and contribute to reducing the trend of out-migration to large cities.

5. Design features: Key poverty, social, and gender-related design features are enshrined in the project outcome and outputs. The outcome of the project is improved municipal service delivery and urban governance in project towns, which will be achieved by promoting (i) fully functional TLCCs, with at least one-third women and seven representatives of the poor, (ii) WLCCs with at least 40% women and two representatives of the poor, and (iii) municipal budget allocations to effectively ensure the implementation of the poverty reduction action plan and gender action plan.

C. Poverty Impact Analysis for Policy-Based Lending

Not applicable

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness:

The project will ensure participation of citizens—men, women, including the poor—in local governance, which will strengthen inclusiveness. The project will strengthen such participation and inclusiveness through mandatory inclusion of the poor and women as members in various committees; preparing a demand-driven poverty reduction action plan in consultation with poor representatives; giving room to the poor representatives to raise their voice in municipal decision making, including infrastructure planning and urban planning, and budgeting; forming slum improvement committees led by women (comprising only slum people and at least one-third women). The committees will manage overall slum improvement activities, targeting promotion of leadership and enhancing their assets, particularly infrastructure.

2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation:

Forming TLCCs, WLCCs, and standing committees with representation of civil society is a prerequisite for all project *pourashavas* to receive budget for infrastructure improvement. This will be monitored throughout the project.

3. Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation:

Pourashavas are the implementing units of the project and the TLCC is a consultative forum of *pourashava* decision making. Adequate participation of civil society in project implementation will be ensured through TLCCs, WLCCs, and inclusion in other committees. Focus group discussions and courtyard meetings will be conducted as part of awareness raising.

4. What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation?

(L) information gathering and sharing, (H) consultation, (M) collaboration, (N) partnership

5. Will a project-level participation plan be prepared to strengthen participation of civil society as interest holders for affected persons particularly the poor and vulnerable?

No. Community mobilizers will promote participation during implementation. A participatory and inclusive planning process is incorporated into the governance criteria that all project *pourashavas* need to fulfill.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Gender Equity Theme

A. Key issues. Active representation and participation of women in municipal governance structures and decision making processes is critical in making municipal service delivery gender friendly. Women ward councilors elected from reserved seats have limited capacity to take full part in decision making. *Pourashavas* in general do not pay sufficient attention to establishing an enabling environment for women to raise their voices. *Pourashava* citizens, particularly women and the poor, are mostly unaware of the range of services provided by *pourashavas*. They have limited awareness regarding health, hygiene, solid waste management, and also service billing such as tax and water bills. Municipal infrastructure development which does not take into account and effectively address women's needs further constrains women's mobility. Poor living condition in slums increase the miseries and hardship of women, which include fetching water from a distance, nursing weak family members, addressing poor health, and safety and security at night.

B. Key actions.

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

The adoption of targets for women's representation in TLCCs, WLCCs, standing committees for women and children affairs and poverty reduction and slum improvement, and the slum improvement committees will provide women with a platform to actively be part of municipal governance-related processes and structures. "Gender equity and social

inclusion” is one of the pillars of the urban governance improvement action program (UGIAP) that all project <i>pourashavas</i> need to fulfill. The program includes preparation of <i>pourashava</i> -tailored GAPS in line with the project GAP and the allocation of <i>pourashava</i> revenue budget to their implementation. Infrastructure to be developed under the project will be women friendly. At least 20% women will be engaged in project-generated construction work. Equal wages for work of equal value for men and women will be promoted. Women will get equal opportunity to participate in project-supported training. Awareness meetings and campaigns will target women to increase their knowledge regarding health, hygiene, tax, water billing, maintenance of toilets, solid waste management, and other social services.	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
A. Involuntary Resettlement	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
1. Key impacts. Limited impacts are identified in three sample subproject towns. No private land acquisition is required for the proposed components as all of them are located in existing government lands or road or drainage right of way. Three permanent structures and 70 semipermanent structures will be affected, most of them shops or business stalls. The livelihoods of 71 shop owners will be affected. One will have to move out permanently from the current location and 70 will only experience temporary relocation.	
2. Strategy to address the impacts. Draft resettlement plans in each of the three sample towns have been prepared. A resettlement framework has been prepared to provide guidance for the preparation of resettlement plans for future subprojects and towns.	
3. Plan or other Actions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework
B. Indigenous Peoples	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
1. Key impacts. There will be no impacts on indigenous peoples communities identified in the three sample towns of Magura, Naogaon, and Lalmornihat.	
Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Strategy to address the impacts. An indigenous peoples planning framework has been prepared to provide guidance on procedures and documentation requirements in the event indigenous peoples and/or ethnic minority issues are identified during project implementation or during future subproject activities.	
3. Plan or other actions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework	
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. (L) unemployment (L) underemployment (L) retrenchment (M) core labor standards	
2. Labor market impact. The project will generate employment opportunities in construction works including community participation in slum improvement works. Core labor standards will be adhered to.	
B. Affordability	
The socio-economic survey undertaken in the project preparatory technical assistance shows that monthly water bills and other service charges are within the affordable limit of citizens. The average monthly household income of the poorest 10% of the population in the three sample towns is about Tk6,500. With the proposed volumetric tariff, the average domestic monthly water bill will be between Tk160 and Tk195, which is about 3% of current household incomes. This is considered affordable, even for the poor.	
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area. The size of civil works is small and works will be undertaken by local contractors. The risk is minimal.	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
1. Targets and indicators: A range of social and gender-related indicators and targets have been set at the outcome and output level, consistently reflected and expanded in the project-specific GAP.	
2. Required human resources: The project will engage social safeguards specialists, environmental safeguards specialists, and gender development and poverty alleviation specialists. Safeguard officers and a gender and social development specialist will be in the project management office (PMO).	
3. Information in PAM: The PAM includes details of the monitoring mechanism. To measure progress and results, there will be annual surveys and quarterly monitoring of output and outcome indicators presented through quarterly progress reports with GAP update implementation matrices attached. Review missions will monitor the timely and effective implementation of the project-specific GAP and <i>pourashava</i> -specific GAPS.	
4. Monitoring tools: The PMO will develop a sex-disaggregated qualitative and quantitative monitoring reporting format and distribute it among relevant officers in the <i>pourashavas</i> .	

^a Government of Bangladesh. 2011. *Sixth Five-Year Plan: 2011–2015*. Dhaka.