



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
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Final Report on Study-03
'My Village -My Town' -Technical Assistance Project
“Feasibility Study for Rural Connectivity including Multi-Modal Transport
System in Char and Haor Areas”

Sylhet Sadar Upazila, Sylhet



July, 2022

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GLOSSARY

Hard-to-reach Villages mean in the Study those villages that are not connected by any paved road with the respective Upazila HQ and/or Union Parishad, and to the nearest economic activity hub and social service centres. The following explanations are important for the concept of hard-to-reach villages.

- In haor areas, Villages connected with submersible roads dry season and connected with Riverine/haor routes in the monsoon season have been considered accessible and excluded from hard-to-reach villages.
- Within Upazila, Villages that need a bridge to connect have not been considered hard-to-reach villages.
- In the case of island Upazilas, villages that are accessible with paved roads from Upazila HQ have been considered accessible and excluded from hard-to-reach villages.
- In the case of villages that are connected with HBB (Herring-Bone-Bond) or Brick flat soling routes have been considered hard-to-reach villages

Mauza Mauza is normally the geographical expression of a unit of landmass for revenue settlement and revenue collection, whereas, the village is a human settlement within a Mauza with a strong social bond. Within a Mauza there could be more than one village.

Union Bangladesh has 3-tiers local government systems: District, Upazila, and Union. Union is the lowest level of local government below Upazila Parishad

Upazila Sub-district; the third level of government administration below division and district.

Hat Synonym of Bazar or market

Walking Trail means in the Study the village pathway or access used for walking by commuters, in most cases does not have gazetted or established or commonly used alignment, and to the most, passable by bicycle or motorbike. These village trails are not passable by motorized jeeps or mini trucks or emergency service vehicles or not even any three-wheelers.

Unpaved Roads have no pavement or surface material. They are usually earthen roads.

Vulnerability is the human dimension of risk that is defined as conditions determined by physical, social, economic, environmental, political, cultural, and institutional factors or processes that increase the likelihood of an individual or a community to the impacts of shocks and hazards.

Climate-Resilience is expressed as the ability of a community to resist, absorb, adapt to and recover better from the impacts of disasters like floods and landslides in a sustainable way.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	– Asian Development Bank
BBS	– Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BC	– Bitumen Carpeting
DatEx	– Data Expert (Pvt.) Limited
DECL	– Delight Engineers and Construction Ltd.
DoE	– Department of Environment
DPHE	– Department of Public Health Engineering
DPP	– Development Project Proposal
FGD	– Focus Group Discussion
GIS	– Geographic Information System
GOB	– Government of Bangladesh
HBB	– Herring-Bone-Bond
HQ	– Headquarter
HTRV	– Hard-to-Reach Village
JV	– Joint Venture
KII	– Key Informant Interview
LGD	– Local Government Division
LGED	– Local Government Engineering Department
LGI	– Local Government Institute
MVMT	– My Village My Town
NGO	– Non-Government Organization
PD	– Project Director
PMO	– Project Management Office
RCC	– Reinforced Concrete
RHD	– Roads & Highways Department
SDGs	– Sustainable Development Goals
TA	– Technical Assistance Project
UE	– Upazila Engineer
UNDP	– United Nations Development Programme
UNO	– Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UNR	– Union Road
UP	– Union Parishad
UPZ	– Upazila Road
VRA	– Village Road A
VRB	– Village Road B

BACKGROUND

Context of the Project

The Government of Bangladesh made massive plans to ensure equitable development around the country. Under this development philosophy, the GoB requirements are to reduce the rural-urban divide to foster developmental benefits for all citizens. As part of this, the government declared an election manifesto on the eve of the national parliament election 2018 uniting the theme **Bangladesh on the March Towards Prosperity** aiming at transforming Bangladesh into a developed nation by 2041. Under this, villages have been considered the basic unit of prosperity for building a developed nation.

This firm commitment was declared following the light of the philosophy of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build ‘Sonar Bangla’ (Golden Bangla) through inclusiveness, balanced, and development for all.

Following the philosophy of the Father of the Nation, the government declared its election manifesto 2018 titled ‘My Village-My Town’- Extension of Modern Civic Amenities in Every village. The Local Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has prepared a comprehensive work plan to make this election commitment a reality. The Local Government Division with its two agencies, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has undertaken a technical assistance project named ‘My Village-My Town’- Technical Assistance Project. Under this project, 36 studies and 30 guidelines are being developed on eight thematic components related to the mandate of the Local Government Division. The eight thematic components are Rural Communications, Growth Centre and Hat Bazar, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Rural Waste Management, Community Space and Recreation Facilities, Upazila Masterplan, Rural Housing and Capacity building of Upazila and Union Parishad. Besides this, a coordination framework is being developed among the other ministries involved in the implementation of the My Village-My Town election manifesto. It is notable to mention that a coordination committee has been formed comprising 21 ministries to implement the program in a coordinated way under the leadership of the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives.

