

Social Due Diligence Report

September 2019

**BAN: South Asia Subregional Economic
Cooperation Dhaka–Northwest Corridor Road
Project, Phase 2 (Tranche 2)**

Prepared by the Roads and Highways Department, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Asian Development Bank.

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS
(as of 18 July 2019)

Currency unit	–	taka (Tk)
Tk1.00	=	\$.0118
\$1.00	=	Tk84.4750

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CPR	–	common property resources
CCL	–	cash compensation under law
CCDB	–	Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh
DPP	–	development project proposal
GRC	–	grievance redress committee
GRM	–	grievance redress mechanism
INGO	–	implementing nongovernment organization
LAP	–	land acquisition plan/proposal
MFF	–	mutitranchise financing facility
NTH	–	non-titled holder household
MORTB	–	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
PIC	–	project implementation consultant
RHD	–	Roads and Highways Department:
SASEC	–	South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation

This social due diligence report is a document of the borrower. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of ADB's Board of Directors, Management, or staff, and may be preliminary in nature. Your attention is directed to the "terms of use" section of this website.

In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

CONTENTS

I.	OBJECTIVE OF THE DUE DILIGENCE	1
A.	Introduction	1
B.	Project Description	1
C.	Social Dimension of the Project.....	2
II.	REVIEW OF ON-GOING LAND ACQUISITION, RESETTLEMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 PROJECTS	4
A.	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project (Improvement of Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga Road)	4
B.	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 (Tranche 1).....	6
III.	HIGHLIGHTS.....	7
A.	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project (Improvement of Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga Road)	7
1.	Implementation of Resettlement Plans	7
2.	Grievance Redress Mechanism	8
3.	Implementation of other Social Activities	8
4.	Report on Women Participation in Civil Works / Construction Activities.....	9
5.	Some Gender-Friendly Design Features included in the RHD Headquarters Building	9
B.	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 (Tranche 1).....	9
1.	Implementation of Resettlement Plans	9
2.	Grievance Redress Committee (GRC)	10
3.	Joint Verification Committee (JVC).....	11
4.	Resettlement Implementation Progress.....	11
5.	Capacity Building Activities.....	12
IV.	GOOD PRACTICES.....	12
V.	CONCLUSION.....	12

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE DUE DILIGENCE

A. Introduction

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the multitranche financing facility (MFF) to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the South Asia Subregion Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka–Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 (the Phase 2 project) in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding the equivalent of \$1.2 billion on 24 October 2017. The executing agency is the Roads and Highways Department (RHD). The original MFF availability period ends on 31 August 2027. The project improves the road connectivity of the Dhaka–Northwest international trade corridor. Three outputs will be delivered: (i) the Elenga–Hatikamrul–Rangpur road section upgraded; (ii) institutional capacity of RHD for road operation and management enhanced; and (iii) stronger road safety and gender-responsive features, and the cost overrun for the SASEC Road Connectivity Project (the Phase 1 project) to upgrade the Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga road section financed.

2. This report presents the due diligence of the resettlement plan related to the project. The objective of this due diligence report (DDR) is to verify the compliance of the resettlement plan implementation with ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) 2009 and to account for all land acquisition and resettlement activities (LAR) at field level. Compliance with ADB SPS is a requirement for the project to be eligible to financing.

3. The DDR was prepared by the Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) International Resettlement Consultant, ADB Social Safeguards Specialists, and ADB Staff Consultant. It is based on the information gathered during the field visits, consultations with affected persons, consultation with key staff from the RHD, as well as the review of key resettlement documentation including data verification. The documents that were reviewed are the social due diligence report for Phase 2 tranche 1, semiannual social monitoring reports (December 2018) for Phase 1 and Phase 2 tranche 1, PIC consultant's internal reports, and resettlement plans prepared for Phase 1 and Phase 2 tranche 1. In terms of ensuring that the social safeguards processes are consistent with the applicable requirements such as the ADB SPS, ADB resettlement staff consultant have visited the project road for 7 times between February and July 2019. Tasks performed by the consultants included actual site visit, review of data in implementing nongovernment organization (INGO) office, meetings with affected people, and coordination of monitoring information between PIU, RHD, and INGO. Overall, the staff consultant has become effective in ensuring consistency with social safeguards implementation in the project, between December 2017 and June 2018, significant contribution were provided in terms of (i) developing appropriate methodology for safeguards, (ii) updating of census information, (iii) capacity building for INGO and RHD staff, and (iv) guidance to the RHD on matters pertaining to social safeguards. Relevant ADB resident mission staff have provided adequate supervision to the staff consultant and provided the overall guidance.

