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/BIR/ 2024-25/W-01
at
Birampur Pourashava, Dinajpur

Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)

Sub-Project Preparation Team, RUTDP, LGED

SUMMARY OF ESA REPORT

Package No: RUTDP/BIR/2024-25/W-01, Birampur Pourashava, Dinajpur

1. Project Background and objectives

Birampur Pourashava, established in 1995, is an "A" grade municipality covering 25.2 sq. km with a population of ~45,000. Rapid urbanization has stressed its road, drainage, and infrastructure systems. The RUTDP subproject aims to rehabilitate and upgrade roads, drains, and lighting within wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

Key activities:

- Rehabilitation/replacement of RCC pavements and BC (bituminous carpeting) roads.
- Replacement of damaged RCC drains with new drains including outfall improvements.
- Installation of street lighting for safety and security.

Objectives of the ESA:

- Establish baseline environmental and social conditions.
- Assess potential impacts (positive and negative) during construction and operation.
- Propose an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to mitigate risks and enhance benefits

2. Subproject Description

Main Components:

1. **BC Roads (2 stretches, each ~1.74 km)** with RCC drains and street lighting.
2. **RCC Road (0.41 km)** reconstruction.
3. **Street Lighting** along key roads.

Current challenges: Roads are narrow, potholed, and waterlogged due to silted or broken drains. Poor drainage causes temporary flooding during monsoon, damaging roads and affecting livelihoods. Lack of streetlights hampers safety.

Current Situation of the Subproject:

Expected benefits: Improved mobility, drainage, reduced waterlogging, enhanced trade and urban services, better night-time safety, and livelihoods support. About 33,000 people will benefit directly

3. Baseline Environmental & Social Conditions

- **Physical Environment**: Flat Barind landscape, soils range from sandy to loamy; earthquake Zone 2. Average annual rainfall ~2,000 mm; prone to heavy monsoon rains. Groundwater shallow but contaminated with arsenic/iron; surface water flows to Choto Jamuna River. Area not flood-prone but suffers temporary waterlogging due to poor drains.
- **Air & Noise**: Air quality mostly good but degraded by dust, vehicles, and waste burning. Noise within tolerable limits, generated by traffic and markets.
- **Biotic Environment**: Common flora includes mango, mahogany, bamboo, etc. Fauna includes birds, reptiles, and small mammals (mongooses noted). Some wetland habitats support biodiversity.
- **Socio-economic**: Dense residential-commercial mix, 59.7% literacy (lower than national). Livelihoods based on business, transport, services, and small industries. No indigenous or minority groups present. No significant cultural heritage sites.
- **Land acquisition**: Not required; some roadside structures (sheds, walls, fences) will be voluntarily removed with community consent

4. Environmental & Social Impacts

4.1 Construction Phase Risks

- **Air & Dust**: From excavation, transport, asphalt plants.
- **Noise/Vibration**: From machinery and vehicles, affecting schools, residences.
- **Water Quality**: Risks from improper disposal of construction waste.
- **Soil**: Temporary disruption from excavation/filling.
- **Tree Felling**: About 20 roadside trees will be cut.
- **Community Disruption**: Temporary traffic congestion, risk of accidents, worker influx pressure.
- **Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)**: Heat exposure, dust inhalation, accidents, machinery risks.

4.2 Operational Phase Risks

- **Air & Noise**: Vehicle emissions and horns.
- **Drainage**: Risk of clogging if not maintained.
- **Solid Waste**: Improper disposal could cause pollution.
- **Traffic**: Improved roads may increase vehicle flow, requiring safety measures.

4.3 Social Impacts

- No displacement or land acquisition.
- Positive impacts include better business opportunities, job creation, improved mobility, and night-time safety due to streetlights.
- Minor risks include labor influx issues (disease spread, conflicts, social tensions) and road accidents

5. Mitigation & Enhancement Measures

Key Mitigation Actions:

- Dust suppression (spraying water, covering stockpiles).
- Noise reduction (mufflers, daytime work scheduling).
- Safe waste disposal at designated sites.
- Replanting 125 trees (fruit, timber, ornamental) to offset losses.
- Strict OHS measures: PPE, first aid, sanitation facilities.
- Community engagement: regular liaison, awareness campaigns.
- Traffic management: signs, section-wise work, peak-hour avoidance.
- Labor influx control: hire locals where possible, monitor behavior, ensure sanitation.

Enhancement Measures:

- Employment opportunities for locals.
- Improved trade and connectivity.
- Increased safety from lighting.

6. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

- **Institutional setup**: LGED, PMU, PIU, contractors, and DSM consultants to oversee compliance.
- **Monitoring**: Visual checks and analytical monitoring (dust, noise, water quality).
- **Capacity building**: Training for contractors, Pourashava staff.
- **Emergency response**: Protocols for accidents, floods, or disasters.
- **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**: Local-level GRC with community access.
- **Budget**: Allocated for monitoring, mitigation, and enhancement works in BOQ

7. Conclusion & Recommendations

- The subproject is categorized as **Orange (ECR 2023)** and **Moderate Risk (World Bank ESF)**.
- Impacts are **site-specific, temporary, and manageable**. No large-scale or irreversible environmental/social risks exist.
- No land acquisition or indigenous community displacement is required.
- With effective ESMP implementation, the project will **improve road connectivity, drainage, urban services, livelihoods, and safety**, leading to long-term socio-economic development for Birampur Pourashava