Context of the Report

This report is a part of the study of the component ‘Rural Connectivity’. Rural connectivity is the basic of all amenities in the villages. Rural connectivity works as the conduit that can supply a number of bare necessities such as access to the market, health, education, employment etc. In general, Bangladesh has remarkable progress in rural connectivity. Instead of this, a number of regions of the country are geographically sensitive where rural connectivity is not easy and has a lot of challenges. These regions are -Haor, Beel, Hills, Chars, islands etc. The people residing in these regions have considerably low access to civic amenities compared to other villages of the country. Therefore, the study and plan development of improvement of rural connectivity is one of the important assignments of the technical assistance project. The project undertook an Upazila-based special study on the villages of these geographically sensitive regions that are mentioned before.

This report contains the rural connectivity status and priority plan of the **Sylhet Sadar** Upazila of **Sylhet** District.

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE UPAZILA

1.1 GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHY

The geographical area of Sylhet Sadar Upazila is 301.80 square kilometers and has 9 unions, 86 mauzas, and 353 villages. Sylhet Sadar is partly covered by 3 major haors/ wetlands and there exist 7(seven) rivers flowing over the Upazila. The total population of Upazila is 343965 of which 176023 are male and 167942 females, the total number of households are 60242 and the average household size is 5.2 with a population density of 2747 (as per population census 2011).

1.2 EDUCATION FEATURES

According to the information of the relevant local government offices, there are 61 government & 22 non-government primary schools in the Upazila. On the other hand, Sylhet Sadar has 34 non-government with no government high schools, 2 school & colleges, 1 government college, 23 private colleges, and 23 madrasahs. The literacy rate for the Upazila is 57.6% as per BBS 2011.

1.3 RURAL ROAD COMMUNICATIONS

Bangladesh scored in the rural accessibility index at around 87 percent among South Asian and some other African countries. Generally, the people of Bangladesh get all-weather within 2 kilometers adjacent to their living places. But the feature of rural road communications in Sylhet Sadar Upazila is contrasted. There are many villages, disconnected from the developed paved road network that brings huge suffering for the people of the villages. The total rural road network of Sylhet Sadar is 646.08 km and out of which, 353.45 km are paved and 292.64 km earthen.

1.4 AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION, AND FISHERIES

Though the aggregate (coarse sand, stone chips & stone) business is the main source of income for the inhabitants, agriculture too has major importance for the economy of the people of Sylhet Sadar. There are 77842 acres of arable land in Upazila. In the fiscal year 2010-11, the Rice production was 5264, 20063 & 19579 metric tons for Aus, Aman & Boro seasons respectively. The Upazila also produced 1720 metric tons of Potato, and 34 metric tons of Oil seed in the same fiscal year 2010-11. A notable quantity of vegetables is also produced here in this Upazila.

According to the BBS (2011) data, Sylhet Sadar has 8768 Acre of haor, pond & dighee that produced 4042 metric tons of fish. There also exist 95 poultry & 35 dairy farms.

All the agricultural products are adequate to meet the demand of the Upazila and surpluses are sold outside of Sylhet Sadar.

1.5 GROWTH CENTRE AND HATBAZAR

Growth Centre and Rural Hatbazar are one of the main centers of the rural economy. Hatbazar is like the heart of the development of the rural economy. Rural Hatbazar plays a role in increasing production and creating employment impacting the supply chain of agriculture and non-agriculture products. There are 51 Hatbazar and 4 growth centers in Upazila. The structural development of Hatbazar and its growth is pivotal to boosting the rural economy. Details of the growth center & hatbazar of the Upazila have been attached in **Annexure-1**.

2 LOCATION OF THE UPAZILA

Sylhet Sadar Upazila of Sylhet district in the North-Eastern part of the country. The location has been shown on the map. The Upazila is situated at the foothill of the Indian border and causes flash floods during monsoon coming from uphill Meghalaya where is Cherrapunji, the wettest place on earth, resulting in waterlogging within the haor basin. Flash floods induce severe impacts on both the built and the natural environment. The effects of flash floods can be catastrophic and show extensive diversity, ranging from damages to buildings and infrastructure to impacts on vegetation, human lives, and livestock.

