



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 18-Nov-2020 | Report No: PIDISDSA30688

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Bangladesh	Project ID P174056	Project Name Additional Financing for Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project	Parent Project ID (if any) P160758
Parent Project Name Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project	Region SOUTH ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 23-Nov-2020	Estimated Board Date 29-Jan-2021
Practice Area (Lead) Governance	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) People's Republic of Bangladesh	Implementing Agency Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The project development objective is to improve public procurement performance and enhance capacity for implementation monitoring of development programs/projects.

Components

Restructuring CPTU and Policy Reform
Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement
Professionalizing Procurement and Citizen Engagement
Digitizing Project Implementation Monitoring

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	45.00
Total Financing	45.00
of which IBRD/IDA	40.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS



World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	40.00
IDA Credit	40.00

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Counterpart Funding	5.00
Borrower/Recipient	5.00

Environmental Assessment Category

C-Not Required

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

The AF needed waiver for not following the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The waiver has been approved to apply Safeguard Policies in the Additional Financing to ensure that the Bank can quickly respond to the urgent needs of Bangladesh in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context.

1. The COVID-19¹ pandemic led to complete lockdown of the country during March to May 2020. Subsequently, the lockdown has been lifted gradually and government offices have reopened partially despite the increased incidents of COVID-19 infections across the country. The pandemic has caused a substantial economic recession that will continue for a longer period. The current crisis has disrupted the delivery of public services and slow paced the implementation of development activities. Effective public procurement and contract implementation are the prerequisite for continuation of essential public services and development activities during the emergencies like pandemic. During the pandemic, these activities are heavily impacted due to the need of multiple interactions with associated travels.

Sectoral Context.

2. The country’s spending in public procurement was estimated to US\$24 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 19, representing 45.2 percent of the annual budget and 8 percent of GDP. Public procurement also represented 85 percent of the Annual Development Program (ADP) in FY19². Therefore, any improvement in the public procurement system is likely to have a significant economic effect. Bangladesh has been making continued efforts for over a decade to bring a systemic

¹ An outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading rapidly across the world since December 2019, following diagnosis of the initial cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this as a global pandemic. As of June 2020, the outbreak has resulted in more than 6.4 million affected cases and more than 382,000 deaths in 210 countries and territories.

² Data source: Assessment of Bangladesh Public Procurement System (MAPS) Report, The World Bank, June 2020



change to its public procurement system. Following the recommendations of the 2002 Country Procurement Assessment Report (CPAR), the GoB implemented two procurement reform projects with the technical and financial support from the World Bank during 2003 to 2017 and is currently implementing the third reform project, DIMAPPP. A robust public procurement system has been established including public procurement law, secondary legislation, and associated standard bidding documents. A nodal agency, the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), under the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Ministry of Planning, has been established. An extensive capacity development program has been institutionalized and trained over 37,000 stakeholders from 2008 to 2019, mostly procurement officials and bidders. A comprehensive electronic government procurement (e-GP) portal has also been developed and rolled-out. As of FY20, 1,325 out of 1,362 public organizations in Bangladesh and 75,000 bidders have been registered in the e-GP system.

3. Progress is happening and still more needs to be done. In order to guide the progress, the Assessment of Bangladesh Public Procurement System was conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with the GoB during FY19-20. Finally, a strategic action plan has been prepared and agreed with the GoB. The action plan intends to overcome the identified gaps of the public procurement system including making it easier for doing business and further modernize it by taking advantage of disruptive technologies, adopting the concept of sustainable procurement and promoting citizen engagement. The action plan also includes priority recommendations to continue day-to-day procurement activities and development operations of the country during emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic. The GoB has expressed strong commitment to implement the action plan and has already initiated implementation of several recommended actions under the ongoing DIMAPP project. The GoB has also requested the World Bank for US\$40 million of additional financing for the DIMAPP project mainly to implement priority MAPS recommended actions considering COVID-19 pandemic.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

4. The project development objective is to improve public procurement performance and enhance capacity for implementation monitoring of development programs/projects.

