

# Due Diligence Report on Social Safeguards

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December 2015

## IND: Rural Connectivity Investment Program — Project III

Rural Road Network Management Unit in Burdwan, West Bengal

Prepared by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for the Asian Development Bank.

## CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Currency unit	–	Indian Rupees (INR)
INR1.00	=	\$ 0.02
\$1.00	=	INR 62.19

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
APs	:	Affected Persons
ARRDA	:	Assam Rural Road Development Agency
ARR&TI	:	Assam Road Research & Training Institute
CEO	:	Chief Executive Officer
CGRRDA	:	Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Authority
CPF	:	Community Participation Framework
DC	:	Deputy Commissioner
EA	:	Executing Agency
FFA	:	Framework Financing Agreement
GOI	:	Government of India
GP	:	Gram Panchayat
GRC	:	Grievances Redressal Committee
IA	:	Implementing Agency
MFF	:	Multitranchise Financing Facility
MORD	:	Ministry of Rural Development
MOU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPRRDA	:	Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority
NRDA	:	Naya Raipur Development Authority
NRRDA	:	National Rural Road Development Agency
OSRRA	:	Odisha State Rural Road Agency
PIU	:	Project Implementation Unit
PIC	:	Project Implementation Consultants
PFR	:	Periodic Finance Request
PMGSY	:	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
PRDD	:	Panchayat and Rural Development Deptt
PWD	:	Public Works Department
RCIP	:	Rural Connectivity Investment Programme
RCTRC	:	Rural Connectivity Training And Research Centers
RD	:	Rural Development
RES	:	Rural Engineering Services
RRL	:	Road Research Laboratory
RRNMU	:	Rural Road Network Management Units
RRSIIP	:	Rural Road Sector II Project
SIRD	:	State Institute of Rural Development
SRRDA	:	State Rural Road Development Agency
TA	:	Technical Assistance
TOR	:	Terms of Reference
TSC	:	Technical Support Consultants
WALMI	:	Water and Land Management Institute
WBSRDA	:	West Bengal State Rural Development Agency

## NOTE

In this report, \$ refers to US Dollars

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## **RURAL CONNECTIVITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM: WEST BENGAL – PROJECT 3 SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS COMPLIANCE – RRNMUs**

### **A. Context and Purpose of the Report**

1. As one of the key features of the Government's poverty reduction agenda for the rural sector, the Government of India (GoI) is implementing a nation-wide rural road investment program, *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY). PMGSY aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to currently unserved habitations in India's rural areas, where 70% of the population live.

2. The Government of India (GOI) launched "The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) in year 2000. The objective of PMGSY is to provide all-weather road connectivity to all rural habitations with a population of more than 500 persons in plains and 250 persons in hill states. This program is being implemented through National Rural Road Development Authority (NRRDA) under Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) at central level and through State Rural Road Development Authority/Agencies (SRRDA) at state level. The Rural Connectivity Investment Program (RCIP) is continuation of Rural Road Sector II Program (RRS IIP) and is a multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) that aims to construct or upgrade to the all-weather standard about 9,000 km of rural roads connecting around 4,800 habitations in the states of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

3. Later during RCIP Project 3 (Tranche 3) approximately five additional RRNMUs (30 RRNMUs in total) are planned to be created, including 4 in West Bengal. The RRNMUs shall be created based on the existing PIUs for rural roads and shall have staffing, equipment, and facilities adequate to provide effective management of the rural road network. The States shall ensure full RRNMU staffing and budget adequate for the full implementation of RRNMU tasks. The States shall prepare the design of RRNMU facilities. The West Bengal State Rural Development Agency (WBSRDA) is the implementing agency (IA) for the ADB funded subprojects in the state.

4. ADB has approved in November 2015 the third Periodic Finance Request (PFR) covering state of West Bengal. The Social Due Diligence Report on Rural Roads and the Social Due Diligence Report on the pilot RRNMU and RCTRC has been disclosed on ADB website.<sup>1</sup> This report has been prepared to serve the purpose for compliance with ADB's social safeguards on involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples during preparation of the RRNMUs projects in the state of West Bengal.

