

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়  
সিলেট আঞ্চলিক অফিস, নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, সিলেট  
সিনিয়র প্ল্যানার এর কার্যালয়  
সিলেট আঞ্চলিক অফিস, নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, সিলেট



স্মারক নম্বর: ২৫.৪৫.৯১৬২.১০৩.১৪.০০১.২১.৩০

তারিখ: ১১ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৭

২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

বিষয়: গেজেটভুক্ত সিলেট বিভাগীয় শহরের মাষ্টার প্ল্যান (২০১০-২০৩০) এর প্রস্তাবনাসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন প্রেরণ প্রসঙ্গে।

জনাব,

যথাবিহীত সম্মান প্রদর্শনপূর্বক উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ের প্রেক্ষিতে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গেজেটভুক্ত সিলেট বিভাগীয় শহরের মাষ্টার প্ল্যান (২০১০-২০৩০) এ বিভিন্ন উন্নয়ন কর্মকান্ড বাস্তবায়নে সেবা প্রদানকারী সংস্থাদের দায়িত্ব নির্দিষ্ট করা আছে (মাষ্টার প্ল্যানের সংশ্লিষ্ট পৃষ্ঠা সদয় দ্রষ্টব্য)। বর্তমানে মাষ্টার প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নের বিষয়ে বাৎসরিক মনিটরিং রিপোর্ট প্রস্তুতকল্পে গেজেটভুক্ত মাষ্টার প্ল্যানের প্রস্তাবনাসমূহ সেবা প্রদানকারী/বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থাসমূহ (গেজেটে উল্লেখিত) কর্তৃক কতটুকু বা কতটি বাস্তবায়িত হয়েছে তার তথ্য জানা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। ফলশ্রুতিতে, আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক মাষ্টার প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নের অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন নিম্ন-স্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট প্রেরণের জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সংযুক্তিঃ বর্ণনামতে।

*Shahin Ahmed*

২৪-২-২০২১

জনাব শাহীন আহম্মেদ  
সিনিয়র প্ল্যানার

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী ( সিলেট সার্কেল)

জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর

স্মারক নম্বর: ২৫.৪৫.৯১৬২.১০৩.১৪.০০১.২১.৩০/১(৭)

তারিখ: ১১ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৭

২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

সদয় অবগতি ও কার্যার্থে প্রেরণ করা হল:

- ১) উপ-পরিচালক, উপ-পরিচালক এর দপ্তর(ভৌত পরিকল্পনা), নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর
- ২) উপ-পরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব), উপ-পরিচালক এর দপ্তর(গবেষণা ও সমন্বয়), নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর
- ৩) সিনিয়র প্ল্যানার, সিলেট আঞ্চলিক অফিস, নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, সিলেট
- ৪) সিনিয়র প্ল্যানার, থানা সেন্টার প্ল্যানিং-২, নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর
- ৫) সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সহকারী প্রকৌশলী(সার্ভে), নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর
- ৬) স্টাট লিপিকার(পিএ), পরিচালক এর দপ্তর, নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর (পরিচালক মহোদয়ের সদয় অবগতির জন্য)

*[Signature]*

**MASTER PLAN**  
for  
**SYLHET DIVISIONAL TOWN**  
(2010-2030)

**STRUCTURE PLAN, URBAN AREA PLAN**  
and  
**DETAILED AREA PLAN**

JUNE 2010



---

**URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE (UDD)**  
Ministry of Housing and Public Works  
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Master Plan for Sylhet Divisional Town**

---

Part-I : Structure Plan and Urban Area Plan  
Part-II : Detailed Area Plan

**Published By**

---

Urban Development Directorate (UDD)  
82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Bangladesh

**Consultant**

---

Consortium of  
Sheltech (Pvt.) Ltd. and  
Engineering and Planning Consultants Ltd.  
Sheltech Tower  
55, Bir Uttam Qazi Niruzzaman Road (West Panthapath)  
Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

**First Edition**

---

October 2011

**Price**

---

Taka: 2000.00  
US\$ : 30.00

**Printed By**

---

Ogro Printing and Packaging Industry  
2 DIT Avenue, Motijheel C/A  
Dhaka-1200, Bangladesh

**Copyright**

---

Urban Development Directorate (UDD)

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission of the copyright holder.

