SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

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<td>Second Tashkent Province Water Supply Development Project</td>
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I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: general intervention

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

The project is aligned with National Development Strategy (Strategy for Actions 2017-2021); which has set the target for improvement of people’s standard of living through modernization of water infrastructure to achieve 24/7 access to potable water and improved sanitation. The road map on the water supply and sanitation sector development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2020; prioritize the investments to provide safety, reliability, and manageability of drinking water supply and sanitation systems, as well as institutional strengthening of water service providers. The project is one of the priority development programs covered in the country operations business plan for Uzbekistan, 2018–2020.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. The project supports the government’s goal of developing sustainable urban water supply infrastructure for populations that currently lack a safe and reliable water supply. This includes 19% of low-income people living at or below an average monthly income per person of SUM258,360. Current water shortages in Chinaz and Yangiyul districts affect every rural household; members have to spend substantial time, energy, and money to secure their domestic water supply needs. Currently, only 47% of households in the project area have access to piped water, 40% buy water from vendors (costing about SUM15,000 per month), and almost 48% buy bottled water (costing each household an average of SUM57,000 per month, or SUM10,000 per month on average per capita). The results of SES indicate that households spent 18% of the family budget on water quality improvements. Only 18.3% of households in the project area have a bathroom with piped water supply, 52% of households in Yangiyul district complained about salinity and hard water, and 34% of households in Chinaz district gave low marks to piped water by almost all parameters (smell, taste, transparency). Social infrastructure facilities also suffer from water shortages. In the project areas, nearly 34% of schools, 24% of kindergartens, and 28% of colleges and lyceums are supplied with piped water. Lack of availability of sufficient water and sanitation facilities is a prime cause of the high incidence of disease among the project area population, especially viral hepatitis A. During 2016–2017, the level of acute intestinal diseases increased from 253 to 364 per 1,000 population in Yangiyul district and from 82 to 93 per 1,000 population in Chinaz district. Providing project area residents with reliable and better quality water supply will improve health and living standards, the environment, and economic and livelihood opportunities. The project will also generate employment opportunities in two districts of Tashkent Provincial Suvokova (state unitary enterprise) and during project construction for local people (including women) in the project settlements.

2. Beneficiaries. The project will provide safe and reliable water supply for the 221,000 people by 2045 in 79 settlements within the project area, public institutions such as educational and medical establishments, and private enterprises. Major benefits will accrue to households suffering non-working or interrupted and unreliable service. Absence of irregular water supply in medical institutions creates problems for both patients and medical staff, including problems with the use of toilets. Water shortages also hinder further development of local businesses and service infrastructure.

3. Impact channels. The project contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (“Ensure access to water and sanitation for all” by 2030), which has the specific target of achieving “universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.” Provision of water on a 24/7 basis and installation of water meters will accrue financial benefit to all households in the project area, which are currently paying for inadequate water supply based on a fixed tariff. Community-based hygiene and sanitation training programs will reduce the incidence of intestinal infections, lowering household expenditure on medical treatments. Modest, direct short-term impacts on employment levels in the project area may be expected during the project’s construction phase.

4. Other social and poverty issues. None.

5. Design features. The project will finance improvements in such water supply facilities as new groundwater sources, new and rehabilitated water treatment plants, and pipelines to ensure that a greater quantity and higher quality of water is supplied to new and existing customers in the project area. Existing underserved customers, including social sector institutions, will gain improved access to a safe and reliable water supply, while existing customers will benefit from improved water services. The capacity of the two districts Tashkent Provincial Suvokova will be enhanced to ensure more effective delivery of water services. This will include gender awareness training, development of gender-sensitive policies, and provision of equal opportunities for training and employment of female staff in technical and professional fields.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The project is participatory in all its components. Potential project stakeholders include government agencies involved in water supply development and management; local government bodies such as district khokimiyats and makhallas (self-governing community-based organizations); households; and
other interest groups such as private sector NGOs and research centers. A number of local NGOs and CSOs (such as the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan and the Makhalla Foundation) are active in supporting project design, including awareness raising and dissemination of project-related information. Meetings conducted with key stakeholder groups are supplemented by workshops, socioeconomic surveys, mixed and women-only focus group discussions, and individual interviews.

2. If civil society has a specific role in the project, summarize the actions taken to ensure their participation. Project implementation relies on civil society engagement in two fundamental ways: (i) to help tailor project outputs to community needs and aspirations and facilitate responsive implementation; and (ii) to intermediate between the project and communities, extending the reach and reception of project impacts and benefits. Civil society will be actively engaged in activities aiming to improve hygiene and health sanitation, and is expected to play a critical role in several aspects, including (i) promoting hygiene practices and environmental health, (ii) supporting the capacity building program on water efficiency use and conservation, and (iii) implementing the project communication strategy and gender action plan.

3. Civil society organizations. The project is designed to include the participation of NGOs and CSOs by engaging them in project activities. Selected NGOs will provide training on hygiene and sanitation and disseminate project information to the community during the implementation phase. Representatives of project-affected people, NGOs, and the local mahallas, and a female representative will be involved in the grievance redress committee to ensure that discussions are free of intimidation and that affected people are allowed to speak their minds.