### **B. Status of RRNMUs in West Bengal**

5. The proposed location of the RRNMU is at mouza Gopalnagar in Burdwan district. The RRNMU building is proposed in land belonging to Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal, parent department of WBSRDA.

6. The proposed area under the one unit are as under:

RRNMU : The total land area is approximately 0.28 acre (1132.0 Sq.m)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/159901/40423-053-sddr-07.pdf>

### C. Social Safeguards in the Project

7. The RRNMU building is proposed in land owned by Panchayat and Rural Development Department (PRDD), Govt. of West Bengal (GoWB) and the land for the RRNMU is in the process of transfer to PRDD, GoWB. Locations of additional RRNMUs are yet to be finalized. To mitigate the possible adverse impacts of the subprojects, the community participation framework (CPF) lists various types of impact categories and mitigation measures which would apply to the subprojects, based on the specific project impacts.

**Mitigation Measures Matrix**

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility
<b>Loss of Agricultural Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing transfer of land by means of MOU</li> <li>• Advance notice to harvest standing crops</li> <li>• For <b>vulnerable affected persons (APs)</b>, assistance/support by means of (a) alternate land sites provided by GP, or (b) cash assistance as per replacement cost<sup>2</sup> by the Gram Panchayat (GP) to meet loss of land; and inclusion as beneficiaries in the existing poverty alleviation/livelihood restoration programs (see Annex of relevant state Community Participation Framework)</li> <li>• For <b>land involving traditional and tenurial rights</b>, the legal provisions applicable of the central and state governments pertaining to transfer of land will be followed. Existing customary rights of the tribal communities on various categories of land shall be taken into account during the process of land transfer.</li> </ul>	GP, PIU and land revenue department
<b>Loss of Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of alternate plot of land and structure of equivalent quality and value to be provided as per AP's choice, or cash assistance by GP to meet the loss of land and structure allowing the AP to purchase land &amp; rebuild structure of equivalent standard</li> <li>• For <b>loss of boundary walls and fences</b>, willing transfer by means of MOU. In case voluntary donation of such structures are not possible, cash assistance as per replacement cost by GP to meet loss of such structures, or provision of materials and/or labor by GP to allow the AP to replace/rebuild the same</li> <li>• For <b>vulnerable APs</b>, inclusion as beneficiaries in the rural development (RD) programs/housing schemes (see Annex of relevant state Community Participation Framework)</li> </ul>	GP, PIU and land revenue department

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<sup>2</sup> Replacement cost means the "cost" to replace the lost asset at current market value or its nearest equivalent, plus any transaction costs such as administrative charges, taxes, registration and titling costs allowing the individual / community to replace what is lost and their economic and social circumstances to be at least restored to the pre-project level.

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility
<b>Loss of Structure (Contd.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <b>tenants</b>, assistance to find alternative rental arrangements by GP, or cash assistance equivalent to advance payments made to the owner</li> <li>• For <b>squatters</b>, provision of alternative relocation site, or cash assistance as per replacement cost, or provision of building material and/or labor by GP, or inclusion as beneficiaries in the RD programs/housing schemes.</li> <li>• For <b>land and structure involving traditional and tenurial rights</b>, the legal provisions applicable of the central and state governments pertaining to transfer of land will be followed. Existing customary rights of the tribal communities on various categories of land shall be taken into account during the process of land transfer.</li> </ul>	GP, PIU and land revenue department
<b>Loss of livelihood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <b>vulnerable APs</b>, inclusion as beneficiaries in the existing poverty alleviation /livelihood restoration programs (enumerated in <b>Annex 9</b>). In case of non inclusion in such programs, cash assistance to meet the loss of income during transitional phase and for income restoration.</li> <li>• Assistance for asset creation<sup>3</sup> by community and Gram Panchayat.</li> </ul>	GP and PIU
<b>Loss of Assets such as Trees, Well, and Ponds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing transfer of the asset by means of MOU.</li> <li>• For <b>vulnerable APs</b>, assistance for the loss of these assets through inclusion as beneficiaries in the existing poverty alleviation/livelihood restoration programs (enumerated in <b>Annex 9</b>). In case of non inclusion in such programs, cash assistance by GP to meet the loss of assets and income.</li> </ul>	GP, PIU and land revenue department
<b>Loss of community owned assets such as temple, wells, ponds, grazing land etc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocation or construction of asset by GP with technical inputs from PIU</li> <li>• Consultations with the concerned section of the community in case of grazing land, etc</li> </ul>	GP, PIU and land revenue department
<b>Temporary impacts during construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil works contract conditions to include provisions to obligate the contractor to implement appropriate mitigation measures for the temporary impacts include disruption of normal traffic, increased noise levels, dust generation, and damage to adjacent parcel of land due to movement of heavy machinery to be included the Civil Works Contract</li> </ul>	PIU
<b>Other impacts not identified</b>	Unforeseen impacts will be documented and mitigated based on the principles in this Framework.	

