

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

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| Country: | Bangladesh | Project Title: | Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project |
| Lending/Financing Modality: | Project | Department/Division: | South Asia Regional Department/ Urban Development and Water Division |

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Targeting classification: Targeted Intervention

The project will contribute to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, target 3: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Through development of a new surface water source, the project will increase the coverage of piped water supply system with improved quality.

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

Bangladesh has made steady progress in poverty reduction. Income poverty incidence declined from 58.8% in FY1992 to 31.5% in FY2010. The poverty ratio continues to be higher in rural areas (35.2%) than in urban areas (21.3%), but urban poverty reduction is very important for the country's economic and social development. While Bangladesh achieved an 8.5% reduction of the poverty ratio from FY2005 to FY2010, it remains relatively unchanged in Dhaka—reduced only slightly from 32.0% to 30.5%, mainly because of in-migration from poorer regions. The Sixth Five Year Plan, 2011–2015 stresses investment to ensure the availability of safe water and good sanitation for improving the living standards of the poor, especially to address urban poverty.^a The Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) Strategy 2020 prioritizes investment for inclusive urban growth to make cities more livable, ensuring water supply and sanitation (WSS) improvement.^b The Bangladesh country partnership strategy (CPS), 2011–2015 commits to contributing to the government's five year plan goals and targets for enhancing growth and reducing poverty.^c The urban sector, including WSS, is one of the six priority sectors of the Bangladesh CPS. The CPS intends to promote an inclusive growth process by improving the management of water resources and to help the government expand sustainable safe WSS, and improving urban public health by expanding access to clean water in Dhaka by 2015.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. A large proportion of the population in and around Dhaka lives in slum settlements in highly congested areas, with poor quality housing that is extremely vulnerable to seasonal flooding. In Bangladesh, diarrhea caused by poor WSS is the second leading cause of morbidity and the fourth leading cause of death among children. Slum dwellers do not have regular employment, so families have no income security. Dhaka has a shortage of basic services, including potable water. The Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) does not fully cater to the urban poor and the water supply system has about 30% nonrevenue water (NRW). Basic services are limited for the poor because most slums are not recognized as legal and the utility companies are reluctant to provide services, including water connections, to people without land tenure. The slums are often controlled by *mastaans* (local powerful groups), and the inhabitants of the slums and other low-income communities depend on illegal water lines with high charges (Tk150–Tk300 per month per household) mostly managed by local *mastaans*. Some slum dwellers pay as much as Tk2 per bucket of water or Tk5 for a 5 liter jar, when the tariff charged by DWASA is only Tk7 for 1,000 liters. The poor also have to pay transport costs when the water is brought from outside their area. In some areas, water is available for a limited time (as low as 7 minutes per family per day) and there may be no fixed time for water supply—aggravating the suffering and uncertainty. People can wait in long queues to receive their ration of water until midnight, which creates conflict among users. Water quality is a problem because of contamination mainly related to the use and leakage of rubber pipes to collect water from unauthorized sources.

2. Beneficiaries. The public in Dhaka, including the poor, will benefit from the project. They will benefit from the increased service hours of pressurized water supply—from 14–15 hours per day to 24 hours per day in part of zones 4 and 10 within the service areas of Gandharbpur water treatment plant (WTP), and from 22.5 hours to 24 hours in zones 5, 6, 8, and 9. In zone 6, where the distribution network improvement will be implemented, low-income communities will benefit from higher coverage and increased supply.

3. Impact channels. The project will strengthen the distribution system, and include regularization of the existing illegal connections in low-income communities. This will significantly reduce the cost of water by installing metered connections. The poor and vulnerable will also benefit from employment opportunities during construction. To enhance awareness on water use, water quality, public hygiene, and water tariffs, public awareness campaign activities will be implemented.

4. Other social and poverty issues. Dhaka city suffers from unplanned urban development, growth of the urban population, and inadequate services. Problems include unemployment for the growing population, lack of health care services, uncoordinated delivery of services, deteriorating law and order, and traffic congestion. These are addressed through different projects supported by ADB and other development partners.

5. Design features. The project will expand water supply coverage in Dhaka city by developing a new surface water supply system, including a water intake at Meghna River and a new WTP at Gandharbpur. The project includes rehabilitation of 376 kilometers (km) of water distribution network and rehabilitation of 32,000 connections in zone 6, which intends to reduce NRW to 15% or less. Some 500 metered community or household water points will be installed in low-income communities, enabling the poor to obtain water at a lower cost.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness
The project will improve access to water supply for the low-income communities, and ensure participation of the poor and women in consultation, planning for resettlement work, site selection of community connection points, community awareness raising, hygiene education, and formation of community-based organizations (CBOs). A gender action plan (GAP) and consultation and participation plan have been prepared.

2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation.
CBOs will be established and/or strengthened in low-income communities to enhance regularization of existing illegal connections and the introduction of new ones. Nongovernment organizations (NGOs) will be engaged to facilitate the participation of communities, including women and the poor.

3. Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation.
The role of NGOs in the implementation and monitoring of the resettlement plan and the GAP has been incorporated. This includes awareness raising and community mobilization activities in low-income communities.

4. What forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation? Indicate in each box the level of participation by marking high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (N)

(M) Information gathering and sharing (H) Consultation (M) Collaboration (L) 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?

Yes.

