

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	BANGLADESH	Project Title:	Coastal Towns Environmental Infrastructure Project
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Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/Division:	South Asia Department/Urban Development and Water Division
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<p>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</p> <p>Targeting classification: Targeted Intervention—Geographic</p> <p>Coastal areas have a poverty incidence of about 50%, which exceeds the national average of about 31.5%, and are highly vulnerable to the climate change impacts. The project will address the constraints to addressing urban poverty in coastal area (namely, limited access to basic municipal services, primarily water supply and sanitation facilities), and will help communities increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters through improved disaster preparedness, public awareness, governance, urban planning, and construction. The project will also make broader improvements in local governance to improve citizen participation and ensure services are more responsive to the needs of the poor in coastal communities.</p> <p>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</p> <p>Bangladesh has made steady progress in reducing poverty. The income poverty incidence declined from 58.8% in 1991–1992 to 31.5% in 2010. Rural poverty is 35.2% and urban poverty is 21.3%; reducing urban poverty is major goal on the country’s economic and social development agenda. Although poverty declined by 8.5% during 2005–2010 in Bangladesh as a whole, poverty remains relatively unchanged in large cities such as Dhaka (where it fell from 32.0% to 30.5%); it remains high mainly as a result of migration from poorer regions. Climate change is a critical development issue that threatens to reverse any gains. Bangladesh’s Sixth Five-Year Plan targets assistance to the most vulnerable and poorest coastal populations, including women and children, requiring investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and urban planning, and stresses investments to ensure the availability of safe water and good sanitation to improve the living standards of the poor, and in particular to address urban poverty.^a ADB’s Strategy 2020 prioritizes investment for inclusive urban growth to make cities more livable by ensuring water supply and sanitation improvements.^b The Bangladesh country partnership strategy (CPS) (2011–2015) targets assistance to vulnerable coastal areas in adapting to the risks of climate change, and aims to contribute to the government’s Sixth Five-Year plan goals and targets for enhancing growth and reducing poverty. The urban sector, including water supply and sanitation, is one of the six priority sectors under the current CPS.</p> <p>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence</p> <p>1. Key poverty and social issues. Poverty levels in coastal towns are estimated at around 50%. The project preparatory TA baseline survey 2013 revealed that 6% of households in Pirojpur and Mathbaria and 55% of households in Galachipa and Amtali belong to poor and extremely poor groups, based on asset ownership, type of housing and stated expenditures.^c The four batch 1 towns collectively have 41 slums, which are home to 18% of the total batch 1 population. However, the lack of infrastructure access is observed across socioeconomic groups, and is not confined to the slum populations. Large proportions of the batch 1 town populations (61% in Amtali, 64% in Pirojpur, 73.5% in Galachipa and 100% in Mathbaria), which include both slums and non-slums, lack access to household water connections. They obtain water from tubewells, standposts, pond sand filters, and other alternate sources that are contaminated by high salinity and/or arsenic. Few households lack access to individual or shared toilet facilities (0.5%–1.5%) in Pirojpur, Mathbaria and Amtali, while Galachipa reports 7% households without individual or shared sanitation facilities. However, despite high sanitation coverage at the household level, field visits indicate that a majority of the toilets discharge wastewater into ring slabs and pits which are often poorly constructed, while others discharge directly into drains causing public and environmental health risks and a poor living environment. The baseline project preparatory TA survey found 40% of the surveyed population in Pirojpur, about 60% in Amtali and Galachipa, and as many as 67% in Mathbaria reported diarrhea in the previous 6 months. Most households (>60%) presently dispose of solid waste into water bodies or nearby open spaces.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries. The general public in the coastal towns—including the most vulnerable and poorest, and including women and children—will benefit from the project through reduced flooding, water logging, and less exposure to poor quality drinking water and sanitation systems. The poor and vulnerable groups, including women, will be targeted by awareness building and livelihood training programs. Direct beneficiaries (persons) in the eight towns are estimated as follows: cyclone shelters: 34,800; drainage: 123,700; sanitation: 57,000; water: 55,300. Approximately 4,800 persons will directly benefit from livelihood training, and 200,000 from awareness campaigns (output 2). Approximately 229,000 people will be indirect beneficiaries.</p> <p>3. Impact channels. The poor will directly benefit from improved access to critical climate-resilient infrastructure (drainage, water, sanitation, emergency access) and improved participation in local government through the formation of town and ward-level committees. Options will enable poor households to pay for connection fees in installments (this is required by a loan covenant) and free metered standposts will be promoted in poor areas. Community-based groups will be formed in poor communities to ensure sustainability of community facilities provided under the project.</p>

The poor and vulnerable will benefit from targeted livelihood and awareness-building programs and project-generated employment opportunities in construction.

4. **Other social and poverty issues.** Coastal towns suffer from many problems related to unplanned urban development, urban population growth, and inadequate services, especially development in vulnerable areas outside protective embankments. These problems result in out-migration to larger city centers, which lack the capacity to absorb large numbers of migrants, resulting in large slum populations. Moreover, child labor in Bangladesh is not strictly regulated in compliance with international standards and enforcement is mostly ineffective. Children are found to perform a wide range of jobs in all sectors. This requires close and effective monitoring to ensure strict compliance with international standards.