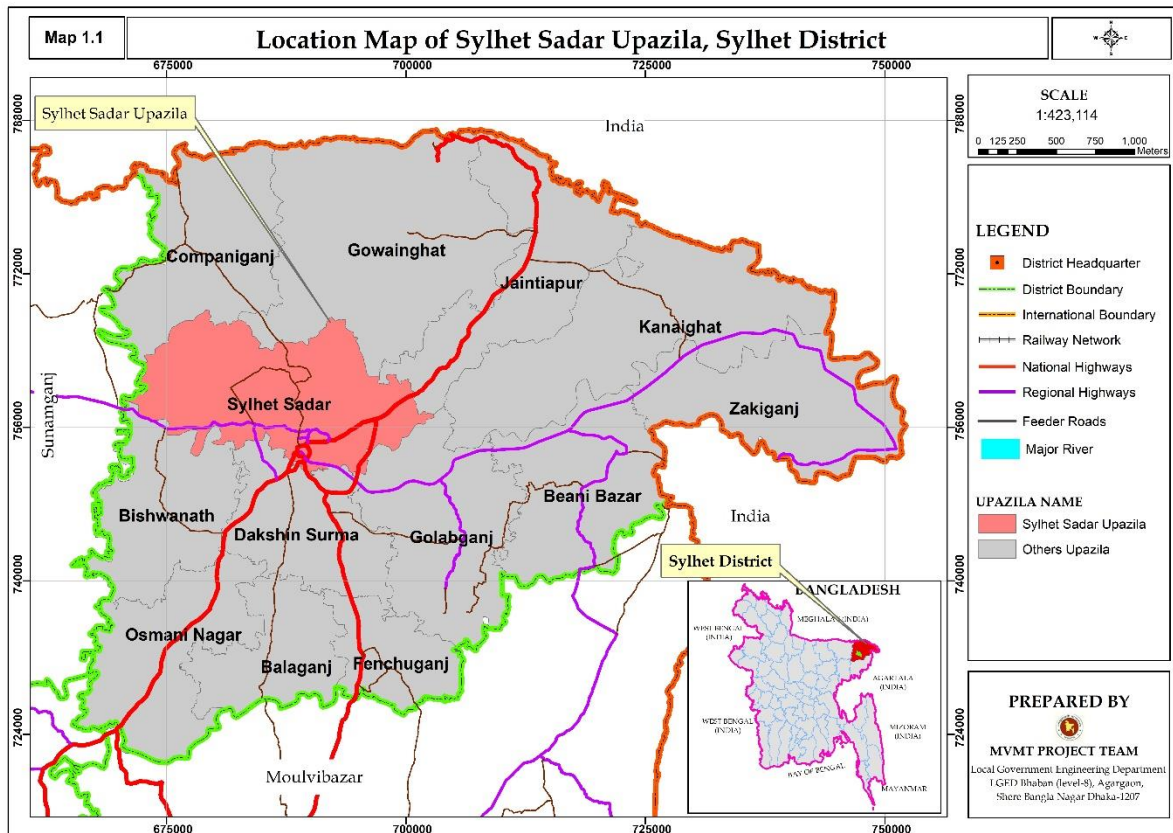


Figure 1: Upazila Location Map

3 APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

3.1 STUDY TEAM COMPOSITION

A team consisting of Senior Rural Road Infrastructure Specialist, Associate Rural Infrastructure Specialist, and Assistant Engineer engaged by the Project Management Office (PMO) conducted the study. On the other hand, A team consisting of Deputy Team Leader cum Rural Infrastructure Engineer, Junior GIS expert, and Junior Engineer engaged by consulting firm (datEx & DECL JV) conducted the study. A participatory approach to review the database and identify priority transport infrastructure needs (‘sub-projects’) was instrumental. At the stakeholder consultation meeting held in each district, the database was reviewed, and priority needs were identified and mapped working together with the LGI representatives and LGED technical team. LGED and LGI representatives surveyed each Upazila for the collection of detailed observations and validations of the proposed priority needs.

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

- Hard-to-reach Village Database and database of sub-projects reviewed
- Prioritization of sub-projects for each Upazila with LGI and LGED representatives
- Hard-to-reach villages and priority sub-projects mapped in the LGED GIS Map

3.2 STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in 72 Upazilas of haor areas, 3 Upazilas of Beel areas, 8 Upazilas of Char areas, and 4 Upazilas of Island areas during the period from December 2021 to June 2022. Apart from this, the PMO team conducted the study in 50 Upazilas of Haor areas, and the rest of the Upazilas of Haor, Beel, Char, and Island areas are conducted by the consulting firm team. The Upazila technical staff of LGED supported in organizing stakeholder consultation meetings and in database review and mapping the Hard-to-reach villages and population during this study period. They also supported the field work and authentication check by visits to the sub-projects in their respective Upazila and looking at the feasibility of some proposed sub-projects from technical, social, and environmental perspectives.