NGOs will be engaged to assist the smooth implementation of resettlement plans and the GAP, including organizing CBOs, providing training, disseminating information, and raising awareness to strengthen the participation of the public including the poor and women.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming

A. Key issues. Women are responsible for collecting and managing water. Water supply in Dhaka city, especially in low-income communities, is often unreliable, intermittent, and illegal. These factors require women and girls to spend more time securing water of satisfactory quality and quantity. Water-borne diseases and the household health situation of people living in slum areas also create a burden on women's workload, time use, and productive employment. Sometimes, availability of water depends on the willingness of the land owner. Quantity becomes an issue during the dry season, and contamination is problematic in the rainy season—affecting household health and cleanliness. Women are generally excluded from decision making, and their views and voices are rarely valued in the social context. In recent years, NGOs have involved women in the water management committee of water supply projects. Women have been found active in water management, maintaining water points (including periodic cleaning of the reservoir), repairing minor technical damages, collecting bills, monitoring and keeping records of meter reading, and repaying capital investment (if community contribution is included) to NGOs.

B. Key actions. A GAP has been developed under which households in low-income communities, including those headed by women, have access to water supply through 500 community or household connections (legalized or new connections). This will reduce the burden in collecting water for the family and managing household health. Women's role in water management will be strengthened through participation and leadership in CBOs. The opportunity to participate in training and awareness will help develop their capacity and they will obtain economic benefits from the envisaged 20% employment opportunities as unskilled labor in construction works. The GAP will be monitored through the collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender-based analysis. The capacity of DWASA staff will be strengthened in addressing gender-based needs and promoting a participatory process. In all CBOs and water management committees, two women on each committee will be trained on operation and maintenance (O&M).

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. Significant involuntary land acquisition and resettlement impacts are identified for the construction of the water intake, Gandharbpur WTP, and laying raw and treated water pipelines. A total of 128.2 hectares (ha) of land—consisting of 54.8 ha of government land (including DWASA's) and 73.4 ha of privately owned land—will be required for this output. This land acquisition will cause 1,248 households with a total population of 5,342 to be either physically or economically displaced, with 528 households or 2,259 persons experiencing major impacts. Only temporary impacts on business and commercial activities for a maximum of 5 days are envisaged for the distribution reinforcements and

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| network improvement under this project. |
| 2. Strategy to address the impacts. Two draft resettlement plans were prepared for mitigating the involuntary resettlement impacts from the Gandharbpur WTP and network improvement components. A resettlement framework was prepared to guide the resettlement plan preparation of the distribution reinforcement component during detailed design. The terms of reference for developing the livelihood and income rehabilitation program for the affected households and communities in the WTP component are included in the draft resettlement plan. Highly qualified NGOs will be engaged to facilitate the finalization and implementation of the resettlement plans. The recruited NGOs will also support awareness raising and information sharing. Provision of compensation, a grievance redress mechanism, and budget for human resources and resettlement have been incorporated in the draft resettlement plans. A safeguards implementation unit, with a social safeguards officer in the project management unit (PMU), will take charge of resettlement-related activities, supported by experts in the consultants' team. |
| 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. No indigenous community, nor small ethnic communities identified in the project areas based on the results of social impact assessment by the PPTA consultants. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable |
| 3. Plan or other actions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action |
| 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. No adverse impact apprehended. The project will generate employment opportunities in construction works. |
| B. Affordability. Legalization and expansion of metered water connections will reduce the price for accessing water supply by low-income communities. A willingness-to-pay survey confirmed affordability 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. |
| VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION |
| 1. Targets and indicators. Average hours of supply in selected zones will increase from 14–15 hours to 24 hours by 2019. Women will receive 20% employment opportunity as construction laborers. A 55.5 km new pipeline will be constructed, and 32,000 connections will be rehabilitated. |
| 2. Required human resources. Management and supervision consultants will be engaged to update resettlement plans and strengthen DWASA's capacity for gender mainstreaming and support to the poor. NGOs will be recruited to assist the implementation of resettlement plans. Budget for these activities has been incorporated. |
| 3. Information in PAM. The PMU will establish a project performance management system (PPMS) using the targets, indicators, assumptions, and risks in the design and monitoring framework. The baseline data, corresponding to indicators and targets set out in the design and monitoring framework and PPMS, will be gathered during the detailed design stage, within 6 months of the commencement of design work, disaggregated by income levels and sex, and will be updated and reported through quarterly progress reports. The results of a comprehensive completion survey will be included in the project completion report. The terms of reference of the external monitoring agency and NGOs for assisting in the implementation of the resettlement plan, and a sample of the grievance redress mechanism form and project information document, are provided in the annex to the Project Administration Manual. |
| 4. Monitoring tools. The PMU will submit separate semiannual environmental and resettlement monitoring reports to ADB, which will be disclosed on ADB's website. The PMU will ensure that the status of GAP implementation is reflected in monitoring and evaluation formats and reports. Implementation of the environmental management plans and resettlement plans will be discussed at each ADB review. Since the involuntary resettlement category is A, an external monitoring agency will be engaged. |

^a Government of Bangladesh. 2011. *Sixth Five Year Plan: FY2011–FY2015*. Dhaka.

^b ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

^c ADB. 2011. *Country Partnership Strategy: Bangladesh, 2011–2015*. Manila.

Source: Asian Development Bank.