

## Executive summary

Kewatkhali Bridge is part of the Dhaka-Mymensingh-India border corridor and is strategically important for regional and local connectivity. An enhanced link between Dhaka and Mymensingh will help facilitate cross-border trade with India. Currently, residents of the north-central districts on the eastern side of the Brahmaputra River is connected to Dhaka through Mymensingh city by the existing Shambuganj Bridge. The length and width of the two-lane Shambuganj Bridge are 455m and 11 m, respectively. With the increase in vehicles, the expansion of the town in the direction of the proposed bridge location, and the resulting congestion around the crossing point, an upgrade is required to direct traffic away from the town and reduce travel time by expanding the capacity of the bridge. The Project is expected to ease traffic congestion in Mymensingh City by diverting traffic from its busy central area. The proposed bridge will provide a safe and efficient connectivity link for passengers and freight traffic from several regions, including Sherpur, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Netrokana, Kishorgonj, and Mymensingh, with Dhaka using the N3 highway. It is anticipated that this project will result in greater integration of local markets with national markets and promote higher economic growth in the north-central region. The project components consist of: (i) 900m long 4-lane bridge over Old Brahmaputra River of Mymensingh City, (ii) 200m railway overpass, (iii) 400m overpass ramp, and (iv) 6.1 km 4-lane approach road with separate SMVT over Old Brahmaputra River of Mymensingh City. A total of 81.5875 acres of land will be acquired to carry out project activities, out of which Private Land, Public Land, and Community-owned property account for 80.9779 acres, 0.3006 acres, and 0.309 acres, respectively. Moreover, the types of land to be acquired under the project can be categorized as agricultural land (51.6712 acres), Homestead, and Commercial land (25.363 acres), and Ponds and Ditch (4.6072 acres).

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study is funded by the AIIB's Project Preparation Special Fund. The AIIB screens and categorizes each project to determine the nature and degrees of the required social assessment, type of information disclosure, and stakeholder engagement. This project has been assigned category A, and Screening has also revealed that ESS1: Environmental and Social Assessment and Management and ESS2: Involuntary Resettlement are applicable for this project.

In the second chapter, all applicable laws and regulations and the relevant Environment and Social Standards of the AIIB applicable to this project have been identified and discussed. The critical national legislations and regulations discussed in the chapter include The Environment Conservation Rules, 1997; The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Act 2017 (ARIPA), Labour related laws (Labour Act 2006; Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015; and Occupational Health and Safety Policies 2013). Moreover, after careful screening of the project components for potential risks and impacts, the AIIB has deemed **ESS1**: Environmental and Social Assessment and Management; and **ESS2**: Involuntary Resettlement to be applicable for the project.

Having discussed the relevant laws and ESSs, the main gaps between them and potential gap-filling measures are presented, and adequate gap-filling measures have been suggested. The primary national laws related to ESS1 include the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997 (ECR, 1997), Labour Act 2006; Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015; and Occupational Health and Safety Policies 2013 and Antiques law 1968. The ECR 1997 sets out the EIA screening and scoping study; however, it does not comprehensively cover the requirements under ESS1. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessments have addressed the EIA prepared by the national government by adding the analysis of alternatives and public consultations. For the project, an EIA, SIA, and an RP have been prepared.

The labor-related laws do not comprehensively cover the requirements related to safe working conditions and community health and safety, as outlined in ESS1. Labor-related challenges will be addressed by applying relevant EHSGs or other international standards and

by including provisions related to the management of OHS risks and related mitigation measures in the bidding documents of the contractors. The project will not hire any child labor.

The current alignment of the project interventions does not coincide with any ancient monuments and or archaeological sites. However, there are a few Masjids and Madrasas along the RoW. Challenges concerning cultural resources can be addressed as a part of the ESMP and by using chance find procedures that include pre-approved management and conservation approach for cultural resources that may be uncovered during site preparation or the project's implementation.

The gaps identified between ARIPA 2017 and ESS2 will be bridged through project-specific measures designed in the Resettlement Planning Framework (RPF) and adopted in the Resettlement Plan (RP). While dealing with compensation, replacement cost (for lost assets and income), rehabilitation, and livelihood assistance, PAPs with no legal rights will also be considered. The measures will improve or at least restore the PAP's standard of living to the pre-project level. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, including those below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly, women-headed households, and those without legal title. The project will adhere to the AIIBs mitigation hierarchy, establish a GRM, carry out a meaningful consultation strategy throughout its life cycle and implement a comprehensive monitoring strategy.