<sup>3</sup> Assistance for asset creation shall comprise of assistance for creation of cattle shed, shop, production unit or any other form of income generating asset that will enable the affected household in restoring their livelihood.

**D. Approach and Methodology for Assessing Social Safeguards Compliance during preparation of the subprojects**

8. The consultants visited the site for proposed RRNMU building at Mouza Gopalnagar in Burdwan District and carried out consultations with the officials of PNRDA, PIU. The site is vacant and free from any encumbrances. They also carried out a desk review of the documents prepared for the project design, tender documents and the departmental orders for locating the proposed centre at the designated location.

9. The SRRDA with assistance from TSC conducted social safeguard screening of the proposed site for RRNMU. For the screening purpose a Social Safeguards Checklist was adopted that is presented in the appendices. As RRNMU buildings are proposed in land owned and under possession of Deptt. Of Panchayat and Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal, there will be no need for monitoring of adverse impacts due to land requirement. However, PIC will provide monitoring support to the SRRDA for issues might arise during execution of the project.



**Site for RRNMU – Mouza Gopalnagar BurdwanTown  
Satellite Imagery showing proposed RRNMU site, Gopalnagar, Burdwan**



## E. Findings

### 1. Land Ownership

10. PNRD, GoWB, parent department of WBSRDA is the owner of the land for the proposed RRNMU at Burdwan town Town is under the process of land transfer.

11. **Site for the RRNMU Building at Gopalnagar.** RRNMU is proposed at Kharia Jalpaiguri. The land is vacant and is in possession of Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal. The process of transferring the land to WBSRDA is ongoing. The site has clear approach from the road.

### 3. Types of Loss and Affected Persons

12. The land parcels proposed for various activities under RRNMU are vacant plots without any structure and encroachment. However, the plot is not fenced or have boundary walls on all sides.

### 4. Consultation with Affected Persons

13. Consultants had consultations with senior officers of WBSRDA, PIU Burdwan town (list attached in appendices). WBSRDA has already obtained required municipal approval applied for the RRNMU at Burdwan is under process.

#### Consultation at RRNMU Site



### 5. Institutional Arrangements and Grievance Redress Mechanism

14. WBSRDA is the Implementing Agency. The land for RRNMU site belong to Panchayat and Rural Development Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal; the parent department of WBSRDA. There is no encroachment in any of the site. Government departmental procedures are in place to address any grievances that might arise. The recruitment of the TSC is in process and they will assist WBSRDA in addressing the safeguard issues in the project and monitoring of the related aspects.

**F. Conclusion**

15. The site visit and review of social assessment checklist prepared RRNMU sites revealed that:

- i) Land is owned and in possession of Panchayat and Rural Development Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal; the parent department of WBSRDA. While land for the RRNMU site has been process transfer to WBSRDA.
- ii) The plot proposed for RRNMU are vacant and free from encroachment.
- iii) There was consultation with senior officers of WBSRDA, PIU, Burdwan town. Required municipal approvals have been under process obtained for the RRNMU site.
- iv) SRRDA has departmental procedure in place to address any grievance that might arise. Recruitment of PIC is in the and they will assist WBSRDA in monitoring of safeguard issues.