রেজিস্টার্ড নং ডি এ-১

বাংলাদেশ



গেজেট

অতিরিক্ত সংখ্যা  
কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত

বৃহস্পতিবার, নভেম্বর ১৭, ২০১১

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়  
পরিকল্পনা শাখা-৩  
প্রজ্ঞাপন

তারিখ, ৮ কার্তিক ১৪১৮/২৩ অক্টোবর ২০১১

নং গৃগম/পরি-২/০৮/২০০৪(অংশ-২)/২২০—গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের Organizational Set up, Phase-II, (Departments/Directorates and Other Organizations under them), Volume XV (Ministry of Works), Chapter VI (Urban Development Directorate, June, 1983 এর Allocation of Functions এর ক্ষমতাবলে সরকার সিলেট এবং বরিশাল বিভাগীয় শহরের জন্য নতুন Master Plan এলাকা নির্ধারণ এবং অত্র এলাকাধীন প্রণীত Master Plan (Structure Plan, Urban Area Plan ও Detailed Area Plan) যথাযথ প্রক্রিয়া অনুসরণ করিয়া অনুমোদন করিয়াছে।

অতএব, সরকার অত্র প্রজ্ঞাপনের দ্বারা নতুন Master Plan (Structure Plan, Urban Area Plan ও Detailed Area Plan) এর অনুমোদনের বিষয়টি, অনুমোদিত Master Plan সহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য প্রকাশ করিল।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য : অনুমোদিত মাস্টার প্ল্যান ও প্রতিবেদন এর কপি নগর উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, ৮২ সেগুন বাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০ এবং জেলা প্রশাসক, সিলেট ও জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল এবং সিলেট সিটি কর্পোরেশন ও বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর কার্যালয়ে জনসাধারণের পরিদর্শনের সুবিধার্থে সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

রাষ্ট্রপতির আদেশক্রমে

মোঃ গোলাম মোছাদ্দেক  
সিনিয়র সহকারী প্রধান।

মোহাম্মদ জাকীর হোসেন (উপ-সচিব), উপ-পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ সরকারি মুদ্রণালয়, ঢাকা কর্তৃক মুদ্রিত।

আবদুর রশিদ (উপ-সচিব), উপ-পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ ফরম ও প্রকাশনা অফিস,

তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত। web site: www.bgpress.gov.bd

( ১৪৭৯৭ )

মূল্য : টাকা ২.০০

#### d. Surma River

The river Surma is a great asset of Sylhet City that plays multifaceted role for the city. It is a navigation route to a source of water and also a source of recreation. The river should be preserved for future sustainable source of surface water supply for the city when the city's ground water would be depleted. Its banks can serve as breathing space and recreation for the city dwellers. The river should be kept pollution free applying regulatory measures based on environmental regulations, banks should be preserved. No industry should be allowed within 100 m of the river bank.

### 5.6 Structure Plan Policy Recommendations

The policies, drawn in this section, are to remain valid for a period of next 20 years, upto the year 2030. The policies have been drawn on major urban issues that would have implications on the overall future development of Sylhet Divisional Town. The issues covered in these policies include, transport and communication, drainage, water supply, waste management, industrial and business development, housing, recreational open space, education and health, urban poor.

#### 5.6.1 Policies for Urban Area Development

Any future growth policy should aim at intervening the existing problems and put forward measures for potential problems. Unforeseen use of low cost but valuable land, lack of public sector resources for infrastructure development, lack of development initiatives at the right place and to the right direction are all the major problems of urban development. The following urban area policies have been drawn up in order to encounter all the above and other problems of urbanization and urban space use.