3.3 DATABASE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The study applied both qualitative (e.g., focused group discussions and in-depth case study fieldwork) and quantitative (structured and semi-structured interviews) approaches and methods in reviewing and conducting fieldwork in all the haor areas to understand the need and impact of rural accessibility in remote village contexts. The most applied methods in the reviewing and conducting fieldwork were:

- Key Informants Interview (KII)
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Case Study for authentication check and individual sub-project feasibility study.

- ❖ Review the Hard-to-reach village database at the ‘Stakeholder consultation meeting’ participated by local government representatives such as the UP chairman and members, Upazila chairman, vice-chairman, and UNO.
- ❖ FGD and KII were conducted using a checklist. Composition in the FGD included local community people: male and female, teachers, local farmers, traders, and students depending on availability.
- ❖ KIIs of Union Chairman, Upazila chairman, UNO male and female, and teacher depending on availability.
- ❖ Authentication and feasibility check by visits to the sub-projects reviewed and listed for the 40 selected case study unions under the MVMT project.
- ❖ Survey with GPS machine and Google apps in collecting Hard-to-reach village locations, landmarks, chainage at gaps, village road at sections vulnerable to land erosion damage, narrow existing width or sharp slope location.

3.4 PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA OF SUB-PROJECTS

Prepare a priority list of sub-projects by Upazilas that includes gazette ID roads and non-gazette roads (No ID) with attributes like name and number of villages and population. The criteria used in the prioritization are described below.

- Population, travel time needed from the remotest villages to the Upazila HQ, road type, and cost per km per 1000 population are the indicators weighted giving a value in a formula.
- Priority is given to single connection with no alternative transport road and multi-modal transport route to connecting the villages with Upazila HQ and Union Parishad, growth centre and important markets and social service centres; villages with a higher population and travel time get higher weightage;
- Priority is given to roads, ghats, and collection points that will facilitate agricultural diversification, reduce transportation costs, ensure a fair price and create a farm and non-farm employment and income;
- Priority is given to roads development and inland waterways dredging that will enable year-round mobility of the general public and villagers, in particular, health workers, teachers and students, and tourists to facilitate tourism development, quality education, and better health service in the district and region;
- Special priority is given to sub-projects of roads, Riverine routes/inland waterways that will mainstream deprived communities living in the hard-to-reach villages;
- Identified sub-projects with more cost-effectiveness than others using per km per 1000 population cost for each sub-project;
- Every sub-project(s) is to be climate-resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective.

3.5 WEIGHTAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR PRIORITIZATION

The approaches and methodologies of the Study for reviewing database and prioritization are synthesized in the diagrams below, noting that the proposed sub-projects of roads in the databases are prioritized based on weightage calculated on the set criteria (as shown in the diagram). People’s demands and local needs are reflected in the prioritization which was

determined by the Study, working together with LGI representatives and LGED field-level technical staff at the stakeholder consultation meetings held in each Upazila.

