

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Republic of Uzbekistan	Project Title:	Amu Bukhara Irrigation System Rehabilitation Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project	Department/Division:	Central and West Asia Department Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Targeting classification: General Intervention

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

The project supports the government's Welfare Improvement Strategy for 2012-2015 (WIP) to improve living standards and inclusive growth.^a A key goal is to ensure high economic growth at 8.1%–8.2% per year, and increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the GDP per capita by 1.37 and 1.3 times against the level of 2011, respectively. Enhancing the productivity and sustainability of irrigated agriculture, accounting for 90% of agricultural production which employs about 27% of country's total labor force is a central theme of the WIS.

The project is also fully consistent with the agriculture and natural resources sector prioritized in ADB's Country Partnership Strategy: Uzbekistan 2012-2016.^b The strategy calls for ADB investments in water resources management and irrigation for the climate-resilient rehabilitation of a major irrigation system. The aim is to make the system more energy-efficient, reduce the cost of its operations, and improve climate-adaptive on-farm water management and the productivity of water resources.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis (PSA) during Project Preparatory Technical Assistance or Due Diligence

1. Key poverty and social issues. The national level of low income population has declined from 21.8% in 2008 to 17.7% in 2010. While the overall national level of low income population decreased by 1.8 times during 2001-2010, over 20% of the rural population is still living below low income level compared to 13.4% of the urban population below low income level in 2010. Since: (i) irrigated agriculture accounts for 90% of agricultural production; (ii) more than 48% of the country's people live in rural areas and depend on irrigated agriculture; (iii) about 50% of national labor force in rural areas have been employed in agricultural activities; and (iv) irrigated agriculture covers 4.3 million hectares (ha) of the country, the improvement of irrigated agriculture is important for poverty reduction.

2. Beneficiaries. The project's primary beneficiaries will be farmers and rural communities. The poverty and social analysis (PSA) conducted in Romitan and Bukhara Districts in the project area revealed that the average monthly income of non-poor households is 3.4 times higher than the average income of poor households. Hired employment in the non-agricultural sector is the most significant income source, providing about 21% of household income in Bukhara District and about 17% in Romitan District. The second important income source is agricultural activity, which provides more income for the people in Romitan District than it does for those in Bukhara. Poor families receive almost 4 times less income from non-agricultural entrepreneurial activities than non-poor families in Bukhara District. Average household size in the two districts is 5.3 persons. Poor families are larger and have more children under 7 years old than non-poor families, as well as more infirm adult household members (58.2%) than non-poor families (42.7%). This makes them more vulnerable. In Bukhara, 85.1% of the population is in the economically active age range (16-55 for women and 16-60 for men), while the figure in Romitan is 61.5%. A majority of households in the two districts own small plots of land.

3. Impact channels. Poor land quality (8.2% of reasons provided by survey respondents who cannot use their land plots in the two districts) restricts agricultural productivity but the shortage of irrigation water (48% of reasons provided by survey respondents) is the most affected factor to restrict agricultural productivity among others. Almost all the plots owned by peasant farmers in the project area depend on irrigation. Overall, 92.8% of PSA survey respondents use water from rivers, canals, and ditches to irrigate their land. According to 86.6% of respondents, insufficient irrigation water dramatically affects crop production. Every fourth household surveyed did not produce crops on its land due to a lack of irrigation water. The main reasons cited for lack of irrigation water were insufficient water available in river and canals and significant loss of water in canals and ditches. The lack of water was considered more severe by poor families than by non-poor ones. According to 45.5% of the PSA survey respondents in Bukhara District and 27.6% in Romitan District, productivity could be increased by up to 25% if sufficient water was available for irrigation.

4. Design features. The project's strategy to address the key poverty and social issues is to focus primarily on sustainable and reliable water supplies. Project benefits will include (i) the reduction of production losses by making water supplies more reliable through modernization and rehabilitation of pump stations; (ii) substantial improvement of water conveyance in a main canal and moderate improvement of water distribution in inter- and on-farm canals by