##### Policy UA/1: Organised use of Urban Land

Present use of urban land is chaotic and unorganized. This trend is not conducive to create a healthy and livable urban area fulfilling all environmental conditions. For the sake of promoting sustainable urban development, functions in urban areas must be organised through systematic and balanced use of land using the tool of land use zoning.

**Implementing Agency:** SSC.

##### **Means of Implementation**

Preparation of land use zoning plan and implementation through the relevant provisions of EBBC Act 1952.

##### Policy UA/2: Infrastructure Development in Existing Spontaneous Areas

Necessary infrastructure is needed to be provided in spontaneously grown existing urban areas.

##### **Justification**

Development and promotion of infrastructure would help accelerate urban growth and maximize use of land in existing urban areas.

**Implementing Agencies:** SCC, PDB, LGED, DPHE, JGTL.

##### **Means of Implementation**

Infrastructure development programmes and projects can be undertaken in priority or problem areas with appropriate budget allocation. Mechanisms may be evolved to involve local community as partners of development by sharing either land or cost of development of infrastructure.

### **Policy UA/3: Promotion of Participatory Urban Development**

The policy of involving local community in urban development should be practiced by urban development agencies through a process of participatory mechanism. NGOs and CBOs can be involved to share many of the responsibilities of the public sector agencies. Concerned agencies can undertake pilot projects followed by full scale partnership projects after successful achievement.

#### **Justification**

Community involvement would ensure better and quicker implementation of urban development projects. This approach will also save public money hitherto allocated for urban development that can be diverted to other priority areas of development.

**Implementing Agencies:** SCC, PDB, LGED, DPHE, NGO, CBOs.

#### **Means of Implementation**

Necessary legal and administrative measures will have to be undertaken to support and safeguard partnership programmes before taking up actual participatory and or partnership projects.

### **Policy UA/4: Practice of Enabling Strategy in Urban Development**

The urban development agencies should adopt enabling strategy in urban development through development of basic urban infrastructure and promotion of settlements on private initiatives.

#### **Justification**

Enabling strategy will allow the private individual and real estate developers to take advantage of the infrastructure facilities and develop their structures. The land owners intending to build houses will be encouraged to build their dwellings taking advantage of the infrastructure leading to faster urbanization. Investment in commerce and industry as well as employment will be faster.

**Implementing Agencies:** SCC, LGED, PDB, JGTL.

#### **Means of Implementation**

This policy can be implemented by adopting appropriate promotional working policies by the concerned development agencies. Appropriate laws can be enacted in favour of enabling strategy and or existing laws can be reformed to attain the objectives of enabling strategy.

### **Policy UA/5: Initiatives for Urban Fringe Area Development**

As new areas of urban development initiative should be taken to expedite development in the fringe by means of infrastructure development.

#### **Justification**

Fringe areas under slow development offer excellent opportunity for planned development either by means of infrastructure development or through total acquisition of land. There will be less cost involvement due to low density involving less eviction. There will be fewer hindrances in motivation of the local residents in favour of planned development.

**Implementing Agencies:** SCC, PDB, DPHE, NGOs.

#### **Means of Implementation**

Undertake site and services projects in the fringe to avoid major eviction. Adoption of participatory approach to new urban area development supported by innovative ideas of spatial development. Long motivational activities will have to be carried out for this purpose. Public sector with NGO's technical and initial financial support and cooperation by service giving agencies will make the task easier.

### **Means of Implementation**

Surface water treatment plant should be introduced near Surma River. These will ease the pressure on ground water which will eventually prevent depletion of ground water.