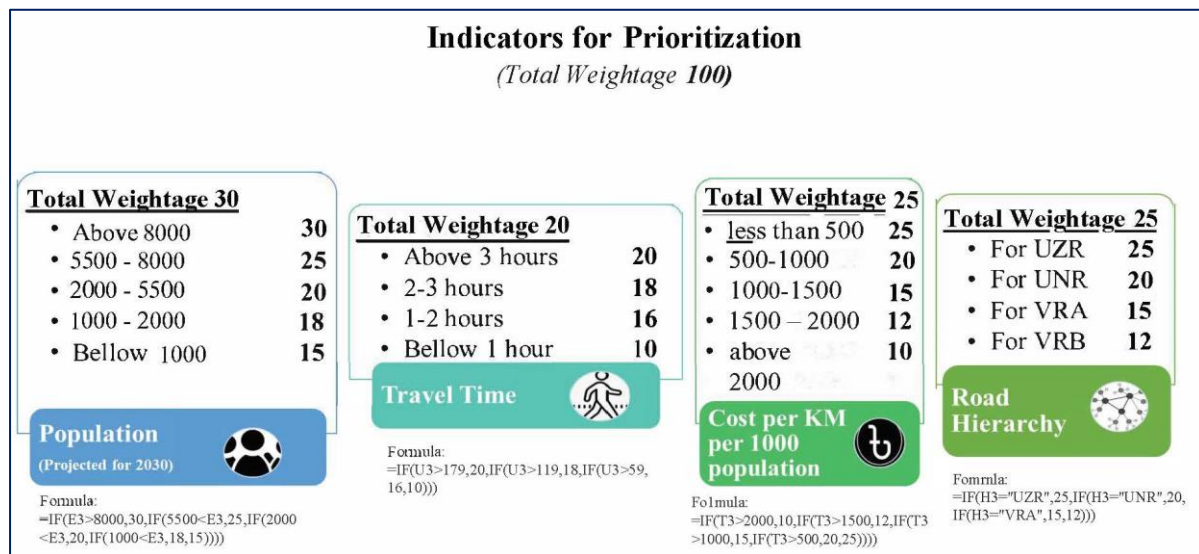


Figure 2: Prioritization indicators & their weightage values

3.6 MAPPING HARD-TO-REACH VILLAGES & POPULATION

- With the active support of LGED technical staff, first, draw every priority listed MVMT roads and Hard-to-reach villages on the LGED GIS map in presence of the union Chairman and members who know the sub-project and are the best. This was not in scale but approximation was reached by triangulation. Then digitized on screen using GIS, validate with Google map, and checked with data and information on important features and points collected using GPS during field visits.
- There were challenges in deciding on starting node and/or zero chainage of the non-gazette (No ID) road because not all non-gazette sub-projects were visited and surveyed by the Study team.

3.7 WRAP UP MEETING

Wrap up the fieldwork progress at each district holding a meeting chaired by the Executive Engineer, LGED, and participated by all Upazila engineers of the respective district. On completion of the fieldwork, this was conducted to share issues and updates to the district Executive Engineer for feedback and action, as necessary.

3.8 VALIDATION WORKSHOP

On completion of data analysis and drafting of the database and mapping, the Study outputs were shared with the respective districts and Upazilas for final review. The later validation workshop was held at the respective district on the Draft Report to share and validate the findings. This was participated by the LGED Division, District and Upazila officials, and technical staff.

3.9 NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Draft Report is finalized, incorporating comments received from the validation workshop, LGED head office staff, and the PMO office. A National Level workshop was held at LGED HQ for sharing and disseminating the results of the Study.

4 DESCRIPTION OF WETLANDS

4.1 DISTRIBUTION OF THE HAORS/ WETLANDS

The Upazila has a large portion of flash flood zone that covers almost 30-40% of its land area. The roads within the flood zone become inundated during monsoon, which requires attention to take relevant measures during road construction and maintenance.

