

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSA1007

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 26-Aug-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 02-Sep-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Country: | Bangladesh | Project ID: | P146520 |
| Project Name: | Income Support for the Poorest through Local Government (P146520) | | |
| Task Team Leader: | Iffath Anwar Sharif | | |
| Estimated Appraisal Date: | 24-Aug-2014 | Estimated Board Date: | 01-Dec-2014 |
| Managing Unit: | GSPDR | Lending Instrument: | Investment Project Financing |
| Sector(s): | Other social services (90%), Public administration- Other social services (10%) | | |
| Theme(s): | Social safety nets (70%), Nutrition and food security (15%), Child health (15%) | | |
| Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)? | | | No |
| Financing (In USD Million) | | | |
| Total Project Cost: | 315.00 | Total Bank Financing: | 300.00 |
| Financing Gap: | 0.00 | | |
| Financing Source | | | Amount |
| BORROWER/RECIPIENT | | | 15.00 |
| International Development Association (IDA) | | | 300.00 |
| Total | | | 315.00 |
| Environmental Category: | C - Not Required | | |
| Is this a Repeater project? | No | | |

2. Project Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to benefit the poorest households with coordinated safety net delivery at the local level to improve their access to basic child nutrition and development services.

3. Project Description

To achieve the PDO the project will be implemented in 28 of the poorest Upazilas (UPs) and cover about 500,000 families over a five year period. The proposed project will support three components

via an Investment Project Financing (IPF) amounting to approximately USD 300 million and GoB contribution of approximately USD 15 million for a period of five years (FY15-19), and will be implemented by LGD of MoLGRD&C.

Component 1: Cash transfers for beneficiary households (USD 260 million). This component will finance quarterly cash transfers to eligible households. Eligibility will be determined by the following two characteristics: (i) household will have to belong to the bottom two expenditure quintiles, and b) such households must have pregnant women and/or mothers of children below the age of 60 months. There would be four types of co-responsibilities depending on the household demographic composition (see Table 3 below). Cash transfers will be given conditional on utilizing the following services: (i) up to 3 antenatal care visits by pregnant beneficiaries; (ii) monthly growth monitoring (GM) of children from 0-24 months; (iii) quarterly GM for children from 2 to 5 years of age; (iv) monthly attendance at child nutrition and development (CND) awareness sessions by all eligible women. The incentives emphasize the importance of GM among 0 to 24 month old children, and that of growth promotion and child development awareness among all children below 5. There is a natural exit mechanism whereby the maternal benefit will end once the mother gives birth, and the child cash transfer will cease once the child reaches 5 five years of age. Further details regarding program rules including possible exceptions will be described in the Shombhob Operations Manual.

To remain consistent with the Government family planning policy, each household will be entitled to benefit payments for only the first and second born child. This implies the average size of the monthly benefit would be about BDT 1000 or about USD 15, which would be around 3% of the estimated 2013 monthly per capita income in Bangladesh and about 10% of the national poverty line. The benefit amount will be indexed to national inflation rates. Evidence from CCT programs in other developing countries suggest limited labor disincentive impacts especially when the level of benefits is within 20 percent of household income.

Component 2: Strengthening local level capacity and coordination (USD 50 million). This component would provide the necessary inputs to LGD to facilitate the implementation of the proposed cash transfers. This will include strengthening the capacity of: (i) Union Parishads (i.e. union level elected councils) to supervise beneficiary enrolment and administer grievance redress mechanisms; (ii) Community Clinics (CCs) to deliver the ANC and GM services, and the CND awareness sessions; and (iii) union Post Offices to make electronic payments to beneficiaries using the Postal Cash Cards (PCCs) upon compliance with co-responsibilities. To facilitate the Union Parishad activities, a “Safety Net Beneficiary Cell” (SNC) will be established at the existing Union Parishad Offices, staffed by one Safety Net Program Assistant (SPA). An enrolment agency will be hired to support in managing the initial large volumes of enrolments in Shombhob in the first two years of implementation. The SNC will mainly liaise with the elected members of the Union Parishad and will report to the local level administration officials (namely the Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO)). Training of the relevant government officials to implement a grievance redress system through the office of the UNO and District Commissioner (DC) will also be financed.