### **Policy WS/2: Strict Enforcement of Environmental Regulations about Surface and Ground Water Pollution**

#### **Justification**

Sylhet City is going to face serious scarcity of water in the upcoming days. The source of ground water and surface water has to be kept free from all sort of pollution so that they can be used in the future.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, DPHE, CBOs, DOE

### **Means of Implementation**

Proper implementation of policy related to sanitation and drainage will eventually resist the scope for polluting water from domestic waste and sewerage. The policy related to industrialization will resist the scope of pollution through industrial waste. More over local community can play vital role acting as watch dog on pollution water.

### **Policy WS/3: Conserve major sources of Surface Water in the City to serve Emergency Water Needs**

#### **Justification**

In the built up areas sometimes fire hazard become so dangerous that the fire service requires quick and huge supply of water. So in the built up areas the large and medium scale water bodies should be conserved for these sorts of emergencies.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, Fire Service, DPHE, DOE

### **Means of Implementation**

Large and medium scale water bodies should be kept reserved as urban open space where people may find some breathing space. Moreover, these will reduce the temperature of the surrounding areas as well as serve the emergency need of the locality during fire hazard.

## **5.6.5 Solid Waste Management**

### **Policy WM/1: Introduction of Community based Solid Waste Collection System**

#### **Justification**

Creation of community initiative to collect solid waste from door to door dispose them to transfer stations.

#### **Means of Implementation**

The total collection system from households can be done by means of contributory community based solid waste collection approach through NGOs.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, CBOs, NGOs

**Policy HA/1: Promotion of Housing Area Development in New Urban Area**

**Justification**

The pace of housing development is slow due to lack of infrastructure. There is a need to create standard infrastructure facilities to create livable environment that will promote housing.

**Implementing Agencies:** SCC, NHA, PDB, DPHE, LGED and BTCL.

**Means of Implementation**

Urban development agencies should promote private housing development through development of basic physical and social infrastructure based on enabling strategy. Creation of access and collector roads and other line services including neighborhood complexes at suitable locations in rapidly growing areas.

**Policy HA/2: Promotion of Housing for the Low Income Group and the Poor by the Public Sector Housing Agencies**

**Justification**

In a market economy there is a need to protect the vulnerable groups from utter collapse. Housing is one of the most vital issues in an urban environment which helps maintain good health that increases skill leading to higher productivity. It is also a source of social security. Due to high cost of land and housing the vulnerable urban poor are often deprived of affordable housing. This calls for government intervention in providing housing to the urban poor.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, NHA, Bangladesh Bank, NGOs, PDB.

**Means of Implementation**

Undertaking low cost housing programmes for the low income and the urban poor community based on innovative cost recoverable ideas with secured tenure.

**Policy HA/3: Promote the upgrading of Slum and Squatter Settlements**

**Justification**

The slum and squatter dwellers are the most deprived section of the urban community. Their needs should be addressed on priority basis.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, Department of Social Welfare, NGOs.

**Means of Implementation**

To ensure housing with safe water, sanitation and electricity through GO and NGO collaboration, implement programmes for upgradation of environment of slum-dwellers, the disadvantaged, the destitute and the shelter less poor.

**Policy HA/4: Encourage Private Sector Real Estate Developers for increasing Housing Supply**

**Justification**

Private housing companies can serve well the upper income groups of the society to meet their housing demand with the public sector playing the role of facilitator.

**Implementing Agency:** SCC, Bangladesh Bank, NGOs and PDB.

**Means of Implementation**

Public sector as facilitator can provide, physical and social infrastructure and credit facilities to the private real estate developers.

