



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

Local Government Division

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

**Environmental and Social Assessment Report on Dinajpur
Pourashava**

RUTDP/DIN/2024-25/W-03



Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)

Sub-Project Preparation Team, RUTDP, LGED

Summary of ESA Report for Package No: RUTDP/DIN/2024-25/W-03

Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)

Location: Ward 7 & 8, Dinajpur Pourashava, Dinajpur

1. Introduction

Background

Dinajpur Pourashava, established in 1869, is an “A” grade municipality with ~27,335 residents (BBS 2011) over 24.5 sq. km. Rapid urbanization have created infrastructure demands, particularly for drainage, roads, and sanitation.

Under the RUTDP, this subproject focuses on rehabilitation of RCC drains with allied works (footpath, lighting, etc.).

Objectives of ESA

- Assess baseline environmental and social conditions.
- Identify potential construction and operation impacts.
- Propose an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for mitigation and monitoring.

Methodology

- Desktop study: review of reports, maps, and legal frameworks.
- Field investigations: site visits, photography, interviews, public consultations.
- Data analysis: comparison of baseline with projected impacts.

2. Subproject Description

Key Activities

- Construction of 4665m RCC drains with footpaths and street lighting.
- Specific routes: New Tawon Railghunti → City College More → Moharaja More → Gabura Bazar, with two link drains (to graveyard and mosque).

Existing Issues

- Current drains are damaged, narrow, and silted, lacking proper outfalls.
- Causes frequent waterlogging, drainage congestion, and road damage during monsoon.

Benefits

- Improved stormwater discharge into Girija Khal & Ghagra Khal (outfalls).
- Reduced waterlogging, better traffic movement, and enhanced sanitation.
- ~29,300 residents will directly benefit.

Implementation Process

- Site office & labor sheds.
- Excavation, sand filling, RCC drain construction.
- Use of equipment like excavators, mixers, vibrators, compactors, etc.

Categorization

- ECR 2023: Orange Category.
- World Bank ESF: Moderate Risk.
- Impacts are localized, temporary, and manageable.

3. Baseline Environmental and Social Conditions

Physical Environment

- **Geology:** Barind Clay formation, flat terrain, elevation 20–26 m PWD.
- **Climate:** Subtropical; annual rainfall ~1998–2040 mm, concentrated in May–Oct.
- **Hydrology:** Local rivers (Girija Khal, Ghagra Khal, Gabura & Purnonova). Groundwater shallow but often arsenic-affected.
- **Flooding:** Generally flood-free, but past major floods in 1988 & 1998.
- **Air & Noise:** Currently moderate, but dust, traffic, and burning waste degrade quality.
- **Solid Waste:** Collected but poorly managed, much waste dumped into khals/drains.

Biotic Environment

- **Flora:** Rain tree, Mahogany, Mango, Jackfruit, Bamboo, etc.
- **Fauna:** Common birds, reptiles, and small mammals. One vulnerable species recorded (mongoose).
- Minor tree felling expected (~5 trees).

Socio-economic Context

- **Land Use:** Dense residential & commercial zone.
- **Beneficiaries:** ~29,300 people in Wards 7 & 8.
- **Education:** Literacy 75.4% (higher than national avg.).
- **Livelihoods:** Mostly small businesses, jobs, transport services.
- **Resettlement:** No land acquisition. Some minor roadside sheds/walls to be voluntarily removed (agreement signed).
- **Cultural Heritage:** Rajbari and Sukhsagor nearby, but unaffected.

4. Environmental & Social Impacts and Mitigation

➤ Key Construction Impacts

- **Site works** (excavation, dismantling): Dust, noise, waste.
 - *Mitigation:* Cover soil, proper disposal at Matasagor dump, water spraying.
- **Tree felling:** ~5 trees removed.
 - *Mitigation:* Plant 30 replacement trees (fruits, medicinal, ornamental).
- **RCC works:** Dust, noise, water pollution risk.
 - *Mitigation:* Covered transport, dust control, proper waste disposal.
- **Occupational Health & Safety:** Risks of heat, accidents, dust inhalation.
 - *Mitigation:* PPE, first aid, training, sanitation facilities.
- **Pollution risks:** Spillage of fuel/oil, improper disposal.
 - *Mitigation:* Storage on raised platforms, waste managed by contractors.
- **Community impacts:** Minor disturbances, traffic disruption, accidents risk.
 - *Mitigation:* Section-wise construction, signage, diversion routes, awareness campaigns.

➤ Social Aspects

- **Resettlement:** Voluntary removal only, no land acquisition.
- **Labor influx:** May cause social risks (crime, GBV, disease).
 - *Mitigation:* Preference for local labor, monitoring behavior, community liaison.
- **Community perception:** Strongly supportive, expect jobs and better services.

➤ **Operation Phase Impacts**

- **Positive:** Improved drainage, reduced flooding, better sanitation, enhanced trade & mobility.
- **Negative:** Noise, air emissions, solid waste management challenges.
 - *Mitigation:* Regular maintenance, enforcement of waste rules.

5. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Institutional Arrangements

- PMU (LGED) oversees.
- PIU (Dinajpur Pourashava) implements with DSM consultants.
- Contractors responsible for on-site ESMP compliance.
- Regular monitoring & reporting to World Bank.

Capacity Building

- Training for Pourashava officials, contractors, and workers on ES safeguards.

Monitoring Plan

- **Construction phase:** Dust, noise, waste disposal, traffic impacts (visual + analytical monitoring).
- **Operation phase:** Maintenance of drains, tree growth, waste handling.

Budget & GRM

- Environmental/social enhancement costs included in BOQ.
- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM): Committee to address complaints promptly.

6. Public Consultation Outcomes

- Issues raised: drainage congestion, solid waste management, road and sanitation problems.
- Strong demand for improved infrastructure, employment, and quality control.
- Recommendations: proper scheduling, adherence to ESMP, capacity-building workshops.
- Community expressed support and ownership of the project.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

- The subproject is technically justified, socially supported, and environmentally manageable.
- Impacts are mostly temporary and localized, mitigable through standard measures.
- No land acquisition, resettlement, or indigenous community impacts.
- Overall Risk Classification: Orange (ECR 2023), Moderate (WB ESF).
- ESA + ESMP are sufficient for project clearance; no detailed ESIA required.

Recommendation: Proceed with subproject implementation ensuring strict adherence to ESMP, GRM, and continuous community engagement to maximize benefits and minimize risks.