B. Project Description

4. The MFF finances slices of long-term contract packages, each tranche finances slices of a group of contracts per the indicative tranche schedule, and the amount for each tranche will be requested per the disbursement progress and projection. The tranche schedule is based on the disbursement projection. Preconstruction activities such as land acquisition, resettlement, and procurement are implemented in the first 3 years of the project. Since time slicing MFF is arranged for the project, the project outputs will be achieved only when all of the phased tranches have been completed.

5. Tranche 1 of the Phase 2 project financing the below works, goods, and services.
- (i) **Output 1: Elenga–Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road upgraded.** Tranche 1 finances the first slice of the expenditures related to works for upgrading of the Elenga–Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road from 2-lane carriageways to 4-lane carriageways and 2 slow-moving vehicular traffic (SMVT) lanes.
 - (ii) **Output 2: RHD’s institutional capacity in road operation and management enhanced.** Tranche 1 finances project implementation goods, and project implementation consulting services.
 - (iii) **Output 3: Road safety and gender-responsive features strengthened, and cost overrun financed under the Phase 1 project.** Tranche 1 finances civil works cost overrun of the phase 1 project, and additional civil works and project implementation consulting services to strengthen road safety and gender responsive designs of the Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga Road.
6. Tranche 2 of the Phase 2 project will finance the below works and services.
- (i) **Output 1: Elenga–Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road upgraded.** Tranche 2 will finance the second slice of the expenditures related to works for upgrading of the Elenga–Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road from 2-lane carriageways to 4-lane carriageways and 2 lanes for SMVT, and finance the first slice of the expenditures in relation to works for construction of Hatikamrul Interchange.
 - (ii) **Output 2: RHD’s institutional capacity in road operation and management enhanced.** Tranche 2 will finance the first slice of the expenditures related to works for (a) construction of road research and training center (RRTC) to enhance institutional capacity of RHD, and (b) establishment of road operation units (ROU) for road operation and management, and finance consulting services for traffic data collection and transport model development to update the Road Master Plan in connection with the attached TA.¹

C. Social Dimension of the Project

7. **Poverty.** Overall, poverty rates in the districts crossed by the road range from 19% to 47%, compared to the national average of 24%, with the main sources of income being business, day labor, and agriculture.² The project is expected to improve accessibility between Dhaka and the northwestern region of Bangladesh. This will facilitate intra-regional and international trade and contribute to poverty reduction.

8. Road safety remains a major challenge, with pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists accounting for 80% of fatalities. The project is expected to reduce road accidents and fatalities through the inclusion of key safety design features, notably lanes dedicated to slow-moving vehicles (i.e., rickshaws, bicycles, motorcycles, and tractors) and footbridges for pedestrians. The project’s key beneficiaries are the estimated 15 million residents in the districts, as well as businesses, particularly those in the trade sector.

9. Bangladesh has a low HIV prevalence rate of 0.7% reported among high-risk groups. The country remains an important source of internal and cross-border human trafficking. The project may cause an increase in HIV incidence or human trafficking as a result of improved road. The

¹ The technical assistance supports the government in (i) updating the Road Master Plan; (ii) enhancing the planning capacity of RHD and the Local Government Engineering Department; and (iii) facilitating and monitoring key project implementation activities, such as procurement and land acquisition.

² Districts crossed by the road include Bogra, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Sirajganj, and Tangail.

project target on HIV/AIDS and human anti-trafficking, the project provided benefits to local people including women by engaging them in consultation meetings, employment in civil works, awareness raising training on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking Prevention for project implementers including contractor and labor force (male and female). The contractors including the labor force were provided training on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention starting August 2016 and continuing. As of 5 August 2019, a total number of 861 participants have participated in the HIV/AIDS awareness training, of which 425 (49.36%) are females.

10. **Gender.** Tranche 2 is classified as *effective gender mainstreaming*. Timeline for the project's gender action plan with the following proactive gender-mainstreaming features was updated: (i) integrated gender-responsive and safety design features (i.e., slow-moving vehicular traffic lanes, footpaths, and pedestrian footbridges); (ii) road safety awareness campaigns for communities along the corridor with specific gender targets for pedestrians (target 50% women), drivers, parents, schoolchildren (target 50% schoolgirls), and professional drivers; (iii) public awareness campaign on preventing sexually transmitted diseases and human trafficking, targeting an audience with 50% women; (iv) proactive measures to support the rehabilitation of women who need to be resettled; (v) target to have women make up at least 15% of the road maintenance teams; (vi) target to have women make up at least 40% of tree plantation program teams; and (vii) impact evaluation study on the gender responsiveness of Phase 1.