Current PDO

5. No change to the original PDO.

Key Results

6. For the purpose of the project, procurement performance relating to the PDO will be measured considering the Selected Public Sector Organizations (SPSOs) covering about 900 key procuring organizations out of a total of about 1300 in the country that will use e-GP. The 32 SPSOs have a combination of 28 new SPSOs (NSPSOs), and 4 previous SPSOs (PSPSOs). As part of performance improvement, the project will address elements of efficiency, transparency, and accountability. The project is expected to achieve the following key results at the project end (2023). The result indicators' baseline and project end values are also provided:

- NSPSOs procurement lead time reduced in national competitive bidding (NCB) using e-GP system (invitation to contract award): 70 days (baseline 100 days);
- NSPSOs invite bids in NCB through e-GP system: 100percent (baseline 2 percent);
- Selected sub-districts engage citizen monitoring in contract implementation: 45 sub-districts (baseline 4);
- SPSOs project implementation monitored on-line by IMED: 25 percent projects (baseline 0);



- SPSOs conduct contract management using e-GP system: 50 percent (baseline 0); and
- Invitation of International Competitive Bidding (ICB) through e-GP system: 100 numbers (baseline 0).

D. Project Description

7. The main purposes of the DIMAPPP AF are to – (i) scale-up the coverage and features of the electronic government procurement (e-GP) and associated activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic costing US\$18 million; (ii) cover the shortfall of US\$14 million in the original project considering the higher costs of originally planned activities; and (iii) cover the estimated US\$8 million expenses related to one year extension of the original project to complete the ongoing activities under the original project which will need more time and resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. The AF will maintain the four components of the original project. Component activities are summarized below:

Component 1: Restructuring CPTU and Policy Reform (US\$4 million)

Component 2: Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement (US\$34 million)

Component 3: Professionalizing Procurement and Citizen Engagement (US\$4.5 million)

Component 4: Digitizing Project Implementation Monitoring (US\$2.5 million)

9. **Component 1.** This component will include activities to strengthen country's emergency procurement and contract management framework using lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and previous natural disasters. It will also include consultancy services to develop sustainable procurement policy and implementation roadmap. Sustainable procurement policy includes features like - targeted development opportunities/preferential treatment to SMEs, start-ups, women-led bidders/enterprises (these groups of enterprises/bidders are the worst impacted during the pandemic); aspects of green procurement that encourages energy efficient/low carbon emitting/climate related disaster resilient goods, works and services. MAPS report identified contract management as one of the major areas requiring improvement – 70 percent contracts in the country are not completed on time causing delay and cost overrun. The situation is even worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some activities will be included in the AF to improve the contract management performance including development of a contract management manual to guide the users having features like management of contracts in case of emergencies.

10. **Component 2.** The AF will include activities to scale-up the coverage of e-GP, country-wide roll-out of electronic contract management and payment module of the e-GP including geo-tagged images uploading provision (original project's target was pilot implementation in only 4 selected organizations), develop and roll-out new features of the e-GP system including modules to process international bidding funded by the development partners, modules for single source/direct contracting and framework agreement, module for data analytics, enhancement of security and capacity of the e-GP data center, operations and maintenance of the e-GP system till FY23 etc. It also includes the associated training and awareness program to implement these features. In addition to the ongoing training on e-GP, a comprehensive training program will be undertaken to train the procuring officials and bidders on the contract management and payment module (e-CMS) and other new features of e-GP. The training program will include both virtual training and face-to-face training, depending on the situation. It will also include development/updating of e-GP online training modules and video tutorials



for procuring officials and bidders.

11. **Component 3:** The AF will include activities to expand citizen’s engagement in public procurement by - (i) updating the citizen portal with new features such as the option for receiving citizens’ feedback, publishing geo-tagged images from the e-CMS, and disseminating new set of indicators and data analytics available from the updated e-GP and e-CMS systems; and (ii) developing smart phone application for the citizen portal. Strategic communication activities will be restructured focusing on the proposed new features of the e-GP and taking advantage of online and social media platforms in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Different digital media and communication tools will be used as part of an updated strategic communication and citizen engagement plan to promote the Citizen Portal and sustainably implement the ongoing stakeholder engagement activities such as the Public Private Stakeholder Committee (PPSC), Government-Tenderers’ Forum (GTF), and the Site-Specific Citizen Monitoring. The AF will also include capacity development program on contract management including features like management of contracts in case of emergencies. Ongoing capacity development program will be updated by converting face-to-face training into virtual modality (where possible) and ensuring social distancing protocol for the face-to-face training.

