Bangladesh Urban Resilience Project

Social Management Framework

Background :

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world because of its geographical location and the disaster risks are increasing due to climate change effects and other reasons. Besides natural disasters like cyclone, flood and tornado; man-made disasters like fire, drainage congestion, landslide and building collapse are increasing rapidly particularly in and around the major cities. The country has on the other hand achieved considerable capacity in disaster management particularly with respect to coastal cyclone, tidal surge and flood and to these the local communities, rural local government, NGOs, voluntary organizations like Red Crescent Society, and government organizations in the district and Upazila levels have been playing important role. But the city level emergency disaster management system remains weak as revealed from the various assessments and the City Corporations in particular have not been actively involved in disaster management except in some relief distribution during events like flood. The National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-15 identified 12 major hazards. Of these, flood, fire, tornado and infrastructure collapse are highly relevant in both Dhaka and Sylhet while landslide too is highly relevant in Sylhet. In addition, drainage congestion is a serious concern in both cities. Earthquake is infrequent but Dhaka has been identified by Stanford University, as one of the 20 most earthquake vulnerable cities in the world. Besides earthquake, Dhaka has been identified as the second most flood prone metropolis, after Shanghai of China. Unplanned urbanization is consequently contributing to the threat.

Urban Disaster Resilience has been defined as the capability to be prepared, respond to, and recover from multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to public safety and health, the economy, and security of a given area. The focus of the proposed project concerns natural disasters like flood, cyclone, tornado, earthquake etc. including accidents like fire, building collapse, landslide etc. that cause massive destruction and unrecoverable loses to the victims. All these incidents are frequent in the deliberate project areas of Dhaka and Sylhet City Corporation.

The Project:

In this backdrop, the Government of Bangladesh intends to implement the Bangladesh Urban Resilience Project (URP) in two cities, Dhaka (DNCC, DSCC) and Sylhet (SCC). The URP is the first phase of a series of projects which will initially focus improving the critical capacity and for planning and emergency response. The second phase would seek to further improve construction standards for future developments and reduce existing physical vulnerabilities. The third phase would consider broader investment in infrastructure development in water supply system, power system, transport, and construction of protective infrastructure.
The URP-1 will focus improving critical capacity, planning and emergency response. This will also lay foundations for subsequent interventions of urban resilience, improving structural resilience through reduction of existing physical vulnerability, risk sensitive land use planning, safe construction standards and practices to ensure sustainable mitigation measures from damages caused by these disasters.

Investments under the project includes construction or upgrading buildings to accommodate a National Coordination Center, a National Disaster Management, Research and Training Institute, Emergency Operations Centers and Control Rooms for development of resilience to disasters in Dhaka and Sylhet city corporations. Although all sites are not identified at this stage, all constructions will expectedly be on available lands to Bangladesh government or of the City Corporations.

**The Social Management Framework:**

*Purpose and applicability:*

The SMF will guide the executing agencies in identification of social aspects and impacts through a detailed social assessment prior to actual implementation. The executing agencies will develop and implement remedial measures to mitigate any social risks through development and implementation of Social management plans (SMP), which includes a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The implementing agencies will ensure that sound methodologies are followed and no displacement (if any) is unattended to ensure prevention of the loss of livelihoods or dislocation of residence, even if temporary due to any project related construction work. Acquisition of private land will be fully avoided by a screening process. Voluntary donation of land will be accepted only when the interventions are not location sensitive and the potential donor is not expected to create any threat of elite domination or external pressure. But this too is unlikely as maximum effort will be made to locate physical works on available public land or on land belonging to the concerned GOB agencies and City Corporations.

The SMF will be implemented and monitored by the respective Executing Agencies for project investments to be identified, prepared and implemented following the procedures recommended. The Executing Agencies will be responsible for mainstreaming the SMF in the identification and preparation of subprojects. All investments will be implemented following the SMF guidance on social issues and safeguards, and will include the associated costs including stakeholders’ consultation, disclosure and training of local actors. LGD will develop a community operational guideline for implementation of the SMF in carrying out social screening and preparation of SMP.