Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

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Uzbekistan: Sustainable Solid Waste Management Project

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INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country: UZB  
Program Title: Sustainable Solid Waste Management Project

Lending/Financing Modality: Project  
Department/Division: CWRD/CWUW

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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

Amongst the major environmental challenges that Uzbekistan faces are the pollution of soil, air, and water resources, reduced flora and fauna, and the lack of adequate management of industrial and municipal waste. ADB provides continued assistance to develop Uzbekistan’s municipal infrastructure and services, including necessary regulatory and institutional reform, to ensure long-term sustainability. The county’s strong growth and rising population has increased demand for utilities in cities and urban areas. There are large requirements to replace aging infrastructure and improve the quality, coverage, and climate resilience of municipal services including wastewater and solid waste management (SWM). Responding to these critical needs, the project will be aligned with the environment, health and living conditions impact and have the following outcome: reliable, sustainable and affordable SWM services improved and expanded in small urban centers, peri-urban and rural areas nationwide.

The project is aligned with the CPS and supports the governments Welfare Improvement Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (G12). The project will assist government to improve and expand SWM services by providing vehicles and equipment to initialize the rehabilitation of selected dumpsites, formulating a sector-wide SWM regulatory directive, operationalizing and strengthening the Toza Hudud, and establishing an environmental laboratory to strengthen overall environmental monitoring. This will result in the reduction of widespread environmental damage caused by inadequate SWM systems in the targeted regions coupled with improved health, hygiene and sanitation standards.

B. Targeting Classification

☒ General Intervention ☐ Individual or Household (TI-H) ☐ Geographic (TI-G) ☐ Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2)

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

A unified methodology for estimating a national poverty line has not yet been adopted in Uzbekistan. According to the WB assessments the low-income population of Uzbekistan represented 27.5% of the total population in 2001, including 30.5% in rural areas and 22.5% in urban ones. By 2010 the indicator dropped to 17.7% on average (20.1% in rural areas and 13.4% in urban areas); in 2013 the poverty rate was observed at 14.1%. The population below poverty line was 12.8% in 2017. In government terms, the poor are classified as a vulnerable and low-income group, based on the 1.5 minimal wage and 2,100 Kcal per day as a poverty threshold.

The project will contribute directly and indirectly to poverty reduction. The improvement of the municipal solid waste (MSW) system will significantly reduce the expenditures and time resources spent by households (HH) and businesses to cope with MSW shortages. Implementation of sanitation awareness and hygiene promotion activities will also assist to reduce the incidence of inflectional diseases. Improving the institutional and management capacity of the Toza Hudud and its district branches will enhance the provision of reliable MSW services, support fair and transparent billing, and reduce HH costs and time for waste collection and recycling.

Uzbekistan currently generates over 12,000 tons per day (over 4 million tons per year) of municipal solid waste (MSW): a rate that is destined to accelerate to over 18,000 tons per day (7 million tons per year) by 2035, generating over 100 million tons by 2035. The existing system is however totally unprepared to meet this demand. Waste

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1 The ADB is assisting government to rehabilitate and expand the Tashkent City SWM system by (i) upgrading MSW recycling, collection, transfer and disposal facilities, (ii) strengthening service delivery capacity, and (iii) formulating a national SWM strategy. ADB. 2013. Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors for the Proposed Loan to the Government of Uzbekistan: Solid Waste Management Improvement Project. Manila.

2 State unitary enterprises (SUEs), known as Toza Hudud solely responsible for SWM service provision in small urban centers, peri-urban and rural areas


4 This threshold is defined in the regulation On the Procedure of Appointment and Payment of Social Allowances and Material Aid to Low-Income Families. 2012. Used by Makhallas for the award of poverty allowances.
At the institutional level, women are underrepresented (average 25%) both in lower-level positions and at managerial levels. The GAP will be focused on women's important roles in waste minimization and management to improve female participation in decision making and to meet EGM requirements based on the PSA findings and recommendations.

Gender issues were included in the design of ongoing SWM project (SGE) and currently gender-related activities and be built on the previous results. It is envisaged that Gender action plan (GAP) will be developed during PPTA or due diligence. Sector related poverty and social issues in the selected geographical areas to be carefully reviewed during project design by conducting a Poverty and Social Analysis (PSA)

4. By updating the legislation of environment protection, amending Law of Waste, and establishing the PPP legal framework and standards, it is expected that private sector investment in the solid waste will increase, which generates jobs for skilled and unskilled labor, and the service could expand to small urban centers, peri-urban and rural areas. This will prevent the potential environmental degradation caused by increasing untreated waste in the remote areas of the country, satisfying the needs and aspirations of the increasing population requires a balance between fulfilling the material needs and sustaining the fragile ecological environment.