The third chapter provides socio-economic baseline data, which serves as the basis for identifying, predicting, and assessing impacts during the various phases of the project, especially before civil works. Both secondary and primary sources were used to understand the project's footprint area's baseline socio-economic profile. Secondary sources involved collating analyzing research papers and information available on websites, books, and journals. A robust primary data collection strategy was applied to obtain quantitative and qualitative data. The SIA used surveys, interviews, and consultation sessions to collate data from the project locality. To ensure that the data possessed a degree of representativeness, various population groups were interviewed, including potential PAPs, businesses, officials, local leaders. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data, whereas the qualitative data were analyzed using narrative and descriptive techniques. The following are some descriptive statistics of the surveyed household:

- The average size of the surveyed households is 5. Moreover, disaggregating the household members in terms of gender indicates that 51percent of the individuals are male, and 49 percent are female.
- The estimated dependency ratio of the sampled households is 53.46%.
- Approximately 74.25 percent of the population have some education. Disaggregated data suggests that 25.75 percent of the population is illiterate, 16.17 percent have completed primary education, another 13.77 percent have completed education up to HSC level, and a third have obtained madrassa education.
- The main occupation groups among the members of the surveyed household are businessmen (9.78 percent), service holders (22.56 percent), and students (34.59 percent)

The fourth chapter identifies the social impacts due to the project. The nature of the project activities and subsequent civil works are likely to generate several adverse effects. However, by developing appropriate mitigating strategies, these adverse impacts could be minimized or eliminated. The critical adverse implications of the project include impacts on (a) vulnerable groups and women in terms of displacements, either physically or economically, (b) on community infrastructures in terms of Madrasas and Mazars, and (c) adjacent buildings which may be affected due to construction works. Mitigation measures for all these impacts have been suggested in the SIA. Besides, there will be impacts on physical displacements and livelihood.

A total of 81.5875 acres of land will be acquired to carry out project activities and the type of land to be acquired under the project includes agricultural land (51.6712 acres), Homestead, and Commercial land (25.363 acres) and Ponds and Ditch (4.6072 acres). The social impact assessment survey has revealed that 650 HHs located in the project area have structures within the RoW. 467 structures covering 359,285 square feet will be impacted either temporarily or permanently during various phases of the project. Approximately 40 percent of the HH will be displaced from their homestead land, and another 46 percent will be displaced from their commercial land. Additionally, 15 percent of the HH will lose both homestead and commercial land. Out of the 650 HH, 45.4 percent of the HH will be economically displaced through the loss of business establishments. These business structures are located on the HHs private land (20 percent), government land (10 percent), and on other individual's land (69.49 percent). Therefore, loss of income from business earning and rented structures among title and non-titleholders are likely to occur because of the interventions. Employees working in potentially displaced businesses, daily laborers, farmers, and service holders are also expected to suffer from short- and long-term loss of livelihoods. Moreover, several community properties in the form of religious establishments including Mosques (4), madrasas (2) and mazars (1) are also likely to be impacted

Also, this project will hire various types of workers, and several risks are involved; the following is a summary of some of the risks. The full set of risks are provided in the chapter: (a) Safety issues while at work like injuries/accidents/ fatalities leading to even death while at work; (b) Short terms effects due to exposure to dust and noise levels while at work; (c) Long term effects on life due to exposure to chemical /hazardous wastes; (d)Non-payment of wages by Employer; (e)(Non-payment of benefits (compensation, bonus, maternity benefits) by Employer; (f) Discrimination in Employment; (g) Sexual harassment at work; (h)Forced labor trafficking; (i) Security of women workforce ; (j) Inadequate facilities for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The fifth Chapter focuses on Resettlement Assessment concerning the PAPs identified above. Here the mitigations measures of the impacts on PAPs have been discussed in further detail.