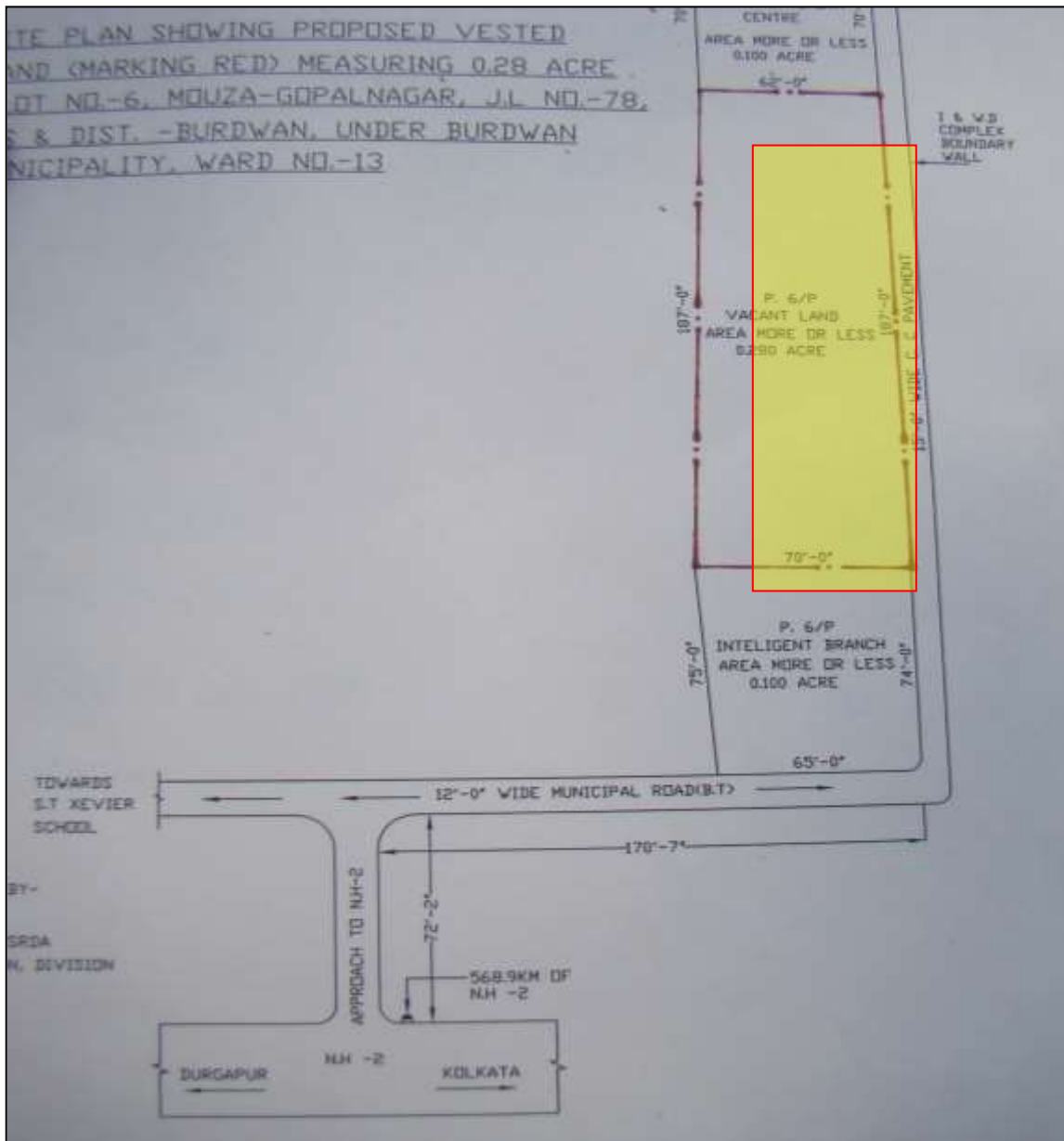
**Appendix 1: Existing Site Conditions – Proposed RRNMU Site at Kharia**



