

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	<input type="text" value="Bangladesh"/>	Project Title:	<input type="text" value="Main River Flood and Bank Erosion Risk Management Program"/>
Lending/Financing Modality:	<input type="text" value="Multitranche Financing Facility"/>	Department/ Division:	<input type="text" value="South Asia Department (SARD), Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (SAER)"/>

I. POVERTY ISSUES

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

Improved riverbank protection and flood risk management are critical for reducing the regional divide of growth, enhancing the capabilities of the poor and helping them access the economic opportunities of development. Bangladesh has already made considerable progress in reducing poverty and is making good progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There has been a steady reduction in extreme rural poverty, with the headcount ratio (i.e. the proportion of the population below \$1.25/day per person of the poverty line) declining from 66.4% in 1992 to 49.6% in 2005. However, the momentum of this gain has now slowed somewhat because of the recurring impacts of price increases and natural disasters.

The National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) II has a number of strategic blocks supported directly by this project. These include the need to diversify and invigorate agricultural areas; to improve infrastructure to provide services to poorer people such as the landless, destitute, ethnic minorities, women and children, the unemployed and poor; and to protect the vulnerable poor from falling into further poverty, with particular attention given to food security and disaster management. The Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) (2011-2015) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Bangladesh aims to assist Bangladesh in addressing critical constraints to broad-based economic growth, social development, and good governance, including, in cooperation with other development partners, improving Bangladesh's ability to prepare for and manage risks arising from floods and other natural disasters. In addition, building the capacity of local governments to increase local participation for ensuring effective use and sustainability of rural infrastructure has been identified as a key issue to be addressed.

The proposed Project is consistent with the government's draft Sixth Five Year Development Plan for 2011-2015, NSAPR II and the ADB CPS. It will apply an adaptive approach to protect land and people from floods and erosion of the dynamic main rivers. Infrastructure construction and improvement activities under the Project will directly generate employment for the poor and women. Institutional strengthening of the riverbank erosion and flood risk management functions of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will further enhance sustainable risk management in the medium term.

B. Targeting Classification

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs

Riverbank erosion along the main rivers is a prominent problem in Bangladesh, and is a perennial phenomenon caused by dynamic channel shifting of the rivers within the floodplain. Such erosion frequently destroys land, assets and infrastructure, and poses a repeated threat to people's lives and assets. Uncertainty in the face of frequent floods and riverbank erosion prevents investment in infrastructure and of the poor themselves in higher value agriculture and small business. As such, poverty is higher in riverine districts. Investments in erosion prevention can be viewed as investments in prevention of migration to more vulnerable locations and urban slums.

C. Poverty Analysis

1. If the project is classified as TI-H, or if it is policy-based, what type of poverty impact analysis is needed? n/a

2. What resources are allocated in the PPTA/due diligence?

The project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA) has allocated 5 international person months (pm) of social development/resettlement specialist who will work in cooperation with 2 pm of Environmental Specialist and 7.5 national pm of consultants' time (Social and Gender Specialist 5.5 pm, Resettlement Specialist 2 pm) to conduct a social and poverty analysis and further define and address all safeguard requirements.

3. If general intervention (GI), is there any opportunity for pro-poor design (e.g., social inclusion subcomponents, cross subsidy, pro-poor governance, and pro-poor growth)? Please explain.

Opportunities for pro poor design will be further explored during the PPTA. The project will impact upon the poorest and most marginalized people, who have lost land to the river and have moved to informal settlements on the most vulnerable land on the riverbanks. These people will either benefit from riverbank protection or else be required to relocate, for which project assistance will be given. A project component addressing livelihood development for

project-relocated families is likely to be provided.

II. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

A. Initial Social Analysis

Based on existing information:

1. Who are the potential primary beneficiaries of the project? How do the poor and the socially excluded benefit from the project?

