



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/NKH/ 2024-25/W-01

at

Noakhali Pourashava, Noakhali



Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)

Sub-Project Preparation Team, RUTDP, LGED

1. Subproject Overview

Location & Context:

Noakhali Pourashava, one of the oldest municipalities (established in 1876) in southeastern Bangladesh, is an “A” grade Pourashava covering **16.66 sq. km** with a population of **~107,654** (BBS 2011). The municipality faces significant urban infrastructure challenges — damaged roads, poor drainage, and lack of street lighting — leading to mobility issues, waterlogging, and safety concerns.

Subproject Title:

Improvement of **Maijdee New Jail Road, Noakhali Sadar Hospital Road, and Link Road** (Ward 1 & 4), including **RCC & BC roads, drains, footpaths, and streetlights**.

Key Components:

- Rehabilitation/replacement of **RCC and BC pavements** (≈ 3 km)
- Construction of **RCC drains with proper outfall**
- Installation of **streetlights**
- Allied works (footpaths, signage, etc.)

Objective:

To improve transportation efficiency, reduce waterlogging, enhance public safety, and strengthen the overall resilience and livability of Noakhali Pourashava.

2. Existing Conditions and Need

Present Situation:

- Roads: Severely damaged with potholes, uneven surfaces, and insufficient width (3.5–7.0 m).
- Drains: Narrow, silted, damaged, and discontinuous with poor outfall connectivity to **Islamia Khal → Noakhali Khal → Dakatia River**.
- Streetlights: Largely absent, causing safety concerns at night.

Problems Identified:

- Drainage congestion during monsoon
- Damage to infrastructure and traffic disruption
- Public inconvenience and economic loss





Justification:

The project addresses a **core service gap**—restoring mobility, sanitation, and resilience. Around **33,400 people** in Wards 1 & 4 will directly benefit through improved access, safety, and livelihood opportunities.

3. Baseline Environmental and Social Condition

3.1 Physical Environment

- **Topography:** Medium highland (avg. 3.75 mPWD), mostly flood-free (Zone III seismic risk).
- **Soils:** Calcareous alluvial; silty and fertile, with good bearing capacity.
- **Climate:** Tropical with high rainfall (avg. 3,302 mm annually); temperature ranges **19.5°C–40.6°C**.
- **Hydrology:** Drained through natural khals (Noakhali, WAPDA, Gabua, Islamia). Groundwater shallow and arsenic-prone; deep tube wells used.
- **Flooding:** Generally, flood-free, though waterlogging occurs due to poor drainage.

3.2 Biotic Environment

- **Flora:** Rain tree, Mahogany, Coconut, Mango, Kadam, Neem, and ornamental plants.
- **Fauna:** Common birds, amphibians, mongooses (IUCN-listed), and aquatic species.
- **Impact Sensitivity:** Low, as the area is urbanized with scattered vegetation.

3.3 Socio-economic and Cultural Profile

- **Population & Literacy:** 33,400 direct beneficiaries; literacy rate 75.3%.
- **Livelihoods:** Small business, services, transport, and local trade.
- **Land Use:** Mixed residential and commercial zones.
- **Resettlement:** No private land acquisition required; minor voluntary removal of structures (tin/pukka walls, fences).
- **Tribal/Indigenous Communities:** None identified (no ESS7 implications).
- **Cultural Heritage:** No archaeological or protected sites nearby.

4. Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation

4.1 Risk Classification

- **ECR 2023 Category:** **Orange** (for roads & drains), **Green** (for streetlights)
- **WB Risk Classification:** **Moderate Risk** **Subproject**
Impacts are localized, short-term, and manageable with standard mitigation.