11. **Involuntary resettlement.** For the Phase 2 project, three resettlement plans for (i) improvement of the Elenga–Hatikamrul Road to a 4-lane highway, (ii) Hatikamrul Interchange, and (iii) improvement of the Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road to a 4-lane highway were prepared in May 2017. The updating of resettlement plans has been grouped to non-titleholders and titleholders. The non-titleholder resettlement plans for the Elenga–Hatikamrul Road and Hatikamrul–Rangpur Road were updated and disclosed in September 2019 while the non-titleholder resettlement plan for Hatikamrul Interchange and the three titleholder resettlement plans are still in the process of updating. Construction of RRTC and establishment of ROU will be implemented in RHD's land and the right-of-way of the project road, thus no resettlement plan is required. For the Phase 1 project, two resettlement plans for (i) Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga Road, and (ii) RHD office building were prepared in June–July 2012. A supplementary resettlement plan was prepared to build the road safety and gender-responsive structures on the Joydeypur–Chandra–Tangail–Elenga Road and finalized in September 2019.

12. For upgrading of the Phase 2 road, a total of 196.93 hectares land will be acquired and 17,204 households comprising 5,027 titled households and 12,177 non-titled households will be affected. RHD is currently preparing updated resettlement plans with all affected households based on the engineering designs. An implementing nongovernment organization (INGO) engaged by RHD has completed the census and inventory of losses of 5,037 non-titled affected households, and prepared 39 land acquisition proposals, as required under the national law and submitted to deputy commissioner offices. With the acceptance of the non-title holder updated resettlement plan, the contractors can start construction of the additional 2-lane carriageways within the existing right-of-way. To add the stronger road safety and gender-responsive features to the Phase 1 road, a total of 35.39 hectares of land was acquired from 2016 to 2018 with assistance from another INGO engaged by RHD. Skills training on livelihood restoration was provided to 360 vulnerable affected households covering 64% of the expected recipients. The RHD is found to have adequate capacity to implement the relevant resettlement plans given the adequate institutional set-up, including the involvement of an INGO to facilitate and assist in the implementation. Public consultations and information disclosure has been adequately undertaken and documented in the various resettlement plans.

II. REVIEW OF ON-GOING LAND ACQUISITION, RESETTLEMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 PROJECTS

A. South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project (Improvement of Joydeypur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga Road)

13. There are two resettlement plans prepared in 2014 for the Project's components (i) improvement of JCTE Road (N-4), and (ii) construction of Roads and Highway Department (RHD) headquarters building at Tejgaon, Dhaka. These resettlement plans were approved by the Ministry of Communications on 6 March 2014. No resettlement plan was prepared for the improvement of the two land ports (Benapole and Burimari) component which are situated within the government property as there were no LAR impact assessed during the Project's feasibility and detailed design stages. In addition, a supplementary resettlement plan has been prepared in November 2018 based on the inventory of losses (IOL) census carried out from June to August 2018 under the additional scope of works in the JCTE road that will be affected by the proposed construction of slow moving vehicle lane and other structures. Based on the results of the IOL census and socio-economic survey (SES), a supplementary resettlement plan (SRP) was prepared and the 1st draft was submitted to ADB in November 2018 and the revised SRP in January 2019. The SRP has been approved by the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MORTB) on 29 January 2019.

14. The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) will implement the approved SRP including the original resettlement plan for the JCTE road improvement project, as per joint verification survey which will address all social/resettlement issues of the Project. The cash compensation under law (CCL) for acquisition and requisition of immovable property will be paid to eligible project affected persons through the deputy commissioner in the two districts covered by the Project (Gazipur and Tangail). RHD has provided assistance to affected persons, both titled and non-titled holders, in compliance with the principles of the ADB SPS 2009 and the government's policy on compensation and resettlement policy.

15. The RHD has engaged the services of CCDB as the INGO for the two resettlement plans prepared on the Project. The original contract was issued by RHD to CCDB on 12 February 2014, (expired on 30 June 2017). A new contract was issued by the PIC Services to CCDB on 20 February 2018, as a subconsultant for assisting in the preparation of land acquisition plans (LAP) and SRP under the Project, specifically for the improvement of JCTE road's components (subprojects): (i) upgrading of the existing 70 kilometer (km) JCTE (two-lane to four-lane highway); and (ii) construction of separate lane(s) for SMVT along the JCTE Road Improvement. CCDB's contract was extended from 1 July 2017 to 31 August 2018 with honorary service, and a new contract was signed between RHD and CCDB commencing on 20 September 2018 for a period of 21 months.