The main aim of the sixth chapter is to formulate a Resettlement Planning Framework (RPF) to define entitlements, resettlement principles, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to project components to be prepared during project implementation. The resettlement policy for the project is designed to (a) cover all displaced persons irrespective of their title to land, (b) compensation for lost assets, and (c) restoration or enhancing the livelihoods of all categories of displaced persons. The households/persons displaced by the project interventions will receive cash compensation for land and other assets at full replacement cost per market price at the time of dispossession. Additional measures will be taken to ensure minimum disruption during the project construction period. Thus, households to be displaced physically and affected economically will receive compensation, relocation assistance, and allowances. The following core principles will support the RPF, and the details are provided in the chapter. The key strategies/ principles that will guide the RPF are : (a) adoption of mitigation hierarchy; (b)preparation of RAP when IR unavoidable; (c) replacement cost principle; (d)consultation and communication;(e) assistance provided to non-title holders, and vulnerable groups including women;(f) disclosure of essential resettlement related document; (g) payment of compensation before physically taking over land; and (h) establishment of GRM. The proposed entitlement matrix for the project has been prepared in accordance with the ESSs of the AIIB and GoB rules and practices:

Type of Loss	Category of PDPs affected	Type of Entitlement
1.Land of all types	Title Holder PDPs	For agricultural land, pond and garden: Present market value + 10% of it as registration & other costs + another 10% for one year production of crops, fish, fruits etc;  For homestead & commercial land: Present market value + 10% of it as registration and other costs + another 10% of it for land development; and  Property Value Assessment Committee (PVAC) will be formed for assessing the present market value of land, and compensation for crops, fish, fruits and land development of the affected land.
2.Structures of all types	Title Holder PDPs	Present value of structures as per the rates of Public Works Department (PWD);  12.5% of the value as Structure Transfer Grant (STG);  12.5 % of the value as Structure Reconstruction Grant (SRG); and  The owners will be allowed take away all the salvageable materials free of cost within the period fixed by the Project Executing Agency (PEA).
3.Trees of all types	Title Holder PDPs	Present market value of trees as determined by the Property Value Assessment Committee (PVAC), compensation for fruits will be determined by the (PVAC) and the owners will be allowed to take the salvageable materials free of costs within the period fixed by the Project Implementing Agency (PEA).
4.Income loss from business	Title Holder and Non Title Holder PDPs	Cash compensation equivalent of six months net income from business and the net income per month will be determined by the PVAC.
5.Income loss from rented out structures	Title Holder Non Title Holder PDPs	The owners will be given the amount equivalent to six months' rent.
6.Employees of business	Title Holder Non Title Holder PDPs	Each employee of business enterprises will be given Tk 18,000: Tk 6,000X3 months.
7.Household facilities	Title Holder PDPs	For each type of facility, the amount of cash compensation will be determined by the (PVAC).
8.Vulnerable project displaced persons (PDP)	Female, Indigenous, Old Age, Fully Disable And Very Poor	For each type of vulnerability, each PDP will get Tk 5,000 as cash grant. If any PDP is considered vulnerable by more than one indicator, he/she will get the amount equivalent to Tk 5,000X number of indicators.
9.Indigenous people	Indigenous People	All Indigenous people will be considered as Vulnerable and each victim will get Tk 5,000 as cash grant. In addition, they will also get the grants as per Clause-8, above.
10. Affected community properties	Title Holder PDPs	All the affected community properties will be relocated at the places desired by the community If the community asks for cash compensation instead, the amounts will be determined under Clauses: 1-7.
11. When a part of the land is within RoW	Title Holder PDPs	PDPs those lose only part of their physical assets will not be left with a portion that will be inadequate to sustain their current standard of living. The inadequate size of