#### **Mitigation**

1. Stop katcha, hanging and pit latrines.
2. Create underground sewerage system for SCC area.
3. Use pucca latrine with septic tank and soak well.
4. Prohibit indiscriminate dumping of medical and solid waste in drainage, chhoras and river.
5. Improve sanitation condition of slaughter house, fish market and katcha bazars.
6. Prohibit the direct discharge of city waste water to any chhoras, low lying areas and river.
7. Establish waste water and sewerage treatment plant.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, LGED and DOE

#### **g. Groundwater Depletion**

Groundwater level of Sylhet city is facing constant lowering over the last few decades. It has been calculated that in 2030 the lowering of ground water level might be 20m (DPHE Report). Eventually fall of groundwater table is a common phenomenon in project area during dry period (Feb.-May). Some deep-set pumps of SCC remain out of function during dry season for fall of groundwater table. With expansion of urbanization and industrialization through this project, the groundwater table may further fall if present trend of using groundwater is continued.

#### **Mitigation**

1. Use the Surma river water for pipeline supply to households and industries.
2. Introduce rainwater harvesting system.
3. Stop filling of ponds and water bodies to maintain the groundwater level through recharge and leaching process.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, DPHE and NGOs

#### **h. Groundwater Pollution**

Groundwater pollution due to manganese, iron and hardness is a major problem in the project area. With expansion of urban area, more dependency on groundwater sources may increase the pollution level of sub-surface water.

#### **Mitigation**

1. Use surface water of the Surma river.
2. Introduce rain water harvesting.
3. Reduce dependency on groundwater.
4. Preserve surface water source like ponds, chhoras, ditches and rivers for irrigation.

**Responsible Organization:** SCC, LGED, BWDB, DOE and NGOs

#### **i. Loss of Wetlands**

Wetlands are mainly affected first by the urbanization process. Earth filling fills up the ponds, haors and chhoras. Waste water affects the aquatic ecosystem and makes the ponds, chhoras and haors unproductive and as a result the aquatic plants, fishes and animals have to die or migrate to other places. For high price of highlands, the developers enlarge their hands to the low cost wetlands. There is no strict regulation on earth filling of ponds. The SCC can fine only Tk.500 if some one fills the ponds. However, Wetlands Conversation Act exists in Bangladesh, which is applicable only to natural beels and khals. Number of ponds in Sylhet city is reduced every year to accommodate housing and commercial structures. Wetlands play an important role as a reservoir of rain and flood water. They are also important to maintain the balance of ecosystems and for replenishing the ground water level through seepage.

areas will improve for setting up new clinics, hospitals, diagnostic centers in government and private sectors. For improvement of transportation, the government doctors of rural clinic will visit the clinics more regularly, who are visiting now 2-3 times per week.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Set up new clinics, hospitals, diagnostic centres with adequate facilities in government and private sectors in the newly developed urban areas.
2. Ensure posting of well trained doctors, nurses and other technicians to these newly established clinics and hospitals.
3. Ensure good communication in the metropolitan area for easy movement of doctors and patients and transportation of medical facilities.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Communication.

**g. Human Diseases**

Diseases like diarrhea, worm infection, peptic ulcer, acute respiratory infection, skin diseases and anemia incidences are very common in the project area. With plan scenario, diarrhea, worm infection, skin diseases and anemia condition will be improved with pure drinking water supply, good sanitation, hygienic housing condition and improved dietary food intake for increasing income level. On the other hand, respiratory diseases, cardiac arrest and blood pressure may increase for smoke emitted by more motorized vehicles, industries and brickfields.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Ensure supply of pure drinking water, good sanitation and hygienic housing condition.
2. Ensure improved dietary intake by providing facilities for increased income level through better employment.
3. Reduce air pollution by controlling smoke from motorized vehicles and other potential sources like industries etc.
4. Brickfields should be off limited from the city.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, DPHE, Ministry of Labor and DOE.