upgrading infrastructure and strengthening water conveyance and distribution operation and management; and (iii) the reduction of land degradation caused by soil salinity and waterlogging by improving drainage.	
II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR	
<p>1. Summarize the participatory approaches and the proposed project activities that strengthen inclusiveness and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable in project implementation. The implementation of output 3 (i.e climate change adaptation capacity of water management and use institutions and farmers in increase) of the project will require active participation by water consumers' associations (WCAs) and farmers to identify and select (i) target areas and demonstration farms; (ii) the scope and design of modernization and rehabilitation of on-farm canals and regulation structures; (iii) realistic and suitable climate adaptive agronomic practices, cropping patterns, and water-saving technologies; and (iv) a water operation and management plan, in addition to WCAs' participations in capacity development program. These activities are included in the project's design and monitoring framework (DMF).</p> <p>2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation. To implement output 3, WCAs are to participate in identification and selection of items (i)–(iv) described above. Their participation will be ensured through coordination between the project implementation office (PIO) and basin irrigation system administration (BISA), with the help of project consultants.</p> <p>3. Explain how the project ensures adequate participation of civil society organizations in project implementation. Please refer to section 2 above.</p> <p>4. What forms of civil society organization participation is envisaged during project implementation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing: M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation: M <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration: M <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership: N</p> <p>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? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. A plan will be prepared for climate change adaptive water management and agricultural extension, with active participation by WCAs and farmers, including the poor and vulnerable. <input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>	
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	
Gender mainstreaming category: Some Gender Elements	
<p>A. Key issues.</p> <p>Women do most of the unpaid domestic work, which means that their contribution to total household income (19% in Bukhara and 14% in Romitan) is significantly less than that of men. Consequently, they have little agency in household decision making—men make the final decision in 89% of surveyed households. Even when women are the head of the household, they generally still follow decisions of the male household member. Women are also underrepresented on the staffs of the project's implementing agencies—making up 9.3% of the employees of the Amu Bukhara Irrigation System Authority (ABISA) and 10% in the Amu-Bukhara Basin Irrigation System Administration (BISA). Management is 100% male. This is partly due to highly entrenched gender roles in society that steer women into the educational and health care sectors rather than those requiring agricultural and water-related technical professional qualifications. Women made up only 17.5% of graduates from universities specializing in these fields in 2012. Nevertheless, ABISA does employ some women professionals, including a senior accountant, an economist, and a hydraulic engineer. There is clearly scope for greater encouragement of women in the water resources field, since project surveys found that 74% of people felt that women play an important role in the rational use and distribution of water resources.</p> <p>In the survey areas of Bukhara, 53%–68% of farmers employed on a full-time basis were women. According to interviews, this is mainly due to outmigration to neighboring countries such as Russia by men looking for well-paid jobs. When women have a dispute over access to irrigation water, they must somehow involve the National Women's Machinery^c to take up their case because they lack representation in the WCAs. The project will therefore include specific interventions to guarantee that women become members of the secretariats of all WCAs in project areas. Because conflicts are common and are rarely resolved satisfactorily, the proposed WCA training will include a component on dealing with conflicts over water rights to ensure equitable access.</p>	
<p>B. Key actions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p> <p>To have a positive impact on women, the project envisages activities to (i) conduct information campaigns and gender and development (GAD) awareness training for the PIO, the BISA, and the WCAs; (ii) increase women's representation in the decision making and management as secretariat members of WCAs; (iii) enhance the GAD capacity of WCAs; (iv) collect sex-disaggregated baseline information, monitor and evaluate gender trends, and include GAD issues in the social profile at project implementation; (v) recruit local female social, poverty, and gender staff for the PIO; and (vi) include the monitoring and evaluation of gender indicators and targets in the DMF.</p>	
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES	
A. Involuntary Resettlement	Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI

<p>1. Key impacts. The project will not require land acquisition. The new pump station (Khamza 1) that will replace an existing one will be constructed inside the areas owned by ABISA. This area has been fenced since the establishment of ABISA. Other works for modernizing pump stations and other infrastructure on the main, interfarm, and on-farm canals will be carried out on the sites of the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable.</p> <p>3. Plan or other Actions.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action			
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<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>											
<p>1. Key impacts. The project will not involve or impact areas claimed by an ethnic minority or indigenous people, as designated by the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). The PSA study showed that no ethnic minority or indigenous peoples live in the project areas.</p> <p>Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>											
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<p align="center">V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</p>											
<p>A. Risks in the Labor Market</p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market. Unemployment: L Underemployment: L Retrenchment: L Core labor standards: L, if effectively mitigated The project will provide sustainable and reliable water supply through, for example, the introduction of water-saving irrigation technologies and climate-adaptive agronomic practices and crop diversification. The government is committed to upholding core labor standards in cooperation with the International Labour Organization.</p> <p>2. Labor market impact. The project will create more permanent jobs with higher incomes by improving crop yield through demonstration farms. During construction, the project will provide temporary jobs for unskilled workers in the project areas.</p>											
<p>B. Affordability. Not applicable.</p>											
<p>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</p> <p>1. Indicate the respective risks, if any, and rate the impact as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases: L Policies for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are in place, and there is a system to track program coverage. Support from the development partners supplements the government initiatives. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking: L The government has comprehensive anti-trafficking laws and measures in place, and is working with development partners for their implementation, including stronger monitoring with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and capacity building with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____</p> <p>2. Describe the related risks of the project on people in project area. NA</p>											
<p align="center">VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</p>											
<p>1. Targets and indicators: Without the project, the irrigated area in the Amu Bukhara Irrigation System will decline from 315,000 ha in 2012 to 258,000 ha in 2020 and to 120,000 ha by 2038 as indicated in outcome target indicator in DMF, and as a result the number of people below poverty line will increase without project.</p> <p>2. Required human resources: There are no specific target indicators related to the poverty and social impact in DMF.</p> <p>3. Information in Project Administration Manual: The project will monitor or estimate pumped water, energy efficiency of pumps, annual greenhouse gas emissions, water conveyance efficiency, adoption of climate change resilient agricultural practices, and the representation of females on WCA secretariats.</p> <p>4. Monitoring tools: There are no specific target indicators related to the poverty and social impact in DMF.</p>											

^a Republic of Uzbekistan. 2013. *Welfare Improvement Strategy (2012-2015)*. Tashkent.

^b ADB. 2012. *Uzbekistan: Country Partnership Strategy 2012-2016*. Manila.

^c The National Women's Machinery is Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, which registered as a public organization but chaired by the deputy prime minister in charge of women's issues. It has branches and representatives in all regions.