

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Saidabad Raw Water Conveyor
Project Number:	2016-0156
Country:	Bangladesh
Project Description:	The project will develop a new sustainable raw water source that will contribute to meeting an increasing water demand in Dhaka and enable a reduction in extraction from over-exploited groundwater resources. The project comprises the development of raw water conveyor from new water intakes to WTPs Saidabad I and II, with an approximate length of 25 km.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), entrusted with the responsibility to supply potable water to Dhaka Metropolitan City and adjacent areas, meets 78% of the water demand through extraction from ground water sources. The high rate of extraction to meet the demand of the city population is proving to be unsustainable. To respond to this emerging scenario, DWASA has made a strategic decision to shift from ground water source to conjunctive use of surface and ground water source, as per direction of the Government of Bangladesh. Saidabad Raw Water Conveyor will be a part of that endeavour. Therefore, the objective of the project, construction of a raw water conveyor from Meghna River, is to increase the capacity of DWASA in supplying safe drinking water to the city population utilising surface water sources, thereby diminishing the reliance on ground water resources and thus ensure water security.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared in line with the Department of Environmental of Bangladesh requirements, the Competent Authority (validated on the 17/05/2016). It is expected that the ESIA and the ESMP will be complemented prior to request for first disbursement, to fulfil EIB requirements.

During the development of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and the Environmental and Social Management Plan the following risks were identified and mitigations measures were proposed:

Construction Phase

The major activity associated with the implementation of the project will be the construction of a primary transmission line for raw water from the proposed intake in the Meghna River to the

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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existing Saidabad Water Treatment Plants, including underground crossing of the Shitalakshya and Old Brahmaputra Rivers.

For the majority of the works, classical design and construction techniques are expected to be applicable, with the exception of the required river crossings. After the installation of the transmission lines, a service road should also be built over or next to the pipeline within the allocated land strip. The road will be used for maintenance of the pipelines along this section as well as access to the intake pumping station.

For the sections to be constructed under the two Rivers mentioned above, the proposed method is to carry out the works using trenchless system, which should minimise environmental impacts and navigation activities

There are no protected areas, national parks, game reserves or wildlife sanctuaries within or in the vicinity of the project sites.

The main impacts identified for the Construction Phase under the ESIA included : (i) impacts on the river courses and the water quality during the construction of the transmission mains across the rivers Shitalakshya and Old Brahmaputra River; (ii) management of spoil disposal due to the excavation for the transmission mains; (iii) safety measures during construction including traffic diversions; (iv) management of sites temporarily used for construction activities, including borrow areas, construction camps, etc., and rehabilitation of the sites after completion of the temporary use; and (v) impacts on community health and safety hazards posed to the public, specifically in inhabited areas.

Operational Phase

Impacts during the operational phase include: (i) Stability of river bank and intake channel; (ii) Availability of raw water; (iii) Raw water quality; (iv) Public health and DWASA service facilities; (v) Navigation in rivers and khals through which water transmission line has crossed.

The proposed abstraction for the 950 Million Litres per Day intake will have negligible impacts on ecological flow and downstream uses.

Appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures (hygiene and safety plan, waste management plan, community health and safety initiatives among them) will be included in the revised ESMP.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Involuntary resettlement

The project will require the acquisition of 9 ha of land for the first 6 km of the conveyor, currently used for agricultural purposes. The extent of permanent physical (residential and commercial establishments exist along the project corridor) as well as temporary disruption of economic activities, is still to be updated in the existing ESIA.

Efforts have been made to select pipeline routes that minimise displacement and loss of livelihood.

In line with EIB E&S standards, the promoter will seek to mitigate the risks associated with involuntary resettlement with the elaboration of a Resettlement Policy Framework and Resettlement Action Plan as well as by meaningful consultations with project affected persons. The RAP implementation will ensure a gender sensitive approach in planning, management and operations.

Labour standard

Bangladesh ratified the fundamental ILO labours standards conventions. In order to uphold their implementation through the project, the promoter will be expected to include provision for

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their respect in the procurement documents for works. These provisions should apply to the main contractor.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders were involved in the development of the ESIA, through consultations with the communities, affected persons and institutional stakeholders. Three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were carried out at 3 different locations during field visits with the affected peoples on the purposes and benefits of the project's activities and the possible impacts to their livelihood and daily activities. In addition to the FGDs, a number of formal/informal meetings with stakeholders were carried out in the project areas, including along the routes of the distribution line.

The views expressed were incorporated into the ESIA and the planning and development of the project. The consultation process will be carried forward during the subsequent stages of the project design and implementation by the PMU with support of an NGO and Management and Supervision Consultant (MSC).

Consultation and engagement will continue throughout project implementation and any complaints or disputes related to the project will be handled in accordance with the grievance redress mechanism to be developed for the project. To this end the EIB has stipulated as a requirement a satisfactory Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including an accessible grievance mechanism to be submitted to the bank and duly implemented throughout the project's duration.

Documentation of project disclosure of information, stakeholders' consultation and grievance management by the promoter will be also required.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

A project Management Unit (PMU) has been established within Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority that will comprise environmental and social expertise.

Project will be subject to reporting requirements on E&S standards.

Conclusions and Recommendations

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been prepared for the project and approved by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

The studies conclude that there are no significant or irreversible environmental impacts envisaged as a result of the project interventions. Furthermore, the project will not affect any environmentally sensitive areas. The impacts are largely construction related and can be addressed through adoption of good engineering practices and appropriate mitigation measures during project implementation. Both the ESIA and ESMP will be updated to reflect any changes to the Saidabad Water Programme.

A Resettlement Policy Framework and Action Plan (RAP) will be prepared to mitigate and remedy impacts, including through compensation in line with Bangladeshi laws and EIB standards.

Overall the project has a positive net social and environment impact, short term impacts during construction, particularly related to resettlement and income loss need to be minimised through diligent implementation of RAP as well as the ESMP, which should form part of the loan conditions.

In order to address the recommendations above, the Promoter will be required to provide an updated version of the ESIA and develop the RPF and relevant RAP, as disbursement



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conditions. In addition, the Promoter will be required to ensure that environmental and social mitigation and compensation measures will be implemented in accordance with the updated ESMP, RAP and to the satisfaction of the Bank. Finally, the Promoter will be required to ensure compliance with applicable labour laws.

Under these conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.

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