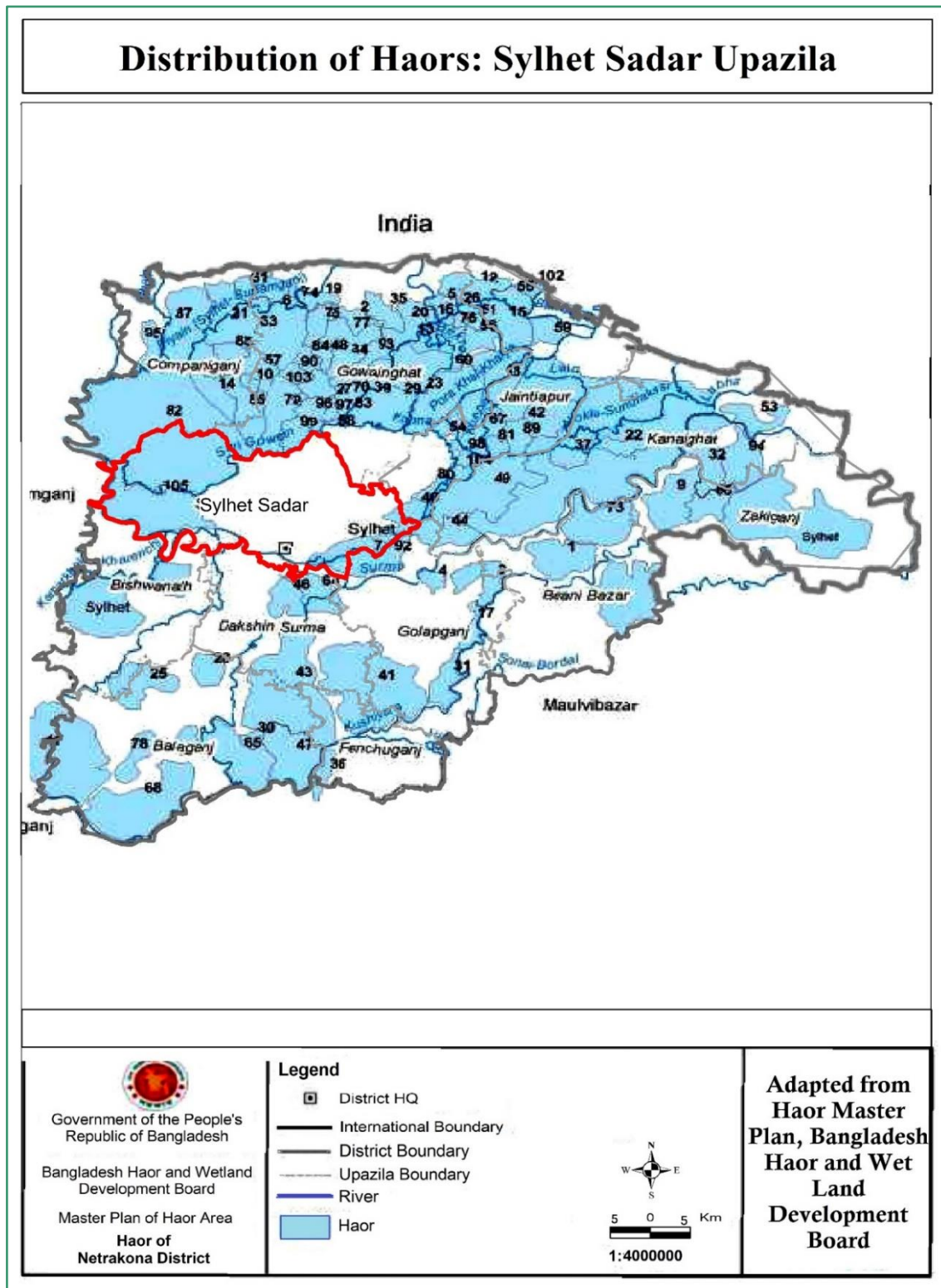


Figure 3: Haor Distribution Map

4.2 HAOR/ WETLAND CATEGORY

However, in the west of the Upazila, it is floodplain and east of the Upazila is within Unplanned Hill range. Therefore, road or other infrastructure development in this Upazila does not have any major environmental consequences.

