

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Bangladesh	Project Title:	Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Implementation Program
Lending/Financing Modality:	Multitranche Financing Facility	Department/Division:	South Asia Department Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (SAER)

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Targeting classification: Geographic dimension of inclusive growth (TI-G)

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

Bangladesh has made considerable progress in reducing poverty, and is making good progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The population living below the national poverty line fell to 31.5% in 2010, a decline of 1.7% per annum since 2005. Despite good progress, poverty remains a dominant problem.

Poverty reduction and economic growth are the main objectives of the government's Sixth Five-Year Development Plan, FY2011–FY2015. Sustainable management of rivers, infrastructure development, and fostering climate-resilient development are considered essential means to accomplish the growth and poverty reduction objectives. The country partnership strategy, 2011–2015 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Bangladesh emphasizes supporting climate-resilient economic growth and poverty reduction by encouraging sustainable management of risks of floods and other natural disasters. The proposed investment program is directly linked to the government's five-year plan and ADB's country partnership strategy. It will protect riverine erosion and flood-prone fringe lands, which are usually occupied by the landless poor. The proposed investment program will directly protect these poor residents along the rivers from riverbank erosion and flood inundation. Institutional strengthening of riverbank erosion and flood risk management will contribute to the sustainability of the risk reduction. The investment program will also include community level capacity strengthening programs. Labor-intensive construction works will create jobs for the poor and women. It will thus contribute to the improvement of livelihoods and economic conditions of the poor population in the project area, with a population of about 2 million.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence

1. Key poverty and social issues. 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. Riverbank erosion annually affects about 100,000 people, who face significant social hardships, such as loss of homestead, lands, crops, and/or livelihoods. It also forces repeated displacement. Riverine fringe lands, which are prone to riverbank erosion and flood disasters, are usually occupied by the landless poor, and the majority of them are erosion victims who had been displaced by past riverbank erosions. Although poverty is falling in Bangladesh, poverty remains extensive in the project areas where poverty incidence (35%–39%) is higher than the national average.

Justification for classification: TI-G is justified as the investment program will improve the livelihoods of people in the project areas along the Jamuna, Padma, and Ganges rivers by reducing flood and riverbank erosion risks. About 70% of project benefits will go to the \$2-a-day poor, in terms of stability in the livelihood activities and employment in project-related works.

2. Beneficiaries. The riverside vulnerable population affected by floods and land erosion (about 100,000) will be the direct beneficiaries. They will benefit through avoided loss of land and assets; protection and enhancement of agricultural and fishery production within the embankments; increased economic activity; increased security of population, livestock, and assets; and strengthening of local communities for sustainable risk management in the medium term. Secondary beneficiaries are the people beyond riverine lands.

3. Impact channels. The impact channels comprise (i) protection against loss of income, crops, and houses; (ii) improved agricultural productivities; (iii) community participation and capacity development support programs; and (iv) new jobs in project-related works for the \$2-a-day poor.

4. Other social and poverty issues. Employment opportunities are lacking in the area. Most people work as wage earners in agricultural fields or small-scale weaving establishments. For gender-targeted activities, civil society organizations, funded by development partners, organize women labor groups and secure contracts for them on government infrastructure projects.