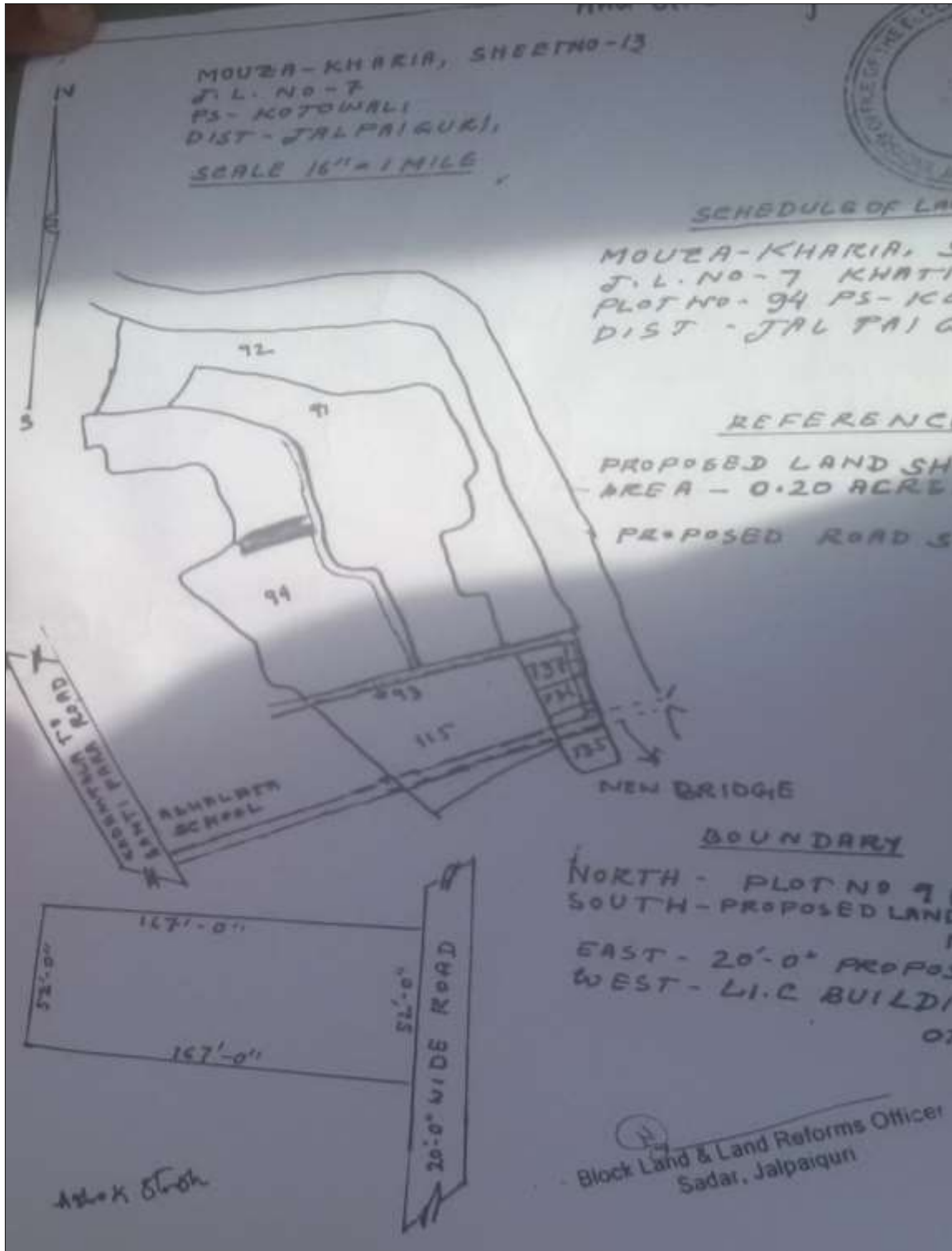
**Appendix 2: Layout Plan for RRNMU Site - Kharia**

Locations of the RRNMUs building is as under:

State : West Bengal  
 District : Burdwan  
 Town : Burdwan  
 Mouza : Gopalnagar  
 PS :  
 JL No : 78  
 Plot No : 6  
 Area : 0.28 acre (1132.0 Sq.m)



Schematic diagram of proposed land



**Appendix 3: List of Officials Consulted**

Mr. J Mitra, SE, Burdwan Circle

Mr. Sajal Chatarjee Sr.AE PNRD Burdwan

Mr. Devottam Mukhrji AE PNRD Burdwan

**Safeguard Experts**

Dr.Dushyant Mishra, Team Leader (TSC)

Mr. Satya Vrat Pandey (Social Expert TSC)

Dr. Dibyendu Banerjee (Environmental Expert TSC)