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?

Households, and particularly women play important roles in SWM sector, as they are mostly responsible to prepare and purchase food and other items for household consumption as well as to manage the household waste. Men, women and children transport waste to collection points and to curbside pick-up, depending on the weight of the containers. Men have primary responsibility to give money to women in the household to pay the tariff collectors. At the institutional level women are underrepresented (average 25%) both in lower-level positions and at managerial or decision-making levels. Senior and mid-level management staff, most economists, engineers, and operators in the sector are males. Women mostly work at junior (and consequently low-paying) technical positions.

Gender issues were included in the design of ongoing SWM project (SGE) and currently gender-related activities are being implemented in the capital. In 2018 under the ongoing SWM project an annual medical checkup was conducted for 154 employees (15% of them women). All auto enterprises are provided with: 452 first-aid kits; 840 sets of uniform to drivers of motor vehicles; and 250 uniforms to the landfill workers. Social survey of satisfaction and comfort levels was conducted among female employees. The proposed project will replicate these gender activities and be built on the previous results. It is envisaged that Gender action plan (GAP) will be developed during PPTA or due diligence.

The GAP will be focused on women’s important roles in waste minimization and management to improve female consumer awareness of environmental and SWM issues through public awareness campaigns, in-depth training and school-based educational programs. Women will be empowered to establish and maintain acceptable household waste handling practices through increased awareness and the development of HH waste management guidelines/handbooks. A monitoring tool will be implemented to assess improvements in waste handling. The project will enhance collection point operations for women operators by ensuring that overall conditions are improved.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women’s access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?

Yes    No  Please explain. Gender action plan (GAP) will be prepared during PPTA or due diligence.
3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?
   Yes  ☒ No

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:
   - GEN (gender equity theme)
   - EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)
   - SGE (some gender elements)
   - NGE (no gender elements)

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design. A public awareness and media campaign will be implemented to inform citizens of the SWM system upgrades as well as focusing on increasing recycling and citizen awareness of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle practices. Mahalla Women’s Committee members will be trained to provide practical recycling advice in partnership with the national and city women’s committee. Consultations will be held with local CBO/CSO in the development of the Participation and Gender Actions Plans. To be elaborated during TRTA.

2. How can the project contribute (in a systemic way) to engaging and empowering stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly, the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups? What issues in the project design require participation of the poor and excluded?

3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?
   - Information generation and sharing
   - Consultation
   - Collaboration
   - Partnership
   Indicate in each box the level of participation by marking high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (N) based on definitions in the ADB’s Guide to Participation.

4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed?  Yes  ☒ No  Please explain.
   Describe key features, responsibilities and resources to strengthen the participation of CSOs

IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Involuntary Resettlement Category
   - A
   - B
   - C
   - FI

1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement?  Yes  ☒ No
   Social safeguard due diligence needs to be conducted mainly for activities under output 4. Either land acquisition and resettlement plan or social due diligence report needs to be prepared.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the TRTA or due diligence process?
   - Resettlement plan
   - Resettlement framework
   - Social impact matrix
   - Environmental and social management system arrangement
   - None

B. Indigenous Peoples Category
   - A
   - B
   - C
   - FI

1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples?  Yes  ☒ No
2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain?  Yes  ☒ No  The country in general does not have indigenous people’s communities as defined in the SPS for operational purposes.
3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities?  Yes  ☒ No
4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?
   - Indigenous peoples plan
   - Indigenous peoples planning framework
   - Social Impact matrix
   - Environmental and social management system arrangement
   - None

V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS

1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?
   - Creating decent jobs and employment
   - Adhering to core labor standards
   - Labor retrenchment
   - Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS
   - Increase in human trafficking
   - Affordability
   - Increase in unplanned migration
   - Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters
   - Creating political instability
   - Creating internal social conflicts
   - Others, please specify ________________
   Indicate high (H), medium (M), low (L) for selected boxes

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?
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<tr>
<th>VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do the terms of reference for the TRTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during PPTA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact; (ii) gender impact; (iii) participation dimensions; (iv) social safeguards; and (vi) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?</td>
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<td>☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please explain why.</td>
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<td>3. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the TRTA or due diligence?</td>
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