16. As of end December 2018 and as per revision of design and LAP, a quantity of 87.4325 acres (revised) of land have been acquired and 85.3926 acres of land have to be acquired for the construction of the 70 km JCTE two-lane road to a four-lane highway. LAPs 1 to 11 have been processed under Land Acquisition Ordinance, 1982. The deputy commissioner of the district, being the acquiring body, has the legal right to assess compensation for loss of property and pay CCL to the entitled persons, and hand over the land to the RHD, as the requiring body. LAPs 12 to 19 or a total of 8 LAPs are being processed under the new Land Acquisition Act 2017 issued by the government on 21 September 2017.

17. The cumulative target for the physical progress of the project (all components) as per original contract, as of 31 December 2018 is 98.02%, including 100% completion for the new RHD headquarters building and 100% for Work Package - 03. For the same period, the cumulative target for Work Package - 01 is 99.92% and 92.38% for Work Package - 04. During the said period, the overall cumulative achievement or physical progress of the JCTE road improvement Project (as per original contract) is 80.43%. There is a slippage of 17.50% for all four work packages. Of the four work packages, Work Package - 02 has the highest cumulative achievement of 89.50%, followed by Work Package - 04 with 82.00%, and Work Package - 01 and Work Package - 03 have cumulative achievements of 71.00% and 79.22%, respectively.

18. For the construction of the new RHD headquarters building at Tejgaon in Dhaka, the cumulative achievement (as per original contract) is 68.00%. For the land ports, the cumulative achievement of Benapole Land Port was 99.20% (or almost 100% completed) as of end of 31 December 2018 and 100.00% completed for Burimari Land Port as of 1st quarter 2018. Under the revised development project proposal (DPP), the Project's cumulative achievement (all components) as of end of December 2018 is 48.12%. Of which, Work Package - 04 has the highest cumulative achievement of 53.49%, followed by Work Package - 02 with 51.44%. Work Package - 03 and Work Package - 01 have cumulative achievements of 47.37% and 39.75%, respectively.

19. A total of about 87.4325 acres (35.39 hectares) of land has been acquired for the improvement of the JCTE road (70 km) since the commencement of the Project in 2016 to 2018 (for LAPs 1 to 11). LAPs 1 to 11 were already handed over by the deputy commissioners to RHD and payment of compensation is in progress. For LAP 12, the final estimated amount has been paid to deputy commissioner on 27 June 2018 (one land is private and the other one is owned by the Fire Service Department). As of 31 December 2018, the financial progress of disbursements of compensation to affected persons is 68.54%. A total amount of Tk 5,345,644,853.68 (BDT 5,345.64 million) has been paid to deputy commissioner for compensation of land, structure and other assets affected by the project.

20. The total number of title holder entitled persons is 5,650 in Gazipur and Tangail districts, of which 71.75% (4,054) were already paid compensation. Disbursements of the compensation for the remaining title holder entitled persons is in progress. As regards to the non-title holder (NTH) entitled persons, of the total of 6,008 NTH entitled persons in the 2 districts, 4,453 NTH entitled persons have been paid with the compensation and resettlement benefits as of 31 December 2018. This accounts for about 75.62% of the total disbursements. Payment of compensation for the remaining 1,457 (24.38%) NTH entitled persons in the project area is scheduled by early 2019. The progress of disbursement of differential compensation and resettlement benefits to the titled holder entitled persons is 76.84% as of 31 December 2018.

21. Skills training (livelihood restoration) were provided to 360 vulnerable entitled persons (64.00%) of the total vulnerable entitled persons in March 2018. There were 213 females or 59.17% of the total number of participants. The remaining 204 (36.17%) participants are scheduled in the next batch of the training will be conducted in 2019. The training was conducted by a Government agency, the Department of Youth Development in Gazipur and Tangail Districts.

22. The Project's gender category as per ADB Policy on gender and development is some gender elements (SGE). One of the components of the project is to increase the project implementers' level of awareness on gender, child labor, HIV/AIDS and anti-trafficking. The Project provides benefits to local people including women by engaging them in consultation meetings, employment in civil works, awareness raising/ training on HIV/AIDS and human

trafficking prevention for project implementers including contractor and labor force (male and female). The contractors including the labor force were provided training on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention starting August 2016 and to August–September 2017. Follow-up awareness training was carried out for the contractors' labor force in March 2019. As of 31 December 2018, the total number of participants who have participated in the HIV/AIDS awareness training is 788, of which 421 (53.42%) is female.

