Pakistan: Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project</th>
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Strategic Agendas: Environmentally sustainable growth, Inclusive economic growth

Drivers of Change: Governance and capacity development, Partnerships

Sector / Subsector: Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Irrigation - Land-based natural resources management - Rural flood protection - Water-based natural resources management

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming: Effective gender mainstreaming

Description: The proposed Balochistan Water Resources Development Project is located in the Zhob and Mula river basins in the Balochistan. The project impact will be the increased farm income in the project area. The project outcome will be the increased agricultural production. The project outputs will be (i) irrigation infrastructure and watershed protection constructed and/ rehabilitated; (ii) command area expanded and improved; and (iii) institutional capacity strengthened.

The project will cost about $125.5 million and ADB will provide finance of $100 million and the government of Balochistan will provide the balance. The project will adopt an integrated water resources management approach for the irrigation development activities. The project will support implementation of the IWRM policy, and in turn supports and strengthens several principal elements of ADB’s water policy, including: (i) improving the efficiency of water use and delivery; (ii) fostering water conservation and sustainability of infrastructure; and (iii) improving governance through beneficiary participation and capacity building. In addition to irrigation infrastructure, the project will help establish water resources information system for improved water resources management and monitoring, address watershed degradation by improving vegetative cover and undertaking physical interventions to reduce erosion in critical areas through integrated and participatory approaches. It will further seek to strengthen the capacity of and coordination between the agencies in charge of watershed management through the project implementation process. Improved on-farm water management is critical to raising cropping intensities and optimizing productivity increases from the investments in irrigation infrastructure. In addition, the project will support high value agriculture which is essential to improve farmers’ income in Balochistan. These aspects also form an integral part of the project design and will help to achieve benefits that would not be possible through investments in water resources infrastructure alone.

To address the GoB’s limited capacity and experience in data collecting and processing, the project will work in partnership with Pakistan Council for Water Resources to establish and maintain a water resources information system to strengthen GoB’s capacity to collect, transmit, process, and share hydrometeorology data for improved water management. The project design also explicitly recognizes the institutional, social, and cultural barriers to women’s empowerment and the impact this may have on access to and participation in water resources development activities. Female community organizers at the project’s implementing offices will collect data and information on the roles and responsibilities of women and assess their specific requirements. The possible effects of scheme development for women will be assessed and practical opportunities to develop and implement gender-specific interventions identified, particularly provision of efficient on-farm water and agronomic management and high value agricultural production.
Pakistan has to increase food production by 40-50% to meet the needs of a projected population of 221 million by 2025. ADB's interim country partnership strategy (2014-2015) emphasizes revitalizing agriculture for food security and poverty alleviation. ADB's midterm review of Strategy 2020 recognizes infrastructure and agriculture as the main focus area and proposes a 10-point program on ADB strategic directions in 2014-2020. The country assistance program evaluation, 2002-2012 assessed Pakistan's agriculture and natural resource sector less than successful, but it evaluated the program relevant in terms of its alignment with government and ADB strategies, and satisfactory for its strategic positioning. The evaluation is viewed as appropriate in ADB's commitment to support Pakistan in responding to the need to rehabilitate and expand the irrigation system.

Of the 13 million Balochistan population, over 70% live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture accounts about two-third of the provincial domestic product, 60% of the labor force, and supports several industries by providing raw materials. However, the agricultural sector suffers from water shortage, frequent drought, and poor agricultural practices, which expose the rural communities to high vulnerability especially women and children who suffer from inadequate domestic water supply. The Balochistan Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper emphasizes the need to expand cropped area, rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure, and reduce vulnerability to drought. Balochistan's water resources comprise groundwater (4%), water share from Indus Basin (39%), and floodwater (57%). The groundwater is over-exploited and requires a comprehensive reassessment. Balochistan's Indus water share remains underutilized and needs appropriate policy for optimum benefits. Floodwater has further development potential with only 40% of the floodwater resources being utilized and 60% flowing down to the sea. The perennial irrigation (including canals and drains) is seriously deteriorated and requires rehabilitation.

The Balochistan Comprehensive Development Strategy (2013-2020) identifies gaps, sets priorities and associated plans to improve key sectors including agriculture and water resources. The BCDS recognizes (i) increasing water supply and reducing the demand gap, (ii) water logging and salinity, (iii) low irrigation efficiencies, (iv) groundwater mining, (v) neglected spate irrigation farming, and (vi) seawater intrusion in the coastal areas as the main agricultural development constraint. The strategy emphasizes (i) basin water management, (ii) promoting high water use efficiency, (iii) strengthening water management research, (iv) creating Balochistan Water Resources Management Authority (BWRMA), and (v) an investment requirement of PRG68.333 (equivalent $650 million) for the water sector for the strategy period. Sustainable water management in Balochistan's 14 main river basins is a key to increase food production and economic growth. A $300 million World Bank project is already helping the Government in water management in three river basins. Balochistan's integrated water resource management (IWRM) approach identifies 16 areas for improvement including water conservation and better use of surface water resources. A sector loan is proposed to assist the Government to (i) establish the BWRMA, (ii) adopt an approved BCDS, (iii) operationalize an IWRM approach, and (iv) improve water related infrastructure. Balochistan has a draft BCDS and sector development plan. The Government intended to improve sector policy, institutional and regulatory framework, and sector investment. The proposed project will follow a river basin approach, where policy, institutional, and infrastructural improvements are important. Pakistan has experience in implementing several ADB financed projects in the sector. The IPD has been implementing an ongoing World Bank project. The four river basins will be studied and prioritized following criteria for high development potential, low security risk and return on investment, and feasible subprojects will be developed.

### Impact

- Increased farm income in Balochistan (Balochistan Development Vision and Strategy)
- Improved water resources management in Balochistan (Integrated Water Resources Management Policy Balochistan)

### Business Opportunities

#### Consulting Services

Consultants will be required for conducting detailed engineering design, construction supervision, and implementation support.

#### Procurement

- 2 contracts through International competitive bidding
- 12 contracts through National competitive bidding
- 8 contracts through Shopping multiple contracts through Community participation in procurement

### Responsible ADB Officers

- **Zhou Yaozhou**
- **Central and West Asia Department**

### Responsible ADB Divisions

- **Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, CWRD**
- **Irrigation Department, Government of Balochistan**
- **Government of Balochistan Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan**

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Project Page  
https://www.adb.org/projects/48098-002/main

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Date Generated  
27 January 2020

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