Given the legal mandate of Union Parishads to support the implementation of all SSNs, the SNCs will function as a safety net “one stop shop” for providing citizens with information on these programs, their eligibility criteria, etc. The SPA will be responsible for facilitating this information, and for compiling the beneficiary lists (and their updates through new enrolments) major SSNs that operate nationally (e.g. EGPP, FFW, TR, Vulnerable Group Feeding, Gratuitous Relief, Old Age Allowance, Widow Allowance, etc.) in addition to managing the Shombhob beneficiary lists. Such local level coordination will allow SNCs to track SSN beneficiaries receiving benefits from different

programs in each Union. This information can eventually feed into the central level beneficiary registry tracking system being developed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) with support from DFID, and the MoDMR for its programs (FFW, EGPP, TR, VGF and GR) as part of the SNSP project.

To ensure regularity in service provision by the CCs that allow the fulfillment of beneficiary co-responsibility, and to avoid over-burdening the CC staff, a NGO will be hired to extend ANC services and GM services to the Shombhob beneficiaries. This NGO will also be responsible for offering the awareness sessions on CND. To support the BPO payments system, the component will help procure the hardware and software needed to install a biometric-enabled system that links electronic payments with beneficiary unique identity and compliance with their respective co-responsibilities. This IT-enabled system will allow for better coordination between the three sets of community institutions – the SNC, the CC, and the PO (Post Office). Once the payments platform is set up, it can be availed by other cash based SSNs to adopt similar electronic payments.

The coordination between these three local entities will be supervised by the UNO (as per the rules of business) who will be assisted by a Safety Net Program Supervisor (SPS). The SPS will liaise with: (i) Regional Statistics Officers (RSOs) of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) to determine the beneficiary lists from the Bangladesh Poverty Database (BPD), (ii) the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) to ensure all beneficiaries possess the unique National Identification (NID) number; (iii) the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO). All of these activities will be underpinned by an Operations Manual, as well as MOUs signed by LGD with BBS, BEC, and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), and a service agreement signed with Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MoPT).

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation (USD 5 million) A robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework will be critical to assess progress in achieving the project's objectives, and the impact of cash transfers on household poverty and on CND outcomes. This component will thus provide the necessary inputs to set up a project level Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (MEU) at LGD to monitor beneficiary selection, enrolment, compliance with co-responsibilities, payments, case management as well as any grievances or appeals. To facilitate these activities, this component will develop an automated Management Information System (MIS) by building on the existing Shombhob Pilot MIS. This MIS will be linked to the MIS set up by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to share data on service utilization by Shombhob beneficiaries. In addition, an effort will be made to develop an interface with the MISs being built by BBS, MoF and MoDMR to allow central review of beneficiary information.

To ensure that the project activities are being carried out effectively, this component will also support third party monitoring which will cover: (i) an annual evaluation of the project cycle processes to assess administrative issues and constraints for a sample of locations; and (ii) bi-annual KAP assessments on a random sample of beneficiaries to track project outcomes. These assessments will help to assess and identify areas that require remedial measures and course correction, and thus will be used to inform necessary changes and updates needed to the Operations Manual. Additionally both qualitative and quantitative evaluations will be conducted to assess the impact of the project activities on household poverty and CND outcomes based on household level surveys.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The proposed project will be located in 5 of the poorest districts with a total poor population of over

one million households. The districts were selected based on the following criteria: (i) Upazila level poverty rate and (ii) the probability of under-nutrition among children below the age of five. A supply side assessment of these services was conducted in the proposed locations to ascertain the availability of these services. The assessment found that while most of the Union Parishad Complexes are well established, not all Community Clinics (CC) are well-equipped to deliver all of the ANC and growth monitoring services. The proposed project will provide reinforcements where needed - including providing the services of NGO(s) to avoid over-burdening existing CC staff and procuring growth monitoring equipment and medical instruments.