5. **Design features.** The project will strengthen climate resilience and disaster preparedness in eight vulnerable coastal *pourashavas* (secondary towns) of Bangladesh. The project takes a holistic, integrated, and pro-poor approach to urban development and will (i) provide climate-resilient municipal infrastructure; and (ii) strengthen institutional capacity, local governance, and public awareness, for improved planning and service delivery considering climate change and disaster risks. Key infrastructure investments include (i) drainage; (ii) water supply; (iii) sanitation; (iv) cyclone shelters; and (v) other municipal infrastructure, including emergency access roads and bridges, solid waste management, bus terminals, slum improvements, boat landings, and markets.

C. Poverty Impact Analysis for Policy-Based Lending: not applicable

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

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

The project will improve access to critical climate-proofed infrastructure to reduce disaster risk. The project will form local user groups for both men and women and mobilize communities to participate in urban planning and awareness campaigns for disaster preparedness. Ward and town-level coordination committees will be formed. A GAP and consultation and participation plan were prepared and are included in the PAM.

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 poor areas to enhance operation and maintenance of community standposts and toilet facilities. Local community mobilizers 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.

The role of civil society in implementation includes awareness-raising and community mobilization activities in poor areas.

4. What forms of civil society organization participation is 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 **M** 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 engaged under the consulting firm promote participation during implementation.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: GEN

A. Key issues. The group most vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change includes women, who lack the needed resources to invest in preventive and protective measures, such as disaster-resilient housing. Reaching women requires gender-sensitive intervention designs such as the provision of separate facilities for women in cyclone shelters. However, only an estimated 35% of existing cyclone shelters have separate facilities for women. Gender-sensitive investments include livelihood diversification, and investments in human and social capital (including training, education, and community-based disaster-risk management) in order to strengthen local resilience to climate change. In some areas in Bangladesh women are paid 30%–45% less than men. Bangladesh has ratified most conventions of the International Labour Organization, but gender discrimination remains, and requires close monitoring.

B. Key actions. Provision of climate and disaster-related services will benefit women by improving access to and the quality of cyclone shelters (with separate women's areas and toilets), reducing the burden women face in fetching water for families, and improving their health from reduced exposure to unhygienic conditions. They will participate in community-related decisions in CBOs and town and ward-level committees. Focused livelihood and awareness-raising campaigns will target women, enabling them to improve their skills and understanding for improved social well-being. Women will be encouraged to play a major role in CBOs and town and ward-level committees. Women will have equal opportunity to participate in project-supported training programs. Core labor standards, including equal wages for women and men for work of equal value, will be ensured. Resources have been allocated for implementing and monitoring the GAP.

Gender action plan Other actions or measures No action or measure

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
<p>Key impacts. Four draft resettlement plans for sample subprojects located in four of eight project towns were prepared in compliance with the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). A resettlement framework was prepared to guide social safeguards assessments. No significant impacts are anticipated for the project. The draft resettlement plans assessed all major civil works and concluded a total of 153 affected persons will experience impacts, and 226 will experience temporary impacts in the sample subprojects. Private land acquisition (4.45 hectares) is required in Mathbaria and Pirojpur for water and septage treatment plants. Impacts to structures (shops, homes, and boundary walls) and trees will also occur. A resettlement framework was prepared to guide the project team in preparing safeguards documents for future subprojects. Avoiding and/or minimizing the involuntary resettlement impacts are included in the subproject selection criteria, as stated in the PAM.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Four sample resettlement plans for each town and a resettlement framework.</p> <p>3. Plan or other Actions.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework</p>	
B. Indigenous Peoples	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
<p>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 project preparatory TA consultants.</p> <p>Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p>	
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS	
A. Risks in the Labor Market	
<p>1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> core labor standards</p> <p>2. Labor market impact: No adverse impact apprehended. The project will generate employment opportunities in construction works.</p>	
B. Affordability: New tariffs will amount to 3% or less of poor household incomes, as confirmed by project preparatory TA. Poor households can pay connection fees in installments.	
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
<p>1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):</p> <p>Low Communicable diseases Low Human trafficking</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) Not applicable</p> <p>2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area. Not applicable</p>	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
<p>1. Targets and indicators: Included in DMF and Consultation and Participation Plan. Core labor standards will be closely monitored and strictly enforced during contract document preparation and construction period.</p> <p>2. Required human resources: PMU and PIU staff will be responsible for overseeing project implementation and will be assisted by the gender and social development expert, public awareness and communication expert, and community mobilizers on the ICCDC, and the resettlement specialist at PMSC.</p> <p>3. Information in PAM: GAP and Consultation and Participation Plan.</p> <p>4. Monitoring tools: Baseline data (disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, social and economic status) for output and outcome indicators will be collected. The PMU will be responsible for submitting quarterly progress reports on the GAP. The PMU, with assistance from PMSC safeguard specialist, will be responsible for preparing compliance and safeguards monitoring reports on a semiannual basis. ADB will review the project twice per year, along with midterm and project completion reviews to evaluate in detail the progress of all social and gender related activities. Core labor standards will be monitored through periodic and random inspections during ADB loan review missions. This will also be reported in ADB safeguards monitoring reports.</p>	

^a Planning Commission. Ministry of Planning. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 2011. Sixth Five Year Plan, FY2011-FY2015. Dhaka.

^b ADB. 2008. Strategy 2020: Working for an Asia and Pacific Free of Poverty. Manila.

^c ADB. 2013. *Final Report: Technical Assistance to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for Preparing the Coastal Towns Infrastructure Improvement Project*. Manila

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CBO = community based organization, CPS = country partnership strategy, DMF = design monitoring framework, GAP = gender action plan, ICCDC = institutional capacity and community development consultant, PIU = project implementation unit, PMSC = project management supervision consultant, PMU = project management unit, TA = technical assistance.

Source: Asian Development Bank