Riverbank erosion displaces 100,000 people in Bangladesh each year, most of whom are already critically poor, who are then deprived of assets and forced to move to riverine fringe land, embankments and urban slums. The river side population will benefit through avoided loss of land and assets, protection and enhancement of agricultural and fishery production within the embankments, increased economic activity due to the project and ongoing maintenance, increased security of population, livestock and assets, and strengthening of local institutions for sustainable risk management in the medium term.

2. What are the potential needs of beneficiaries in relation to the proposed project?

A poverty and social analysis will be carried out through the PPTA to identify the socio-economic profile of the population in the two or three feasibility study areas proposed for inclusion in tranche-1, expected benefits, competing needs and constraints, and the ability of the poor and vulnerable groups to benefit from the Project.

3. What are the potential constraints in accessing the proposed benefits and services, and how will the project address them?

Efforts will be made to address potential constraints if identified during the PPTA study, including ensuring continued access of the local population to the river water for agriculture, inland and coastal fishing, transportation and domestic water supply.

B. Consultation and Participation

1. Indicate the potential initial stakeholders.

Government: BWDB, Disaster Management Bureau, local governments. Nongovernment: NGOs and civil society organizations, private sector, community user groups, river transport operators. People who live and work along the riverbanks.

2. What type of consultation and participation (C&P) is required during the PPTA or project processing?

Stakeholder workshops, community mobilization, involvement of nongovernment organizations and community-based organizations.

3. What level of participation is envisaged for project design?

Information sharing Consultation Collaborative decision making Empowerment

4. Will a C&P plan be prepared during the project design for project implementation? Yes No

C. Gender and Development

Proposed Gender Mainstreaming Category: EGM

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project/program?

Key gender issues related to river erosion and flooding are relatively higher threat of mortality (women are less likely to have strong swimming skills) and morbidity (water borne diseases, role of care giving for the sick and injured). Loss of land, homes and assets is especially disempowering for women, who become even more dependent on male relatives. Related gender issues include time spent by women collecting and transporting water, under-representation of women in decision making on systems that impact their lives and livelihoods, and discrimination/harassment faced by women in the visible workforce. Constraints to equitable participation include high workloads, gender discrimination, lack of education and awareness, and consequently low absorption capacities regarding new development opportunities. Additionally the traditional role of middle class and poor Bangladeshi women, tied to domestic duties, and women's weaker position at community level also leaves them as less influential members in community decision making.

2. Does the proposed project/program have the potential to promote gender equality and/or women's empowerment by improving women's access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?

Yes No Please explain.

A project gender analysis will be undertaken and a gender action plan will be prepared during PPTA/due diligence

with reference to the ADB Gender checklist for water projects.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or to widen gender inequality?
 Yes No

III. SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES AND OTHER SOCIAL RISKS

Issue	Nature of Social Issue	Significant/ Limited/ No Impact/ Not Known	Plan or Other Action Required
Involuntary Resettlement	The PPTA will identify land acquisition & resettlement required by the project, preliminary thought to be about 4,000 people (tentative), most of them may be illegal settlers, over a 25 km of riverbank area based on the previous project.	Significant. PPTA will aim to produce one resettlement plan for each of 3 feasibility studies to be prepared for Tranche-1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Framework <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain
Indigenous Peoples (IP)	Based on the previous project and known locations of Bangladesh's IP populations, it is unlikely IPs will be among the project impacted people. An environmental assessment review framework will be drafted as this is an MFF project.	No impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and Social Management System Arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain
Labor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Core Labor Standards		Not known	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other Action <input type="checkbox"/> No Action <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain
Affordability			<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain
Other Risks and/or Vulnerabilities <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Human Trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (conflict, political instability, etc.), please specify		Not known	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain

IV. PPTA/DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT

1. Do the TOR for the PPTA (or other due diligence) include poverty, social and gender analysis and the relevant specialist/s?
 Yes No

2. Are resources (consultants, survey budget, and workshop) allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and C&P during the PPTA/due diligence? Yes No