**h. Sanitation**

Sanitation system is not good in the project area. Sanitation coverage is to some extent better in SCC area than extended area. According to DPHE, Sylhet, most of the septic tank of houses have illegal connection to the nearby ditches/ponds. With implementation of this project, the sanitation system will be improved through creation of underground sewerage and strict regulation on katcha latrine.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Creation of underground sewerage system in SCC area is favorable in the context of environment. With increasing city population and infrastructure construction, over spilling of septic tank and pit will be increased and city environment and health risk will be increased further. However, underground sewerage system maintained centrally by pumping and treatment has little scope for environmental pollution.
2. If underground sewerage system is not feasible economically, SCC should impose that all households should have a sanitary toilet with septic tank and soak-well. No household should be allowed to make connection of septic tanks to the nearby ponds/ditches in urban area.
3. Arrangement of pucca toilet with septic tank and soak-well for well-off people and low-cost semi-pucca water-sealed latrines for poor peoples. Arrangement for sufficient number of public toilets in Sylhet City.
4. Strictly prohibited for construction of katcha and hanging toilet on the sides of ponds, chhoras, haors and river in project area.
5. Ensure NGOs participation in sanitation sector.

6. Initiate health education program to aware people on the effect of open defecations, using katcha, hanging, bucket latrines, etc. and about the usefulness of hygienic sanitation system.
7. Establish central sewerage treatment plant to treat the discharged sewerage.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, DPHE, LGED and NGOs.

#### **i. Parks and Recreational Places**

Osmani Shishu Park within city area and Adventure World at extended area and the Surma riverside walkway near Keane Bridge are the main recreational sites in the city. The tea garden and Parjatan Motel area are also beautiful sites to visit. However, with implementation of this plan, new open space, playground, parks, lake, etc. will be created and give more leisure places for the people.

#### **Enhancement Activities**

1. Ensure new open space, playground, parks, increasing facilities to visit the tea gardens etc. to increase recreational facilities in the newly developed area.
2. Develop the Surma river side as tourists spot with properly designed modern facilities to attract outside visitors also.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.

#### **j. Solid Waste**

Sylhet City is now producing about 180 mt of solid waste everyday. Expansion of city boundary as well as human settlement will enhance solid waste generation. The solid waste management will be a big environmental management problem for Sylhet city in future. The present management system of solid waste is unhygienic. The SCC is now collecting and dumping openly both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste together in Lalmatia landfill outside the project area and roadside of by-pass road. The leaching from this landfill can pollute both the ground and surface water and ultimately may create health risk among the local inhabitants. Many people collect compost from this landfill. The use of this mixed compost in agricultural field is very dangerous for human health and environment. Because this type of compost contains a high amount of toxic metal like lead, cadmium, mercury, nickel, chromium, etc., which are harmful to human health. These metals may enter into the food chain through vegetables and food grain.

With expansions of SMP and city boundary, the environmental problems from solid waste will increase further for increased generation of waste in new urban and semi-urban area.

#### **Mitigation**

1. Point separation of solid waste is required for good quality of compost production. This separation should be done at household level, market and bazar places. The SCC through NGO's involvement can motivate the city dwellers, shopkeepers and vegetable traders to dump the biodegradable (e.g. rice, remains of fish and meat, curry, vegetables, fruits, leaves, cow-dung, etc.) and non-biodegradable (e.g. plastic, poly-ethylene, iron, steel, glass, ceramics, rubbish, etc.) wastes separately in bins. Then SCC will collect and dump these two types of waste separately in sanitary landfill. The biodegradable waste will be converted into good quality compost within 54-60 days and SCC can sell this compost to the farmers. For non-biodegradable waste, SCC can lease the landfill to local people for collection of plastic, steel, iron etc., which have good recycle market in Bangladesh.
2. Old open dumping space will be covered immediately by soil and sand.
3. Selling of compost of old dumping space must be stopped for the sake of public health and environment.
4. Dumping of solid waste on both sides of by-pass road should be immediately stopped.
5. A new landfill is required for SMP area, the suggested site may be somewhere along the Sylhet- Jaflong Bypass Road.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Dept. of Environmental Science, SUST, and NGO's.

#### **k. Water Supply**

The Sylhet City Corporation is capable of supplying a maximum of 21,000 cubic metres of water every day against the demand for 48,000 cubic metres. But the corporation has now actually been supplying between 16,000 to 18,000 cubic meters every day. The supply water situation has also worsened because of frequent power outages that happen for about 10 to 8 times a day, mostly during peak hours.