5. Design features. The project proposes to address the key poverty and social issues related to food production and income, as indicated in the performance indicators for the project impact in the design and monitoring framework, by increasing by 2028 the monsoon crop average yields in project districts to 3.75 tons per hectare (t/ha) (2.75 t/ha in 2013) and average annual per capita income to Tk136,000 (Tk74,380/capita in 2012). The protection by embankments will increase the income of the poor.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR	
<p>1. <i>Summarize the participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable in project implementation:</i> Consultations were held with a focus on women, the landless, and other vulnerable groups in the subproject areas regarding (i) relocation and livelihood issues, including agriculture, and fisheries; (ii) flood and riverbank erosion disaster management; (iii) possible solutions to resolve the constraints identified; and (iv) institutional mechanisms to address those constraints. The performance indicators relating to output 1 of the design and monitoring framework reflect the participatory approach, which is also reflected in the loan agreement and facility administration manual (FAM).</p> <p>2. <i>If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation:</i> Civil society will be engaged for the project implementation. Refer to item 4.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation:</i> Civil society participation is ensured through (i) carrying out consultations with project displaced persons for their relocation, (ii) income and livelihood restoration, and (iii) facilitating the grievance redress process.</p> <p>4. <i>What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation?</i> In addition to the resettlement plan implementation, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) will be involved (on a competitive basis) in designing and implementing livelihood support for the project displaced households, participatory operation and maintenance of infrastructure, and community-based flood risk management. Adequate resources were allocated for their engagement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing H <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation H <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership M</p> <p>5. <i>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?</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>A consultation and participation plan has been prepared as part of the resettlement plan and gender action plan implementation. While the activities in the gender action plan are mainstreamed, adequate resources have been allocated in the resettlement plan for project level consultation and participation.</p>	
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	
Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming (EMG)	
<p>A. Key issues. While the main occupation of women in the project area relates to home and family, and involves tasks related to the immobile assets of house and kitchen garden, they play an important role in agricultural production related to seeds, storing of crops, and domestic livestock. The houses of poor families are built at or near ground level, and experience deep and prolonged inundation during higher floods. During times of flooding, women face multiple challenges: providing for a family from limited food and drinking water supply, heading the household while men search for income opportunities, and being forced to sleep and live in public spaces during evacuation. Erosion of homes and land forces families to change income patterns, with the adult male family members leaving to find work opportunities and leaving the women to head and manage the households. While implementation of civil works provides income generation, gender parity is a common issue—lower wages, lack of segregated sanitation facilities, and health hazards (e.g., from carrying heavy loads).</p>	
<p>B. Key actions. The investment program formulated a broad range of measures targeted at achieving higher gender parity: (i) increasing women's participation in the executing agency, as staff members and training participants; (ii) obliging contractors to employ 15% women as unskilled labor with equal wage payment, and with focusing on reducing the occupational health risk associated with menial work; (iii) establishing community-based disaster management units with 33% women unit heads, assuring the inclusion of gender issues in the planning process of preventive and preparedness measures; and (iv) providing additional livelihood support for special groups, such as women-headed households, and very poor families.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p> <p>1. Participatory infrastructure operation and maintenance: 30% women participation in training</p> <p>2. Conduct early warning dissemination in the community: 30% poor women who live on the embankment</p> <p>3. Livelihood support training: 50% female participants</p>	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. For the embankment and riverbank protection construction in the Jamuna Right Bank-1 (JRB-1) subproject area, a total of 94 ha of land will be acquired. A total of 1,184 households will be affected—1,142 on the embankment and 42 on the riverbank protection. This includes an estimated 548 agricultural plot user households on 78.58 ha of agricultural land. The construction affects a total of 96 commercial structures; 6194 trees will also be affected.</p>	

2. Strategy to address the impacts. A resettlement plan has been prepared based on extensive consultations that provides for compensation at replacement cost, and has provisions for grievance redress. A resettlement framework has been prepared for the entire investment program that will guide the preparation of other resettlement plans as required.	
3. <i>Plan or other Actions.</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined RP and IPP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined RF and IPPF
<input type="checkbox"/> ESMS	<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix
	<input type="checkbox"/> No action
B. Indigenous Peoples	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI
1. Key impacts. No impact. No indigenous peoples, as defined in ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), reside in the project area.	
Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable	
3. Plan or other actions.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined RP and IPP
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined RF and IPPF
<input type="checkbox"/> ESMS	<input type="checkbox"/> IPP elements integrated in project with a summary
<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action ^a	
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS	
A. Risks in the Labor Market	
1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market. L unemployment L underemployment L retrenchment L core labor standards	
2. Labor market impact. Not applicable	
B. Affordability Not applicable	
C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): L Communicable diseases L Human trafficking Others (please specify) Not applicable	
2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area. Not applicable	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
1. Targets and indicators: By 2028, in the program districts along the main rivers: (i) per capita income increased to Tk136,000 from Tk74,380 in 2012 (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic and other government-published reports and statistics); and (ii) average transplanted aman (monsoon season rice crop) yield rises from 2.75 t/ha in 2013 to 3.75 t/ha (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Department of Agriculture Extension, Department of Agricultural Marketing, and other government-published reports and statistics). By 2022 (program completion), under the investment program: (i) livelihood support training provided to totalling 4,000 participants with a minimum 50% of female participants; and (ii) community-based disaster management training provided to 200 groups, with a minimum 33% of female leader participants. (project progress and completion reports, and implementation NGO's reports)	
2. Required human resources: (i) implementing NGO for resettlement, (ii) implementing NGO for livelihood support programs, and (ii) individual specialists in the consulting team.	
3. Information in FAM: The FAM indicates the key requirements for monitoring. Regular monitoring will be done by the project management office to measure the effectiveness and quality of activities. Quarterly progress will be reported in progress reports.	
4. Monitoring tools: A management information system will be developed for monitoring benefits and project implementation. The loan agreement and FAM will describe the monitoring requirements of the social safeguards and gender issues. The project management office will monitor project performance, including poverty and social indicators. Resettlement will also be monitored by external experts.	

^a Tranche 1 is categorized C for the indigenous peoples safeguard. As the subsequent tranches would also be categorized C, an indigenous peoples planning framework was not prepared.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.