B. South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 (Tranche 1)

23. Three resettlement plans were prepared for the project: (i) Hatikamrul to Rangpur, (ii) Elenga to Hatikamrul, and (iii) Hatikamrul Interchange. A resettlement framework was also prepared. The documents were disclosed on ADB's website in May 2017. The resettlement plan will be updated with the IOL survey and SES data presently being conducted by the INGO. INGO set up two offices at Polashbari Upazila of Gaibandha District and Sherpur Upazila of Bogra District. The offices are equipped with necessary furniture, vehicles, computers and other equipment and facilities. The approved manpower of INGO is 65 with the total allocation of 1,063 man-months. As the executing agency, RHD mobilized their staff for the implementation of the Phase 2 project. As of December 2018, the staff mobilized include: one project director at the rank of additional chief engineer, three additional project directors at the rank of superintending engineer, eight out of the allocated eight project managers at the rank of executive engineer, and three out of eight deputy project managers at the rank of sub-divisional engineers. But RHD still does not have a separate office space dedicated to the Phase 2 project at the field level.

24. From the start of plan implementation to December 2018, a total 39 LAPs have been submitted to the deputy commissioner offices: 4 for Sirajgong, 13 for Bogra, 8 for Gaibandha and 14 for Rangpur District. The feasibility study of the deputy commissioner office was completed for 25 LAPs and DLAC were completed for 25 LAPs. Section-4 Notice was served for 21 LAPs, Joint Verification Surveys completed for 22 LAPs, Section-7 Notices were served for 19 LAPs.

25. In terms of compensation, payment to titled holders has been started by the respective deputy commissioner first. Among the total 4 districts, only Sirajganj district commissioner has started payment to the entitled persons. As of the reporting period, RHD placed an estimated amount of BDT 223,799,958.24 to the deputy commissioner office of Sirajganj under LA Case No. 01/2017-18. The deputy commissioner of Sirajgonj District already paid Tk.30258521.7 to the cheque payable to the title holder entitled persons from the second week of October 2018. RHD also made an advance payment (provisional amount) to the deputy commissioner office of Bogra and Gaibandha under 4 land acquisition cases.

26. The compensation of non-titleholders will be paid from the RHD project office through the INGO. As a part of the updating of resettlement plan, the census and IOL have been completed. Management information system (MIS) data entry started lately but was also completed. As a result, the INGO has started Indent (estimate of compensation of entitled persons) preparation work and payment to the entitled persons, but progress is going very slowly. The INGO conducted 20 consultation meetings with a total of 1860 affected persons in Mach 2018.

III. HIGHLIGHTS

A. South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project (Improvement of Joydeypur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga Road)

1. Implementation of Resettlement Plans

27. The government's MORTB through the RHD as the project implementation unit made a commitment to ensure that the concerned project implementers will comply with the ADB SPS 2009 and relevant laws in the country to avoid involuntary resettlement wherever possible; minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project and design alternatives; enhance, or at least restore the livelihoods of the affected and displaced persons relative to pre-project levels; and improve the standards of living of the affected persons/displaced poor and other vulnerable persons affected by the Project. Preparations of the resettlement plans in the project were guided by the legal instrument governing land acquisition in Bangladesh, Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance II of 1982, and subsequent amendments in 1989, 1993, and 1994, and the ADB SPS 2009. The resettlement plans were updated in February 2014 and approved by the country's Ministry of Communications (MOC) on 6 March 2014 and were uploaded in the websites of ADB and RHD.

28. The RHD engaged the services of CCDB as the implementing NGO for the Project's resettlement plans. The contract with RHD was signed by the INGO/CCDB on 12 February 2014 (vide Ref. No. CCDB/RU/1033/14). This contract had expired in June 2017. A new contract has been signed by CCDB as a subconsultant to PIC for the preparation of activities/addendum to the resettlement plan for the additional scope of work included in the revised project proposal. CCDB's contract was extended from 1 July 2017 to 31 August 2018 with honorary service, and a new contract was signed between RHD and DDCB commencing on 20 September 2018 for a period of 21 months. The scope of the works of CCDB under the new contract issued by RHD includes (i) conducting an IOL and SES for the affected persons/households, and assessment of social safeguards impacts that may arise due to the proposed civil works under the construction of the SMVT lane and other structures; (ii) preparation of addendum to the resettlement plan; and (iii) other scope of works relevant to carrying out the LARP; (iv) implementation of the resettlement plans/SRP, LAPs, and other LAR related tasks. CCDB conducted the IOL/SES for the additional scope of works from June to August 2018.