4.2 Key Potential Impacts

Phase	Type	Impact Summary	Significance
Construction	Negative	Dust, noise, temporary waterlogging, waste generation, occupational risk	Moderate

Phase	Type	Impact Summary	Significance
	Positive	Employment, business opportunities	High
Operation	Positive	Improved mobility, drainage, safety, urban aesthetics	Significant
Social	Neutral–Positive	No resettlement; voluntary structure removal; strong community support	Minor

4.3 Major Issues & Mitigation Measures

A. Site Clearing, Excavation, and Earthwork

- Dust suppression by water spray
- Proper waste disposal at designated site (Dharmopur)
- Covering exposed soil, avoiding topsoil loss

B. Tree Felling and Plantation

- About 20 trees to be felled → **100 trees to be replanted** (ratio 1:5)
- Use local species (Mango, Rain tree, Mahogany, Neem, Kadam)
- Fencing and watering up to defect liability period

C. Air, Noise, and Water Pollution

- Maintain moisture in materials
- Fit silencers on machinery
- Prohibit waste dumping into khals and drains
- Dispose wastes at designated sites

D. Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)

- PPE for all workers (helmet, gloves, mask, boots)
- First aid kits on-site
- Proper sanitation, clean labor sheds, and ventilation

E. Social Impacts

- Continuous engagement with community leaders
- Restrict construction during prayer/school hours
- Priority hiring for local workers

F. Labor Influx Management

- Awareness on GBV, HIV/AIDS prevention, and discipline
- Monitoring of worker behavior and hygiene
- Encourage local recruitment

G. Traffic and Safety

- Section-wise construction to minimize congestion
- Use of diversion signs and flagmen
- Coordination with local authorities

5. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

5.1 Institutional Setup

- **PMU (LGED HQ):** Overall supervision and compliance monitoring.
- **PIU (Noakhali Pourashava):** Daily supervision, reporting, and liaison.
- **DSM Consultants:** Technical and ES support, training, monitoring.
- **Contractor:** Implementation of ESMP and safety measures.

5.2 Key ESMP Measures

Activity	Impact	Mitigation	Responsibility
Earthwork	Dust, noise	Sprinkling, cover loads	Contractor
Drain construction	Water pollution	No waste in khals	Contractor

Activity	Impact	Mitigation	Responsibility
Tree removal	Habitat loss	1:5 replanting	PIU/Contractor
Labor influx	Social tension	Awareness, discipline	Contractor/PIU
Traffic	Congestion	Caution signs, phasing	Contractor/DSM

5.3 Monitoring & Reporting

- **Visual inspections** and **analytical monitoring** (air, noise, water quality).
- **Frequency:** Monthly (during construction), semi-annual (operation).
- **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):**
 - Three-tier system (site → Pourashava → PMU level).
 - Complaint registers at site office; resolution within 7–14 days.

5.4 Cost Estimate

Environmental & social management, tree plantation, and monitoring budget included in BOQ (Table 5.7.1 of report).

6. Public Consultation Summary

Venue: Noakhali Pourashava Office

Participants: Pourashava officials, local residents, businesspeople, women representatives.

Date: June 2023

Issues Raised:

- Need for smooth traffic and pedestrian safety
- Request to ensure dust and noise control
- Need for local employment opportunities
- Concerns on waste disposal and drainage outfall

Community Feedback:

- Full support and willingness to cooperate; appreciated inclusion of street lighting for safety.
- Requested timely execution and post-construction cleanliness.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The subproject will **significantly improve mobility, drainage, and urban safety**.
- Identified environmental and social risks are **site-specific, temporary, and manageable** through the proposed **ESMP and GRM**.
- **No land acquisition or displacement** issues exist.
- Strong community participation and local benefits (employment, health, safety) ensure social acceptability.
- The subproject is environmentally and socially **feasible and sustainable** under **Moderate Risk (WB ESF)** and **Orange Category (ECR 2023)** classification.

Overall Summary Judgment:

The RUTDP/NKH/2024-25/W-01 subproject at Noakhali Pourashava is a well-justified urban infrastructure improvement initiative. It promises to enhance climate resilience, mobility, sanitation, and community safety with minimal environmental and social risks, provided that the ESMP is properly implemented and monitored.