The city corporation has more than 10,000 water subscribers. At present city corporation can meet up 40% demand of the city dwellers rest 60% use water from hand tube wells, pond and river water.

With expansion of urban area, the demands of supply water will increase further. Therefore, more wells and pipelines will be needed to meet the existing gap as well as future demand. Severe drinking water crisis may occur for increasing the city population. About 62% people of SCC still rely on tube-well. There are about 3,750 numbers of tube-wells in SCC area. More tube-wells are out of SCC list, which have been set up in private initiatives.

The rural and sub-urban areas of Structure Plan area experience severe water crisis during dry period (February-May) due to water level falling. Most of the tube-wells remain ineffective during this period. The supply of pure drinking water will be a major confront for SCC in near future.

#### **Mitigation**

The Surma river water is very suitable for public water supply through full-phased treatment like Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, Dhaka. PH, DO and coliform bacteria are within the "Bangladesh Standard for Surface Water for Water Supply through Treatment". The range of coliform bacteria are between 70-250 (or slightly above), which is lower than the standard limit of 5,000. DO vary from 7.0-8.0 mg/l, which is at satisfactory level. Therefore, BOD should be very low and expected within the standard, if tested. For water supply, a treatment plant should be set up in the upstream of Sylhet city. Because the downstream water is getting polluted with drainage discharge of Mongli chhora, and Voni Chhora drain; sewage and human excreta of katcha, hanging and open defecation of slums near the Surma river and indiscriminate dumping of solid waste. The treatment plant should be located in a place where river erosion and bank shifting is very low. In this respect, bank shifting and river morphology should be considered.

1. If the Surma river water is not economically feasible for water supply, set up more deep tube-wells for free ground water to meet the demand.
2. Perform the repair and maintenance work of existing water supply line in SCC area periodically.
3. Expand the water supply pipelines in all SCC and extended areas.
4. Set up more water treatment plants to treat the hardness, manganese, iron and arsenic of groundwater.
5. Expedite the work of DPHE project of Water Supply.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, DPHE, UPs and NGO's.

#### **I. Social Forestry**

Sylhet is a vast region of natural forestry that are ever green to deciduous types. The total forest area within the project area is about 117 acres which comprises only 0.56% of the total area. Social forestry is common in the side of embankment, road, railway, homestead and highland. The main social forest plants are Rain Tree, Arjun, Acassia, Minjium, Oricoliformis, Kadam, Jarul etc. With implementation of this project the plantation of social forest plant will increase by the rural roads, pucca roads, embankment, and open spaces in the premises of government, autonomous and educational organizations.

#### **Enhancement Activities**

1. Ensure local people's participation and their sharing in social afforestation.
2. Plant trees in rainy season to reduce the loss of sprout.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, DPHE, BPDB and DOE.

#### **b. Industrialization**

Industrialization is not prominent economic sector in Sylhet. With implementation of this project and establishment of Special Economic Zone nearby having good road, drainage, water, gas, electricity and telephone facilities will attract the promoters and NRBs to invest here and help in industrialization.

#### **Enhancement Activities**

1. Arrangement for gas pipe line in the industrial zone.
2. Arrangement for water, electricity, telephone, fire-service and drainage facility in industrial zone.
3. Arrangement for soft-loan for agro-industry, garments, electronics, IT etc.
4. Strengthening the activities of Sylhet Shilpa and Banik Samity (SSBS).
5. Invite the national and foreign investors to visit and invest in industrial zone.
6. Initiate the local entrepreneurs through incentives for industrialization.