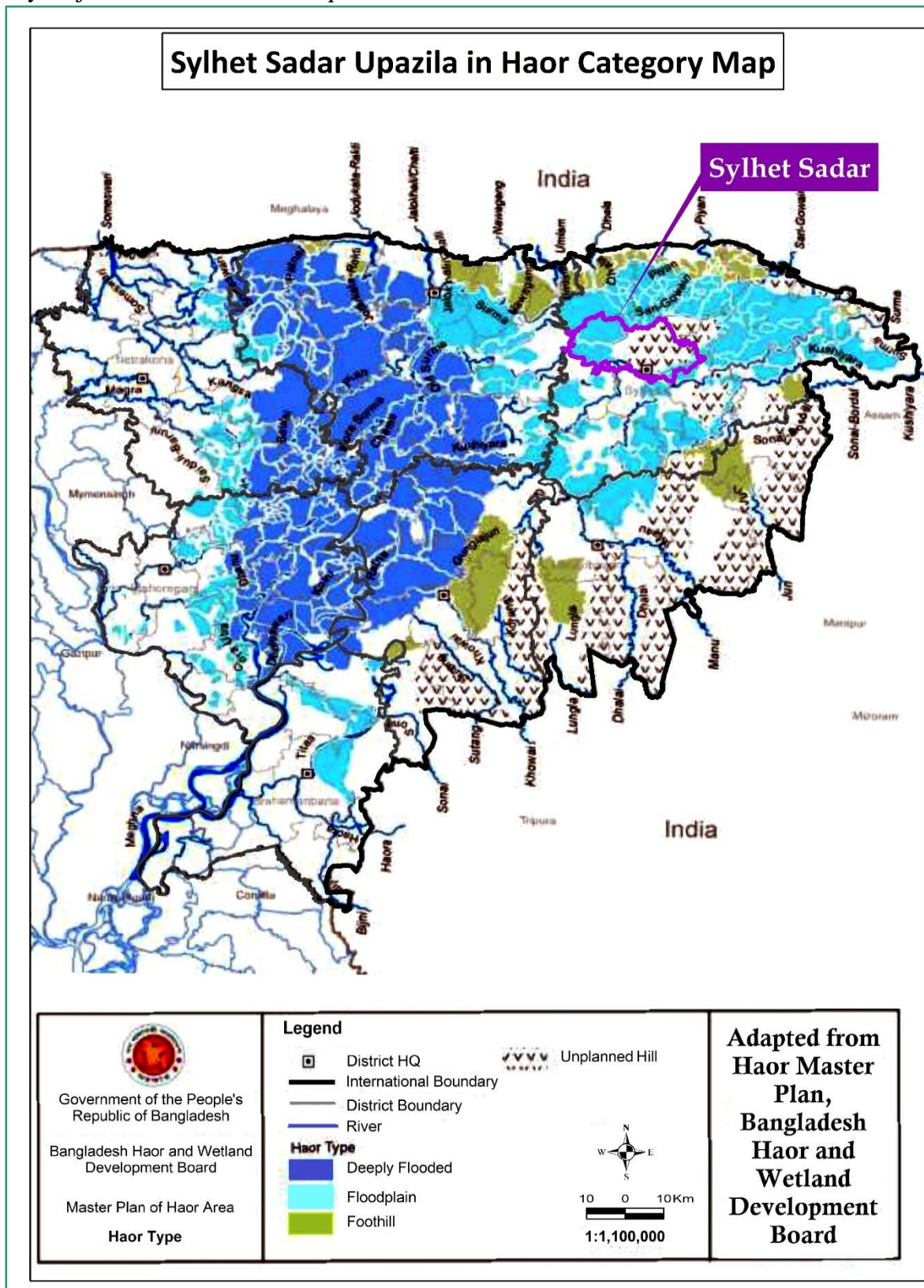


Figure 4: Haor Category Map.

4.3 BIO-ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Bio-ecological characteristics map of the Upazila has been shown below. The map shows that it is under Sylhet Hills. Therefore, adequate openings for the road and road structures should be maintained.