29. The SRP prepared by RHD assisted by the PIC and CCDB (INGO) for the additional scope of works has been approved by the MORTB vide memo no. 35.00.000.032.14.033.2012 (part 3) on 29 January 2019. ADB also approved the SRP in January 2019. For the period July and December 2018, the progress for the implementation of LAR activities was minimal. This was the time when the revised DPP was prepared and awaited approval by the government and ADB. Extension of the contract of the INGO/CCDB and some specialists under the PIC commenced after the approval of the DPP (contract variation order). The last half 2018 was utilized for carrying out the IOL/SES for the additional scope of works (SMVT lane and other structures) in the JCTE road under the Project.

30. During the second half of 2018, significant progress has been observed in the disbursement of entitlements to the affected persons especially for common property resources (CPRs) such as the mosques, schools, training center, etc. affected by the Project. For the original scope of works stated in resettlement plan 2014, most of the CPRs in the JCTE road had been demolished. There were few CPRs with pending issues in Work Package - 01 (such as the Towel Text, Ltd. Factory, Bangladesh Ansar Academy and Fire Service Land/structure,

and a commercial establishment / structure affected by the project).

31. The INGO/CCDB will implement the SRP including the original as per joint verification survey which will address all social/resettlement issues of the Project. The CCL for acquisition and requisition of immovable property will be paid to eligible to project affected persons through the deputy commissioner's Office. RHD will provide additional compensation and assistance to affected persons both titled and non-titled complying with the principles of the ADB SPS 2009 and the government's policy on compensation and resettlement policy.

2. Grievance Redress Mechanism

32. As of December 2018, the recorded grievances in the project area were related to common property resources such as mosques, schools, graveyard and cremation center. The concerns are mostly related to compensation rates and when the payment will be delivered, and most have been addressed. There were three major cases or grievances which had caused delay in the JCTE road, especially in Work Package - 01. One case involves a single-story commercial establishment, second is related to the claim of a factory, Towel Text Ltd. and the third is the claim of Bangladesh Ansar Academy and Fire Services Land. All these cases or claims are being negotiated for settlement as of May 2019.

3. Implementation of other Social Activities

33. The contractors including the labor force were provided training on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention starting August 2016 and to August–September 2017, and on March 6 and 7, and 10 in 2019. The total cumulative number of labor force that participated in the HIV/AIDS and human trafficking awareness and prevention training as of 31 December 2018 is 788, of which 421 (53.42%) is female.

34. The training sessions were conducted by the PIC team at the construction site (per work package), to ensure that the workers will attend. Awareness raising for female labor force was held separate from men in each work package in the JCTE road sub-project. Follow-up awareness raising on this topic will be carried out in 2019. The labor force especially the female unskilled workers have low level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention. Almost 98.00% have not yet participated in any similar health awareness training. They also seldom go to health center for medical check-up. They were advised by the PIC team to visit the nearest health center/ hospitals for check-up and ask for more information regarding HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

35. When asked if they heard about the topics, about 70% replied not yet and about 30% said, they heard and/or saw in TV's advertisements. They were advised to always consult a doctor or professional medical health personnel in their nearest health center, clinics or hospitals if they are not feeling well and also for regular medical check-up particularly the women. Also, the participants were very happy of the project. All of them mentioned that they are in favor of the project as it is will be a great help for the people in transporting goods and in going to market and place of work.

36. Follow-up training on HIV/AIDS and human trafficking awareness and prevention for the contractors' labor force (male and female) were carried out on 6–7 March 2019 in all work packages and in the new RHD Building construction site in Tejgaon, Dhaka on 10 March 2019.

4. Report on Women Participation in Civil Works / Construction Activities

37. The Project's gender category is some gender elements (SGE). There is no gender action plan (GAP) prepared for the project. However, there are specific features where women could participate during project implementation and maintenance such as participation of women in civil works (unskilled labor); road construction and maintenance related skills training that could be provided by the contractors to local people including women during civil works which could increase skills competencies of women in some unskilled labor; awareness raising on HIV/AIDS and human trafficking prevention; core labor standards; and gender awareness. Description of these gender features are included in the Project's social monitoring report. During the site visits and consultation with the contractors, the PIC team reminded them to keep record of the skilled and unskilled women and men hired per month and include this in their progress report submitted to RHD. They were also reminded to ensure that the construction workers should be required to wear the personal protective equipment to ensure the health and occupational safety of 54 the workers. There was no child labor observed at the site, and no reported violations committed by the contractors on core labor standards. The compliance on core labor standard is regularly reported.