12. **Component 4:** The component will not include any new activity under the AF. However, the AF will cover the cost of the development and implementation of the Project Management Information System-PMIS (estimated cost \$6 million) which could not be covered from the original project due to shortage of fund.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

13. The AF will follow the same institutional and implementation arrangement of the original project.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project is located in Dhaka and does not include any civil works (construction/reconstruction/extension works). As such, no major environmental and social risk and impact has been envisaged. The original project was classified as “Category C”. Since there is no change to the type of activities or scope in the Additional Financing (AF), the safeguards category of the AF will remain the same as the original project, i.e., Category C. Similar to the original project, no safeguard policy (OP/BP) is triggered for the AF. The project does not involve any land acquisition and civil construction. As such, there is no issue with displacement of people from public or private lands, impact on livelihoods on people or communities. The project has been rated ‘satisfactory’ consistently since 2017 for Environment and Social safeguards. Given that no OP/BP is triggered in the original project, no standalone ESMF was prepared in the original project. The IA duly followed Environmental Code of Practice (ECoP) for e-waste disposal and arranged regular training on e-waste management and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). The PMU adopted e-waste minimization techniques (procuring longer life computers, proper record keeping, recovery and reuse, take back policies etc.) and e-waste management procedure. The AF will continue using the e-waste code of practice and it might be further updated with the COVID-19 related protocols along with the other issues, as applicable. The IA assigned a focal person to comply the E&S requirements (if any). The project includes a specific sub-



component on citizen engagement in public procurement and contract implementation monitoring. An online citizen portal has been launched on public procurement allowing citizens to track procurement data leading to increased transparency and social accountability. The project is also supporting site specific citizen’s monitoring at a local level to monitor implementation of public contracts by the citizen groups with support from local NGOs. These initiatives are not specific to the contracts implemented under the DIMAPP project. Rather, covers public procurement contracts of the country. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, no face-to-face interaction is happening currently. However, citizens can still provide their comments/feedback through phone call, emails, whatsapp group etc. The project has a project level GRM which is separate from the citizen engagement initiatives mentioned above.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Sabah Moyeen, Social Specialist
Iqbal Ahmed, Environmental Specialist
Kirti Nishan Chakma, Social Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
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	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project activities are largely technical assistance in nature with no civil works (construction/ reconstruction/ extension works). As such no environmental impact has been envisaged and no safeguard policy is triggered. The project will procure equipment for e-GP system and computerization. It is reported that the Implementing Agency (IA) duly followed ECoP for e-waste disposal and arranged regular training on e-waste management and OHS. The IA adopted e-waste minimization techniques (procuring longer life computers, proper record keeping, recovery and reuse, take back policies etc.) and e-waste management procedure. Codes on OHS hazards such as noise, chemical storage and handling or manual handling are also included in the bidding document. As both the original project and the AF only include consultancy services and a few IT goods procurement, no risks related to labor, exposure to SEA/SH, loss of income or livelihoods or road safety issues is expected. Since the project does not include any civil construction, it is presumed that the standardized protocols for construction sites in order to maintain the health and safety of all workers required to perform duties during the COVID-19 crisis will not be required. The project however has face-to-face trainings that may pose some COVID19 related health and safety risk. As a mitigation measure, initiative has been taken to convert the training program to virtual modality. All face to face trainings have been stopped since March 2020 and only once the situation permits, some necessary face-to-face training will be resumed after careful assessment of the situation and properly maintaining the health and safety, and COVID19 social distancing protocols, handwashing, use of appropriate PPE etc.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: There is no long term or significant impact anticipated. No land acquisition, requisition, relocation, impact on squatters or livelihoods is expected at this stage.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts. Not relevant for the type of interventions included in the project.

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.