The project will work in areas where ethnic communities live as confirmed by a Social Assessment that was carried out. OP 4.10 has been triggered for the project and a Small Ethnic Communities Plan has been prepared and disclosed. The Plan was prepared on the basis of feedback from extensive consultation with ethnic communities. Regular consultations will continue to be held with them in accordance with the Plan throughout implementation of the project. The PMU will prepare an annual report on compliance with social safeguards as required by the World Bank.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Shakil Ahmed Ferdausi (GENDR)

Sabah Moyeen (GURDR)

| 6. Safeguard Policies | Triggered? | Explanation (Optional) |
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| Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01 | No | Environmental impact is not envisaged under the project activities. |
| Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04 | No | |
| Forests OP/BP 4.36 | No | |
| Pest Management OP 4.09 | No | |
| Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11 | No | |
| Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 | Yes | There is presence of ethnic communities in the proposed project locations. The project has prepared a Small Ethnic Communities Plan to ensure maximum coverage of ethnic populations which fall within the eligibility criteria (i.e. poverty and other demographic characteristics) through consultation and dissemination of project information in a participatory manner. |
| Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12 | No | |
| Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37 | No | |
| Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50 | No | |

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| Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60 | No | |
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II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

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| <p>1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:</p> <p>Environmental impact is not envisaged under the proposed project activities.</p> <p>The proposed project covers locations with the presence of small ethnic communities, specifically in Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts. The ethnic communities in these districts are mostly Garo. Garos are largely mixed with mainstream Bengali communities. Their medium of communication is Bangla although they have their own dialect as well.</p> <p>The proposed project activities will not have any adverse social impacts on ethnic communities or other social groups. Rather, the proposed project is expected to provide benefits to poor peoples though better maternity and child healthcare knowledge and practices through provision of services and cash transfers.</p> |
| <p>2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:</p> <p>There are no foreseeable impacts of anticipate future activities.</p> |
| <p>3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.</p> <p>There are no adverse impacts associated with the proposed project and thus no project alternative was considered.</p> |
| <p>4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.</p> <p>The Local Government Division (LGD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperative will be the implementing agency under the proposed project. LGD has implemented a number of Bank projects, including the Local Governance Support Program (LGSP I and II) which has strengthened safeguard capacity at both central and UP levels. Studies carried out during the Mid-Term Review (MTR) for LGSP I confirm adherence to the ESMF guidelines and indicate that UPs are able to prioritize needs and implement projects in ways that reflect the participatory process.</p> <p>A Small Ethnic Communities Plan (SECP) has been prepared following extensive consultation with stakeholders (ethnic communities, ethnic community leaders, local government officials) in sample locations and describes the principles, procedures and organizational arrangements that will be applied under the project. The SECP will be made available to ethnic communities in the project areas in a language, form and manner understandable to them.</p> |
| <p>5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</p> <p>The SECP provides for informed consultations during implementation of the project as well as conducting public information campaigns to ensure that stakeholders (i.e. ethnic communities, ethnic community leaders, local government officials, local government elected officials) and</p> |

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| <p>eligible beneficiaries are aware of program rules, entitlements and grievance redress mechanisms under the project. This may include cultural activities at the Upazila and Union level, using popular folk media and singers to promote awareness of the services and benefits provided through the program.</p> <p>The Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), other relevant government officials, Union Parishad chairman and members and ethnic community welfare associations at the local level will be provided adequate orientation and guidance by the Project Implementation Unit (with relevant advisory support of WB specialists and experts on ethnic community issues) in the implementation of the SECP.</p> |
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B. Disclosure Requirements

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| Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework | |
| Date of receipt by the Bank | 25-Aug-2014 |
| Date of submission to InfoShop | 26-Aug-2014 |
| "In country" Disclosure | |
| Bangladesh | 26-Aug-2014 |
| <i>Comments:</i> The Small Ethnic Communities Plan (SECP) has been disclosed on the LGD website (www.lgd.gov.bd) | |
| If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP. | |
| If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why: | |
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C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

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| OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples | |
| Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information | |
| Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop? | Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] |
| Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| All Safeguard Policies | |
| Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |

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| Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |
| Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents? | Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>] |

III. APPROVALS

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| Task Team Leader: | Name: Iffath Anwar Sharif | |
| <i>Approved By</i> | | |
| Regional Safeguards Advisor: | Name: Francis V. Fragano (RSA) | Date: 01-Sep-2014 |
| Practice Manager/ Manager: | Name: Pablo Gottret (PMGR) | Date: 02-Sep-2014 |