Type of Loss	Category of PDPs affected	Type of Entitlement
		remaining land and structures will be included for compensation during the resettlement planning process.
12. Support to income and employment losers	Title Holder Non Title Holder PDPs	Resettlement assistance will be provided not only for immediate loss, but also for a transition period needed to restore livelihood and standards of living of PDPs. Such support could take the form of short-term jobs, subsistence support, and salary of employees in affected business, income loss from business & rented out structures or similar arrangements.
13. Financial assistance to non titled and vulnerable PDPs	Title Holder Non Title Holder PDPs	The resettlement plan must consider the needs of those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of displacement, poor, those without legal title to land, ethnic minorities, women, children, elderly and disabled and ensure they are considered in resettlement planning and mitigation measures identified. Assistance should be provided to help them improve their socio-economic status which can be assessed through socio-economic indicators.
14. Time of vacating the acquisition homestead and commercial land	Title Holder PDPs	Displacement must not occur before receipt of the full compensation and other assistance required for relocation. Sufficient civic infrastructure must be provided in resettlement site prior to relocation. After receipt of full compensation, the PDPs are needed to be given 6 months for land development and constructing new structures at the place of relocation.
15. Sufficiency and efficiency in RAP and its implementation	Title Holder PDPs	Organization and administrative arrangements for the effective preparation and implementation of RAP will be made by the PEA and PIA. This will include the provision for adequate human resources for implementation, supervision, consultation, and monitoring of land acquisition and rehabilitation activities.
16. Shifting of inside goods and materials of structures	Title Holder PDPs	Those who will lose home and/or business will be given grant of an amount equivalent to 5% of the compensation for structures
17. Tax on compensation money	Title Holder PDPs	All the compensations and grants will be exempted from all types of GoB taxes
18. Relocation of the displaced homes and business enterprises	Title Holder PDPs	Relocation is done when a sizable number of PDPs are displaced in a contiguous form. In road projects it is a very rare situation. If there is any relocation site, the incumbent PDPs will have to buy land there at market price and the size of plot at the relocation site must not exceed the size lost by the incumbent

**Note: Any unforeseen impacts and issues not defined in these matrixes will be placed to the notice of the GRC for assessment and decisions with technical assistance from the JVC and the PVAC.**

Chapter seven presents the provisional Resettlement cost and Budget. It is tentatively estimated that the budget for implementing the Resettlement Action Plan is BDT **5442825206**, out of which the DC's office will contribute BDT **4535486111** and RHD will pay a sum of BDT **907039094** as additional compensation and resettlement benefits. The total estimated cost for acquiring land is BDT **4118023835**, and it is to be paid by DC. Additional compensation on top of DC's payment has not been calculated since the Mouza rate, including a 200% premium, appears to represent the amount of Maximum Allowable Replacement Value (MARV). PVAC will determine the replacement cost for land.

Moreover, the compensation for the affected structure is projected to be BDT **617391770**. The project is also likely to impact trees and standing crops. It is forecasted that the compensation amount for trees and standing crops will be BDT **1397650**, and **3097032** respectively. The total budget for other resettlement benefits, including resettlement grants and allowances, is expected to be BDT **909,276,951**.

The cost of implementing the RAP is estimated to be BDT **40000000**. Items incorporated in calculating the cost RAP implementation includes the operational cost of RAP implementing agency, the operational cost of external monitoring agency, IGA training for vulnerable HH, civic amenities in relocation sites(in case of self-relocation in clusters), administrative expenses of PVAC, GRC, PRAC and training workshops for capacity building of PEA.

The focus of the eighth chapter is on the implementation of the RP. A robust institutional arrangement is necessary to manage and implement the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). This chapter outlines the overall institutional arrangement and the linkages among different organizations involved in the resettlement and rehabilitation plan. It defines the roles of the Project management team at the head office, Resettlement Officer, District Commissioner, Project Implementing Agency, and the role of the national consultant. Further, it also describes the responsibilities of the various committees supporting the resettlement process, such as the Resettlement Management Committee, Joint Verification Committee, Property Value Assessment Committee, Grievance Redress Committee, and Physical Relocation Assistance Committee. The entitlements of the committee are also described in this chapter. Overall, this chapter describes a comprehensive institutional and implementation arrangement that will aid in successfully implementing the RAP.

The ninth chapter discusses the arrangements for monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the RP. Monitoring involves the collection, analysis, and reporting regarding the progress of all aspects of the resettlement operations based on the approved RAP. Specifically, this chapter underscores the institutional framework that will support the monitoring and implementation of the RAP. The objectives of a monitoring and evaluation system (MES) are to (a) collect, analyze, report and use information regarding the progress of resettlement, (b) ensure that inputs are being provided, procedures are being followed, and outputs are monitored and verified, (c) ensure timely management of actions if there appears to be any failure in the system due to management lapse; and (d) provide necessary corrective measures at the policy level if it is seen that there are failures in the system due to flaws in the design ( for example due to incorrect assumptions) and to ensure necessary corrective action is taken at the policy level. The chapter also indicates the comprehensive methodology that has been used for collecting information and highlights the various indicators that may be used to track progress or the lack of it.