5. Some Gender-Friendly Design Features included in the RHD Headquarters Building

38. The new RHD Headquarters building consists of 4 parts (structures or building) and include the following gender-friendly features in the design:

- (i) Day care center;
- (ii) Separate toilets for men and women in each floor (many provisions for toilets);
- (iii) Conference rooms with separate toilet/latrines for men and women;
- (iv) Mosque/prayer room separate for men and women will be constructed within the compound of the RHD Headquarters;
- (v) Canteens or cafeteria (which could provide job opportunities for women as well as men);
- (vi) Garden, or green parks to add aesthetics to the new RHD headquarters; and
- (vii) Sufficient parking lots for the employees and visitors.

B. South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 (Tranche 1)

1. Implementation of Resettlement Plans

39. RHD has deputized some of the officials from its core setup to integrate a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) dedicated to the Phase 2 project. The RHD PIU will supervise and monitor the resettlement plan implementation process. RHD has recruited the NGO "SAMAHAR" to implement the resettlement plans and update the census data. The Construction Supervision Consultant (PIC) and the RHD will monitor the resettlement plan implementation. The PIC is in the process of the board and will mobilize from January 2019. The deputy commissioner office implements the land acquisition process and is supposed to be supported by SAMAHAR. The land acquisition section will act in this regard under the leadership of the Land Acquisition Officer (LAO).

40. As of 31 December 2018, the staff mobilized by RHD include: three additional project directors at the rank of supervising engineer, eight out of the allocated eight project managers at the rank of executive engineer, and three out of eight deputy project managers at the rank of sub-divisional engineers. As of the reporting time, RHD does not have a separate office space

dedicated to the Phase 2 project at the field level because the provision of office space is kept under the contractor's scope.

41. The resettlement plan INGO SAMAHAR was deployed in May 2017. The INGO was engaged to implement three activities: (i) update the land acquisition plans (LAPs), (ii) update the resettlement plans, and (iii) implement the resettlement plans. During the reporting period, the INGO was involved mainly with the first two activities along with the initial activities of the resettlement plan implementation process. The INGO SAMAHAR mobilized the required number of staffs for the period in consultation with the PIU, RHD. SAMAHAR established two field offices, one in Polashbari of Gaibandha District covering the contract areas of Gaibandha and Rangpur Districts. The other field office is in Garidoha, Sherpur Upazila of Bogura District. The offices are equipped with the necessary furniture, vehicles, computers, and other equipment and necessary support-service facilities. Starting from the position of Team Leader and ending at the cook, the total number of approved manpower is 65 with the total allocation of 1,063 man-months.

42. The construction supervision consultant is on the process of the board. As directed in the resettlement framework and resettlement plan, the resettlement specialist from the PIC is responsible for the supervision of land acquisition and resettlement implementation works. He or she will also be responsible for preparing the updated resettlement plans.

43. The INGO prepared the following resettlement tools as a part of expediting the resettlement plan implementation works. The list of the tools is given below:

- (i) English & Bangla ID Card for NTH affected persons;
- (ii) English & Bangla ID Card for TH affected persons;
- (iii) English & Bangla Information Brochure;
- (iv) English & Bangla Leaflet for TH affected persons; and
- (v) English & Bangla Leaflet for NTH affected persons.

44. All the documents were prepared both in English and Bangla and were submitted to RHD for comments. Incorporating their comments these were sent to ADB by the Project Director for their review. All the above five documents have been finalized by incorporating all the comments and have been approved by the Project Director, SASEC-II office.

2. Grievance Redress Committee (GRC)

45. The resettlement policy framework (RPF) and resettlement plan kept provisions for the formation of the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) for each Upazila for addressing grievances of the affected persons in the resettlement process. A two-tier grievance redress mechanism has been adopted in the SASEC-II project: a community level (Union Parishad/ Municipality) and project level GRC (the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges) formed a GRC by a Gazette notification on 30 April 2018. The committee has been activated and started their function from December 2018. The formation of the Committee is as below:

- a. Community Level GRC members
 - (i) project manager (executive engineer)-convener;
 - (ii) deputy project manager (sub-divisional engineer), the Phase 2 project member;
 - (iii) a representative of the resettlement plan implementing NGO-member secretary;
 - (iv) union parishad chairman/Pourashava mayor (at which Union;

- (v) parishad/Pourashavathe affected person registered his complaint) or UP member/councilor of adjacent union parishad chairman/Pourashava-member; and
 - (vi) a representative of the affected person–member.
- b. Project Level (PIU) GRC members
- (i) a representative nominated by the chief engineer, RHD–convener;
 - (ii) chief resettlement office (deputy project director), the Phase 2 project member; and
 - (iii) resettlement specialist from the PIC (supervision consultant of the project)–member.

