



# Bangladesh: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka–Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project-Tranche 1

Project Name	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka–Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project-Tranche 1		
Project Number	53382-002		
Country	Bangladesh		
Project Status	Proposed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant Loan Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project-Tranche 1		
	Ordinary capital resources		US\$ 400.00 million
	TA: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Road Safety and Maintenance		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 1.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships		
Sector / Subsector	Transport - Road transport (non-urban)		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming		
Description	<p>The investment project will finance improvement of the 209.3 kilometers Dhaka-Sylhet section of the existing National Highway No. 2 from a two-lane road into four lanes, with slow moving vehicular traffic lanes on both sides. By connecting to the borders with India via the Sylhet-Tamabil section, the Investment Project will improve connectivity of the Dhaka-Sylhet-Tamabil international corridor. The investment project will also improve the geometric design of the existing alignment at major control points such as sharp curves and commercial and residential centers, in line with best engineering practice. This will contribute to increased efficiency, connectivity, and safety, bringing the design of the corridor to internationally comparable level. The design of the road will have enhanced features for safety, elderly, women, children and differently-abled (EWCD) inclusion, and disaster and climate change resilience to ensure sustainability, accessibility, and undisrupted connectivity. The Investment Project will also assist the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in strengthening its capacity for road safety and post-construction maintenance, through the attached transaction technical assistance funded by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (subject to the approval of the Government of Japan) and the ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund.</p>		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Upgrading Bangladesh's major roads, especially the subregional trade corridors, to internationally comparable standards will contribute to facilitating international trade. This will, in turn, support the country's economic growth and reduce poverty, as well as ensure inclusiveness of road transport. The government's Eighth Five Year Plan (2020-2025) therefore aims to construct 550 km of new multi-lane roads, add 150 km of new lanes, improve or rehabilitate 1,800 km of the National Highways, as well as achieve 10% reduction in road traffic accidents by 2025. For achieving these targets, the Plan prioritizes core transformational road projects requiring large investments and emphasizes stronger implementation capacity of the RHD for completing these projects timely. The investment project will contribute to achieving these targets of the Plan.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure is also the centerpiece of the ADB-supported SASEC program, which promotes regional prosperity. The SASEC Operational Plan, 2016 -2025 identified 112 priority regional cooperation and integration transport projects worth about \$58.9 billion. It includes the widening of the NH2 of which the proposed SASEC Dhaka -Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project is a major part.</p>		
Impact	Road connectivity with major development points established; and The National Highway Network upgraded and consolidated.		
Outcome	Mobility, access, and regional trade along the Dhaka-Sylhet corridor road improved.		
Outputs	The Dhaka-Sylhet road upgraded with enhanced road safety, EWCD responsive, and climate resilience features. Institutional capacity of the RHD enhanced.		
Geographical Location	Dhaka, Sylhet		
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>			
Environment			B
Involuntary Resettlement			A
Indigenous Peoples			C
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>			

Environmental Aspects	The investment project is categorized as B as per ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) 2009. The initial environmental examination (IEE), prepared for the entire project road in compliance with ADB's SPS and satisfying the Government's Environmental Conservation Rules 1997, concluded that most of the potential significant impacts such as large volumes of construction materials, transportation, storage and handling, increase in air pollutants, noise and vibration levels, management of construction and demolition waste, siltation of waterways, and traffic obstruction near active construction sites are reversible, largely limited to construction period, mostly localized, and short-term in nature. The entire alignment is not passing through or located proximate to any protected/eco-sensitive area. Diversion of forest land is minimal and limited to a single location. Cutting of trees and loss of agricultural land and physical assets will be compensated in accordance with ADB's SPS and the national requirements. Additional plantations are proposed on top of regulatory requirement to enhance the micro-climate and serve as carbon sink.
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Involuntary Resettlement	The investment project is categorized as A as per ADB's SPS. A draft resettlement plan is prepared for the entire Dhaka-Tamabil section excluding the 11.5km section to be funded by the Exim Bank of India based on draft design of the alignment. The resettlement plan is based on the preliminary design. A total of 582.51 hectares of private land will need to be acquired. Total of 9,286 households/unit/entities (55,454 affected persons) will be affected due to the project implementation, which are disaggregated into 8,905 households, 302 common property resources, 56 government offices, 21 RHD owned structures and 2 NGO/Association structures. The total 7,355 households/unit/entities will require physical displacement, of which 4,679 are titleholders, 2,060 are non-title holders, and 276 are common property resources and other government and non-government offices. A total 10 stakeholder consultation meetings and 61 focus groups discussion were conducted between October 2019 and February 2020. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the land acquisition process.
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Indigenous Peoples	The investment project is categorized as C as per ADB's SPS. It does not affect tribal lands, and the survey confirmed that no indigenous communities, as defined under the ADB SPS, is affected.
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Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
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During Project Design	A total 10 stakeholder consultation meetings and 61 focus groups discussion were conducted between October 2019 and February 2020.
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During Project Implementation	Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the land acquisition process.
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Business Opportunities	
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Consulting Services	For consultancies financed by ADB, all consultants will be recruited according to ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and ADB Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).
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Procurement	For procurement of goods, works and consulting services to be financed by ADB, ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, amended from time to time) shall apply. ADD's standards bidding documents with pre- or post-qualification will be adopted with appropriate modifications.
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Responsible ADB Officer	Sakaguchi, Satomi
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Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
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Responsible ADB Division	Transport and Communications Division, SARD
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Executing Agencies	Roads and Highways Department Sarak Bhaban Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 Bangladesh
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Timetable	
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Concept Clearance	-
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Fact Finding	-
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MRM	19 Apr 2021
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Approval	-
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Last Review Mission	-
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Last PDS Update	07 Apr 2021
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Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/53382-002/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/53382-002/main</a>
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Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53382-002">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53382-002</a>
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