**Responsible Organizations:** Board of Investment, Banks, Sylhet Shilpa and Banik Samity

#### **c. Employment**

Employment opportunity is very limited in the project area for less number of industries. Only 0.8 % is engage in industrial sector. Average 20.35% people have employment in govt. & autonomous organizations (27.8% in urban area and 12.8% in rural area) and 0.8% in industrial sector. Business constitutes 41.88% of total working population because it is one of the dominant sub-sector. More than 21% households are employed by private organizations. As Sylhet is a divisional headquarters as well as promoted to City Corporation with a number of regional functions, government employment is of major importance in terms of real occupation service in govt /autonomous organizations.

With implementation of this project, the employment in industrial sector will increase. However, the employment in government sector may remain same or slightly increase. Non-government employment in health, education and utility services will expand further for setting up new clinics, hospitals, schools, colleges, etc. With the enhancement of tourism industry more employment will be generate in this sector.

#### **Enhancement Activities**

1. Set up new industrial zone with all facilities like water, electricity, gas, telephone, drainage and good road communication.
2. Encourage setting up new industries in the industrial zone to increase employment opportunity.
3. Establish new clinics, hospitals, schools, colleges, etc. in the newly developed metropolitan area to facilitate new employment.
4. Enhancement of tourism industry to facilitate new employment.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, BWDB, BTTB, DPHE, JTCL, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and BPC.

#### **d. Business**

Business is the main employment sector in the project area. Business constitutes 32.27% of all household incomes which is the highest among all other sources of income within the study area. Also as supportive income more than 50% is engaged in business. With expansion of urbanization, the business sector will be developed with the development of new business centres, markets, bazars and expansion of existing growth centers and the people will be engaged as traders, shop-keepers and whole-sellers. Improved road communication by this project will attract more outside traders also to come to the project area to import and export vegetables, fruits, handicrafts and agricultural products to and from the other districts of the country.

Business in the urban area will also get more momentum for setting up new markets, shopping malls, restaurants, etc.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Develop new business centres, markets and bazars in the proposed project area to facilitate business and trading.
2. Encourage production of more handicrafts and agricultural products in the suburbs of the area.
3. Establish good communication system to facilitate movement of traders from Dhaka and other important places of Bangladesh.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, Ministry of Commerce and Industries and Ministry of Communication.

**e. Women Empowerment**

Women empowerment is a hot issue now a days and discussed everywhere. The importance of women empowerment in the overall development of the society can hardly be over emphasized. After the implementation of the SMP with rapid urbanization, more and more women will be engaged in formal employment in different sectors like education, garments and other industries, transport, sales, handicrafts, etc. Women will be able to earn money themselves and this will be a positive step towards women empowerment.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Facilitate and ensure women education at all levels.
2. Arrange for vocational training for women on different handicrafts, sewing and garments.
3. Provide loan to women at a lower rate of interest to encourage them to start business.
4. Provide priority on employment of women.
5. Ensure equal wage rate for male and female laborers.
6. Enhance social awareness campaign about importance of role of women in the society.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, Educational Institutions, District Administration, Jubo Unnayan Audhidaptar and NGOs.

**f. Housing Estate**

Shah Jalal Uposhahar Housing Estates Phase-I and Phase-II and Zila Porishad Housing Estate have grown up in planned way in the project area. Work of Uposhahar Housing Estates Phase- III has been going on. These estates ensured the livable condition of housing with drainage, electricity, gas, telephone, play ground, open space and recreational facilities. With implementation of this project, planned new housing estates and residential areas will be developed through landuse zoning system and the private housing development and construction will also be under the jurisdiction of SCC. This will regulate the unauthorized housing construction to improve the scenic beauty and environmental condition of the city. Overall, the project will improve the housing condition and safety in the project area.

**Enhancement Activities**

1. Develop more planned housing areas with water supply, drainage, electricity, telephone, playground, open space and recreational facilities.
2. Stop unauthorized housing construction by strict implementation of land use plan prepared by SMP.

**Responsible Organizations:** SCC, NHA, Real Estate Developers, DPHE, BPDB and BTTB.