



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 (ESA) REPORT FOR

Package No: RUTDP/BEN/2024-25/W-01

at

Benapole Pourashava, Benapole



Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)

Sub-Project Preparation Team, RUTDP, LGED

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) Report

Package No: RUTDP/BEN/2024-25/W-01, Benapole Pourashava

1. Project Background and Objectives

Benapole Pourashava, an "A" grade municipality established in 2006, faces rapid urbanization, poor road conditions, inadequate drainage, and absence of street lighting. To address these, the Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP) has identified a subproject (Package RUTDP/BEN/2024-25/W-01) covering:

- Rehabilitation of Bituminous Carpeting (BC) roads (~4,896 m),
- Construction/replacement of RCC drains with footpaths,
- Installation of street lighting works.

Objectives of the ESA study:

1. Assess baseline environmental and social conditions.
2. Identify potential impacts (construction and operation phases).
3. Develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for mitigation and monitoring.

2. Subproject Description

The subproject lies within Ward Nos. 3 and 9 of Benapole Pourashava.

Key works include:

- Poura Bhaban Road (2,400 m BC road with streetlights, drains, and footpaths).
- Doulatpur Road & Doulatpur–Choto Achra Link Road (2,496 m BC road with associated drains and lighting).

Current Situation of the Subproject



Beneficiaries: Direct benefits to ~8,900 residents; indirect benefits to wider communities through improved mobility, drainage, and safety.

3. Justification and Need

The existing road network suffers from potholes, narrow widths, and poor drainage, leading to waterlogging during monsoons. Absence of streetlights compromises traffic and pedestrian safety.

The project is expected to:

- Improve traffic flow and reduce congestion,
- Minimize drainage congestion and waterlogging,
- Enhance urban safety and night-time security,
- Stimulate local commerce and livelihoods.

4. Baseline Environmental and Social Conditions

Physical Environment

- **Topography & Soil:** Part of the Holocene Ganges Delta with sandy clay up to 15 m depth.
- **Groundwater:** Shallow aquifers, but contaminated with iron and arsenic; deep tube wells used for safe water.
- **Flooding & Drainage:** Area generally flood-free but suffers from temporary waterlogging due to poor drainage connectivity with Hakar Khal and Betna River.
- **Air Quality:** Degraded by vehicular emissions, dust from unpaved roads, and open waste burning.
- **Noise:** From traffic, horns, and market congestion.

Biological Environment

- Limited vegetation; a few roadside trees to be felled. No significant wildlife habitats.
- Socio-economic and Cultural Environment
- Population ~36,500; economy mainly trade-related (border town).
- No land acquisition required; works are on existing municipal roads.
- Some tin-sheds, semi-pucca structures, and trees to be removed with prior consultations.

5. Environmental and Social Impacts

Positive Impacts

- Reduced travel time and better connectivity.
- Improved drainage and reduced waterlogging.
- Enhanced road safety and night security from streetlights.
- Local employment generation during construction and indirect livelihoods post-project.

Negative Impacts (Construction Phase)

- Dust, air, and noise pollution from equipment and vehicles.
- Soil contamination and improper waste disposal from campsites.
- Occupational health and safety risks (excavation, machinery, electrical works).
- Temporary traffic disruption.
- Minor ecological impact from tree felling.

Negative Impacts (Operation Phase)

- Risk of improper maintenance of drains and streetlights.
- Increased traffic volume leading to localized congestion.

6. Mitigation and Management Measures (ESMP)

Construction Phase:

- Dust suppression through water spraying and covering of materials.
- Noise control by scheduling works, avoiding school/prayer times.
- PPE (helmets, masks, gloves) and first-aid for workers.
- Waste management: bins, sanitary latrines, disposal at designated landfill.
- Employ local labor to reduce social tension.
- Tree plantation program to compensate losses.

Operation Phase:

- Regular road/drain cleaning and maintenance.
- Use of LED lighting and renewable sources where feasible.
- Community awareness for proper waste disposal.

7. Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building

- **Executing Agency:** LGED (PMU).
- **Implementing Agency:** Benapole Pourashava PIU.
- **Monitoring:** Monthly/quarterly reports submitted to World Bank.
- **Training:** MSU to conduct capacity-building on environmental/social screenings implementation, and emergency response.

8. Public Consultation and Disclosure

Stakeholder consultations (FGDs, interviews, meetings) revealed community demand for improved communication, drainage, sanitation, and solid waste management. Communities welcomed the project, highlighting the need for quality construction and timely completion.

The ESA will be translated into Bengali and made publicly accessible through Pourashava and LGED offices, and the World Bank website.

9. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A local Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be set up in Benapole Pourashava. Complaints can be submitted via register or forms, ensuring transparent and timely resolution without cost or retribution.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The project will have moderate, manageable impacts compared to its significant socio-economic benefits.
- No land acquisition is required; ecological impacts are minor.
- Mitigation measures under the ESMP must be strictly followed.

Key Recommendations:

- Keep ESMP available on-site and ensure contractor compliance.
- Regular supervision by PMU, PIU, and DSM.
- Ensure PPE, first aid, and safety measures during works.
- Maintain planted trees and monitor drainage systems post-construction.
- Conduct continuous community engagement and awareness.