The equipment, such as, computer, laptop, servers, wireless transmitters, data storage devices those were procured under the original project, still are on use and functional. Therefore, no e-waste has been generated so far. The e-waste training and awareness sessions are organized on a regular basis to encourage better management practices to relevant staff and officials of the IA, prospective manufacturers/assemblers, suppliers, consultants and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that they comply with their duty of care as outlined in ECoP and OHS requirement. The training sessions mainly addressed the following but not limited to - (i) proper lifting and moving techniques of e-equipment to avoid back injuries, any contact of acid/lead of the batteries as well as to avoid any damage of the equipment (if an equipment shows signs of damage to the terminals, case or cover, replace it with a new one before handling); (ii) proper use and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including gloves, gown, masks during equipment handling and in view of COVID-19; (iii) guidance on electrical safety risks from the storage and handling of servers, batteries and chargers; and (iv) general awareness on OHS risks during collection, storage and transportation of the computer, laptop, battery, tonner. The IA duly followed ECoP for e-waste disposal and arranged regular training on e-waste management and OHS. The IA adopted e-waste minimization techniques (procuring longer life computers,



proper record keeping, recovery and reuse, take back policies etc.) and e-waste management procedure. Codes on OHS hazards such as noise, chemical storage and handling or manual handling are included in the bidding document.

The project has a functional GRM in place which is accessible to all including beneficiaries, consulting firms/suppliers and other stakeholders. Under the AF, all project personnel will be further encouraged to use the GRM to raise workplace concerns, report concerns relating to COVID-19, and concerns about the health of their co-workers and other staff.

The AF will continue with the original project's gender perspectives. The citizen engagement groups will continue to be formed with appropriate gender balance, emphasizing on empowering rural women/mothers to raise their voices for matters like primary school textbook delivery, distribution of medicines, and rural connections. Further, the extensive use of e-GP is also likely to create opportunities for the computer-literate female workforce. Also the various training programs will have provision to include female participants.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

CPTU, Procuring Entities (PE), and the bidding community are the main stakeholders. During contract implementation, the project office will make consultations with the PEs and bidders to make them aware upfront about environmental issues and the procedures they need to follow.

The project includes a specific sub-component on Citizen Engagement in public procurement and contract implementation monitoring. The project has launched Bangladesh Citizen Portal for Procurement (<https://citizen.cptu.gov.bd/>) allowing citizen to track procurement data from both supply and demand side. The online platform helped citizen's monitoring leading to increased transparency and social accountability. Since this activity is entirely online based, it enables citizens (including the vulnerable stakeholder groups) to use it without any restriction. A strategic communication plan is being finalized to promote this portal taking into account the needs of all vulnerable stakeholder groups.

The AF will continue with the original project's site-specific citizen's monitoring at a local level to monitor implementation of government's development projects by involving all stakeholders including vulnerable groups and women members from the local community. The citizen groups formed under this initiative has a requirement to include at least 20% women. Another platform that will significantly help the project to advance acceptance of e-gp among the procuring and bidding communities is the formation of the district level Government Tenderers' Forum that will enable informal dialogue between procurement entities and the tendering community. A high level Public Private Stakeholders Committee chaired by the Planning Ministers will continue to bring in all key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society together to guide policy reforms.

With the continued concern about the risk of Covid-19 virus spread, the approach and methodology for stakeholder consultation and engagement are already adjusted taking advantage of the virtual platforms. In all cases, under the AF, such stakeholder consultations will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Bank's Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations. Public consultations with all stakeholders, at all stages of project implementation, will be carried out and the nature and number of consultation, location, and type of participants and the summary of findings will be documented.

As part of the preparation of the AF, CPTU organized a consultation with the key stakeholders of the project (representatives of 32 government organizations, consulting firms, suppliers, NGOs etc.) of the project. The planned



activities under the AF were discussed with the stakeholders including any potential environment and social safeguard issues. Similar to the original project, the AF only includes consultancy services and a few IT goods procurement and therefore no risks related to labor, exposure to SEA/SH, loss of income or livelihoods or road safety issues were identified during the discussion. The project however has face-to-face trainings that may pose some COVID19 related health and safety risk. CPTU informed the stakeholders that as a mitigation measure initiative has been taken to convert the training program to virtual modality. All face to face trainings have been stopped since March 2020 and only once the situation permits, some necessary face-to-face training will be resumed after careful assessment of the situation and properly maintaining the health and safety, and COVID19 safety protocol (social distancing protocols, handwashing, use of appropriate PPE etc.) at the respective training venue to avoid and mitigate the risk posed to the relevant staff, trainers, and trainees. In addition, site specific citizen engagement and other stakeholder engagement programs are also being converted to virtual modality (e.g., phone call, whatsapp group, zoom meeting etc.). The participants found the mitigation measures as adequate.

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

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APPROVAL

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