4. The following forms of CSO participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

- Information gathering and sharing
- Consultation
- Collaboration
- Partnership

5. Participation plan. Yes. NGOs and CSOs will be consulted and informed throughout project implementation, and some will be recruited to design and implement the GAP. The project-level participation plan comprises (i) participatory elements and activities lodged in the GAP; (ii) sanitation awareness, hygiene promotion, and communication and participatory components; (iii) a performance monitoring system; and (iv) social and environmental safeguards modules of the project’s capacity building component. Project coordination unit and project implementation unit consultants and contractors will support implementation of the participation plan, including trainings, workshops, consultations, and community-level awareness campaigns. A project participation plan has been prepared to strengthen the participation of end-user beneficiaries. Participation activities will include women, youth, and low-income families in particular.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming

A. Key issues. Given the traditional separation of gender roles in Uzbekistan, women are primarily responsible for domestic chores, including the care of children, the elderly, and the sick. Cumulatively, these tasks increase women’s time poverty. The SES showed that 54% of women and girls under 18 years old in project area are primarily responsible for fetching water and spent 2.75 person-days per month for water deliver the water. In addition, women who work in kindergartens, schools, and hospitals are responsible for fetching water several times a day and cleaning the toilets, since 94% of kindergartens, 88% of colleges, and 95% of schools do not have a functioning central sewerage system. The lack of good quality water and sanitation facilities also affects school attendance, especially for girls. Health facilities are also negatively impacted by poor water quality and sanitation facilities.

B. Key actions. To enhance the gender impact, the GAP include (i) recruitment of a social and gender specialist in the PCU; (ii) availability of sanitation facilities in schools and health institutions; (iii) facilitation of women’s participation in project-associated activities; (iv) employment opportunities for women; (v) establishing a behavior change campaign on hygiene promotion; and (vi) equal opportunity and access to training for female staff of Tashkent Provincial Suvokova; (vii) establishment of a gender-sensitive customer care/complaints units in Chinaz and Yangiyul of Tashkent Provincial Suvokova; and (viii) gender-sensitive outreach activities through media channels.

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

1. Key impacts. The project will have permanent and temporary impacts in terms of land acquisition and economic displacement, including (i) permanent acquisition of 4 hectares of agricultural land for construction of water distribution centers and water pressure towers, and (ii) temporary acquisition of 22.6 hectares of agricultural land for construction of 65 kilometers of water transmission lines. No houses, buildings, or other structures will be impacted, and no relocation will be required. Due diligence has covered all project components and impacts. Land acquisition will impact 2,776 trees, including 1,086 fruit trees and 1,690 timber trees. The total number of affected households is 68: 9 (59 persons) with permanent impacts and 59 (317 persons) with temporary impacts. One of these households will be severely affected because of the loss of 16% of productive assets; no other household will lose more than 10% of productive assets. Five households are classified as vulnerable.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. A land acquisition and resettlement plan consistent with ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) requirements, including consultation and disclosure, has been prepared by the Agency Kommunkhizmat (Communal Services Agency). It contains an impact assessment and mitigation measures, including establishment of a grievance redress mechanism and time-bound actions and budget. This document will be updated during the detailed design phase and will constitute the basis for land acquisition and compensation during project implementation. The land acquisition and resettlement plan contains provisions for compensating income losses of
affected households and loss of trees, and includes additional allowances for severely affected and vulnerable households.

3. Plan or other Actions. ☑ Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan

B. Indigenous Peoples

1. Key impacts. There are no indigenous peoples, as defined in ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement for operational purposes, inhabiting the project area.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. Not applicable.

3. Plan or other actions. ☑ No action

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, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L).

H unemployment L underemployment L retrenchment L core labor standards

2. Labor market impact. Impacts include project-related employment during civil works and maintenance, and income-earning opportunities for the rural population. Provisions will be included in the civil works contract(s) requiring contractors to meet core labor standards, including the prohibition to engage forced and child labor, and to provide equal pay for work of equal value, regardless of sex, age, race, and ethnic affiliation.

B. Affordability

Many households in the project area that are not connected to a piped network reported that they were willing to pay double the current tariff provided they receive good-quality piped water in sufficient amounts 24 hours a day. The affordability analysis is available in the project preparatory technical assistance final report. Findings have been incorporated into the project design.

C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks

1. The impacts of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

H Communicable diseases NA Human trafficking NA Others (please specify)

2. Risks to people in project area. The project will include the provisions in the civil works contracts on labor engagement and health and safety (including proper lighting of the construction sites, the presence of first aid kits and firefighting equipment, and proper delineation of construction sites).

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. The main indicators include (i) the number of groundwater wells, reservoirs, and pumping stations rehabilitated; (ii) the length of distribution network rehabilitated; (iii) the number of district metering areas established; (iv) the number of households with improved water supply; (v) training of Chinaz and Yangiyul district Suvokova’s staff, including women; and (vi) the number of meters installed in households.

2. Required human resources. A national social and gender specialist will be hired in the project coordination unit on a full-time basis to coordinate GAP implementation and monitoring. A safeguard monitoring expert will be engaged to ensure compliance with ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement. These resources are budgeted and integrated in the project implementation arrangements.

3. Information in the project administration manual. Monitoring of project performance, covenant compliance, safeguards, and gender and social dimensions will be reflected in the monthly progress report and/or other reports.

4. Monitoring tools. These tools include quarterly, midterm, and final reviews, as well as a biannual GAP progress report.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CSO = civil society organization, GAP = gender action plan, NGO = nongovernment organization, SES = socio-economic survey.


d In government terms, the poor are classified as a vulnerable and low-income group based on income of 1.5 times the official minimum wage per household member, which is adjusted regularly in accordance with inflation. The official minimum wage in January 2018 was set at SUM172,240 per month. In the absence of an official poverty line, 1.5 times the monthly minimum wage, or SUM258,360 per person, was used to calculate the percentage of poor beneficiaries.


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