RAP implementation will be monitored internally by the PIA and the PEA through field-level officials. Moreover, the daily activities of the PIA concerning the RAP implementation will be supervised and monitored by the National Resettlement Specialist (NRS) of the Construction Supervision Consultant Team. The PIA will submit monthly progress reports to update the Project Executing Agency (PEA) on the land acquisition and resettlement plan related implementation activities. The internal monitoring report will then be reviewed by the PEA and submitted to AIIB and/or other agencies associated with implementation. The NRS will assist the PEA in preparing the overall Project Progress Report for AIIB. External monitoring will be carried out by an Independent External Monitoring Agency (EMA) and the AIIB. The necessary operational cost of EMA has been accounted for in the budget. The PEA will recruit the EMA for the RAP implementation period. The EMA will submit a semi-annual monitoring report on the progress and compliance issues concerning RAP implementation. AIIB will oversee the RAP implementation procedure and guide the PIA, EMA, and PEA to keep progress on track and carry out a final evaluation on the RAP implementation.

The tenth chapter elaborates on the complaint handling mechanism in the project. Complaints may arise at any stage of the project cycle. To manage and efficiently resolve resettlement and project-related disputes, the GRM mechanism will be established by this project. Along with an IT-based GRM, a local level GRM has been designed to resolve resettlement benefits, relocation, and other assistance related issues. The GRM will be officially recognized as a community-based system to resolve disputes to resolve project level disputes emanating from land acquisition, compensation and resettlement, environment, safety, and social concerns. The project authorities will recognize problems and forward it to the five-member Grievance Redress Committee (GRC). People can also submit their grievance in writing directly to the local office of the PIA<sup>1</sup>. The GRC will take measures to resolve the problems within their purview. The GRC will hear the grievance in presence of the aggrieved persons and resolve it within 21 days of lodging the complaints. Decision of the meeting will be communicated to the aggrieved person. The aggrieved person can go to the court of law at any time for seeking legal support. Moreover, a separate GRM focusing on labour issues, including wage rates, lack of appropriate facilities, and lack of protection for female workers from GBV, sexual exploitation, and abuse by labour suppliers, supervisors, and others who deal with workers will also be established.

The eleventh chapter focuses on Public Consultations as required by the Environment and Social Policy of AIIB. The policy requires RHD to engage in meaningful consultation with the stakeholders throughout the project cycle but especially during project preparation and implementation phases in a manner that is proportionate to the risks and severity of the impacts on those affected by the project. Therefore, in line with the requirements and guidance provided by AIIB's ESP, an extensive consultation program with key stakeholders, including individuals who will be involuntarily displaced as a result of the project either physically or economically, interested parties, and different community groups was carried out.

Project affected individuals, including landowners, structure owners, sharecroppers, and entrepreneurs irrespective of whether they have title to the land along the proposed alignment, were categorized as the primary stakeholders of the project. Secondary stakeholders are individuals who have an influence on the project and its surrounding areas. Primarily public administrators, local government representatives (Municipal Mayor, Councilor and UP Chairmen, Members), local elites, influential personnel, and any other individual who have a stake in the project are considered to be secondary stakeholders. Five FGDs in the form of consultation meetings involving 81 participants were carried out. The participants of the FGD consultation meetings comprised of the affected parties, women groups, disadvantaged/vulnerable groups, occupational groups, and interested groups.

During the consultation, the people were informed about: (i) the background of the project, (ii) the positive and negative impacts of the project on the community and the stakeholders; (iii) The people were informed about the ESF of AIIB, ARIPA 2017, provisions of compensation as per GoB regulations, and about additional compensation and assistance. (iv) Stakeholders were requested to provide suggestions for improving project design and mitigation measures so that the project authority can incorporate their suggestions; (V) Proposed safety measures. The Consultations elicited from the people the following information: (a) Their views on the project, especially the likely adverse impacts, (b) possible mitigation measures in case of the adverse effects, (c) Means of better delivery of compensation and assistance; The chapter also outlines disclosure strategies for the ESIA and the RAP.

In line with the AIIBs Disclosure policy, the RHD will disclose the ESIA and summary version of the RAP. The summary version of the RAP will be disclosed as an information

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<sup>1</sup> Both written complaints in the local dialect and verbal complaints are acceptable

booklet for the local stakeholders as soon as possible. Copies of the RAP and the Booklet will be available in the project area for the general public and members of the civil society.