3. Joint Verification Committee (JVC)

46. The RPF and resettlement plan kept provisions for the formation of the Joint Verification Committee (JVC) at each of the Union Parishads within the project area to compare and review the physical verification data (IOL and list of affected persons) for titled and non-titled holders. Section D of the resettlement plan (“Compensation Payment Procedures”) states that all verification will be documented and signed in a Joint Verification Form and submitted to the project director and deputy commissioners. As of January 2019, a JVC was formed by the RHD and working.

4. Resettlement Implementation Progress

47. The compensation payment to title holders already been started by the respective deputy commissioner. Among the total four districts, only Sirajganj District commissioner has started payment to the entitled persons. As of December 2018, RHD placed an estimated amount of BDT 223,799,958.24 to the deputy commissioner office of Sirajganj under LA Case No. 01/2017-18. The deputy commissioner of Sirajganj District is already paid Tk.30258521.7 to the cheque payable to the title holder entitled persons from the second week of October 2018 onwards. RHD also made an advance payment (provisional amount) to the deputy commissioner office of Bogra and Gaibandha under four land acquisition cases.

48. The compensation of non-titleholders will be paid from the RHD project office through the INGO. As a part of the updating of resettlement plan, the census and IOL have been completed. MIS data entry was also completed. As a result, the INGO has started Indent (estimate of compensation of entitled persons) preparation work and payment to the entitled persons, but progress is going very slowly. The resettlement plan identified a total of 5,037 project displaced households, vulnerable households estimated 762 payment and relocation of CPR is in progress. Current resettlement plans identified a total of 188 CPRs.³ The payment to the CPR management committee and the relocation of the structures will be made.

49. The INGO conducted 20 consultation meetings with a total of 1,860 affected persons in Mach 2018. The entitlement matrix is officially disclosed to the NTH affected persons. Some information shared with the affected persons informally is not enough for the affected persons to get an idea of their compensation. Both titled and non-titled affected persons demanded to

³ ADB. [SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2: Elenga-Hatikamrul Road Expansion Resettlement Plan](#). Manila; ADB. [SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2: Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road Expansion Resettlement Plan](#). Manila; and ADB. [SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2: Hatikamrul Interchange Resettlement Plan](#). Manila.

know the process of getting compensation clearly.

50. The INGO SAMAHAR has set up a computerized MIS as a part of land acquisition and resettlement plan implementation activities. The MIS system was updated by the INGO SAMAHAR as per the requirements of the PIU. The MIS system is now functional.

5. Capacity Building Activities

51. As of May 2019, the training on HIV AIDS and Human Trafficking Awareness for contractor and other labor force has been carried out in the 1st and 2nd week of May 2019, covering 100% of the targeted audience. On safeguards, gender, labor standards, and project safety measures training, all relevant contractor personnel have received the training on the 3rd week of April 2019.

IV. GOOD PRACTICES

52. The implementation of land acquisition and resettlement in the Phase 1 project was also an opportunity to learn good practices, and most specially contributed to the resettlement planning of the Dhaka–Northwest International Corridor Road Project, Phase 2. Some of the lessons are:

- (i) The review/correction of all the LAPs during project implementation and update of the original resettlement plan created an opportunity to minimize resettlement impacts as much as possible. Many properties, in particular multi-story building and industries were avoided from being impacted by the project;
- (ii) The entitlement matrix that will be used for the Phase 2 project integrates the lessons learned from the Phase 1 project and ensures sufficient provision for the relocation of graves and loss of income at a rate acceptable to the affected persons;
- (iii) Logistical support to the deputy commissioners and support has been integrated into the terms of reference of the INGO for the Phase 2 project; and
- (iv) In the case of common properties, the project's practice of giving compensation of resettlement benefits in the name of the CPR Committee and not a private individual ensured that the properties were rebuilt rather than simply cashed in by one individual.

V. CONCLUSION

53. Overall, as of July 2019, the implementation of the land acquisition and resettlement for the Phase 1 project and the Phase 2 project are consistent with the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

54. More detailed information on land acquisition and resettlement can be found in the latest monitoring reports.⁴

⁴ ADB. [SASEC Road Connectivity Project: Social Monitoring Report \(July-December 2018\)](#). Manila
 ADB. [SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase 2 - Tranche 1: Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road Social Monitoring Report \(January-June 2019\)](#). Manila