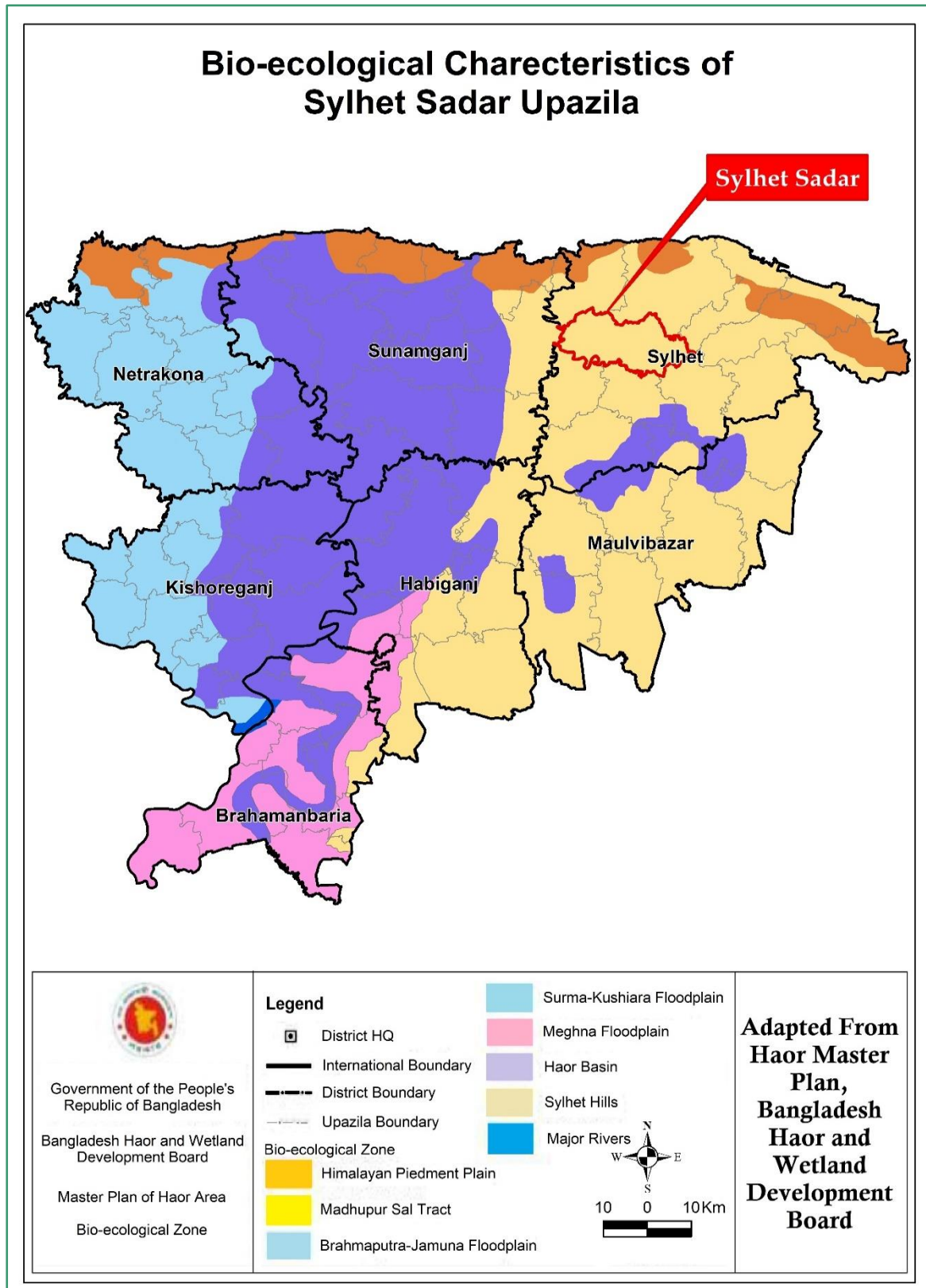


Figure 5: Bio Ecological Characteristics Map

5 RURAL ROAD CONNECTIVITY TO THE VILLAGES

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE VILLAGE CONNECTIVITY

The feature of rural road communications in Sylhet Sadar Upazila is contrasted. Out of 352 villages, 8 are disconnected from the developed paved road network which brings huge suffering for the people of those villages. The total rural road network of Sylhet Sadar is 646.08 km and out of which, 353.45 km are paved and 292.64 km earthen.

Table 1: Total villages in the unions and their connectivity

SL No	Union	No of Villages	Connected Villages	Disconnected Villages
1	Hatkhola	21	20	1
2	Jalalabad	17	14	3
3	Kandigaon	39	38	1
4	Khadim Para	91	91	0
5	Khadimnagar	94	91	3
6	Mogalgaon	39	39	0
7	Tuker Bazar	40	40	0
8	Tultikar	11	11	0
Total		352	344	8

5.2 VILLAGES AND THEIR CONNECTIVITY – UNION LEVEL

The consultant arranged a meeting at the Upazila conference room with and all the UP Chairman & their secretaries. The team interviewed a representative of each union and collected data about the HTRV.

Table 2: Union-wise connected & Hard-to-Reach Villages and their population

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
Hatkhola	1	Baburagaon	960	Jainkarkandi	738
	2	Bara Faud	1259		
	3	Bara Kapan	1693		
	4	Dhokrey	1320		
	5	Dighirpar	860		
	6	Fakirergaon	1863		
	7	Hatkhola	3519		
	8	Jangail	1180		
	9	Jangali Faud	1350		
	10	Kalengirpar	298		
	11	Majh Para	1593		
	12	Meghergaon	747		
	13	Nandirgaon	1468		
	14	Noagaon	1063		
	15	Noapara	358		
	16	Pagail	2120		
	17	Paikraj	1135		
	18	Satra	3396		
	19	Umairgaon	1551		
	Sub Total		27733		738
Jalalabad	1	Alanigar	1482	Henglakandi	358
	2	Badairpar	1100	Khasergaon	342
	3	Dakshin Alanigar	514	Palpur	545
	4	Dardakandi	659		
	5	Islampur	2225		
	6	Kurirgaon	340		
	7	Lalpur	451		
	8	Noagaon	1509		
	9	Paschim Kalaruka	2061		
	10	Purba Kalaruka	1796		
	11	Royergaon	1720		
	12	Sardargaon	269		
	13	Sirajpur	2597		
	Sub Total		16723		1245
	1	Anantapur	688	Gobindapur	1057
	2	Bade Ali	723		
	3	Bagarpar	718		
	4	Baisakhai	487		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	
Kandigaon	5	Balaura	1147			
	6	Basantagaon	719			
	7	Basirpur	826			
	8	Chamaurakandi	1433			
	9	Dhanpur	552			
	10	Dighirpar	644			
	11	Fulkuchi	469			
	12	Gopal	1449			
	13	Herakhala	488			
	14	Inatyabad	1420			
	15	Jhainkarkandi	597			
	16	Kanaiaada	81			
	17	Kandigaon	1517			
	18	Kashkalika	2044			
	19	Laksmipur	517			
	20	Lamargaon	1699			
	21	Lilgaon	632			
	22	Manoharpur	749			
	23	Medeni Mahal	779			
	24	Mirergaon	2176			
	25	Mirpur	1858			
	26	Molargaon	1258			
	27	Nalkot	1338			
	28	Noirput	571			
	29	Paikargaon	427			
	30	Paschim Darsa	2458			
	31	Paschim Jangail	1248			
	32	Purba Darsa	1070			
	33	Purba Jangail	1298			
	34	Sadipur Digar	1533			
	35	Sonatala	2466			
	36	Sreepur	621			
	37	Sujatpur	644			
	38	Tilakpur	587			
		Sub Total		39931		1057
	Khadim Para	1	A.t.i.	63		
		2	Alutal	1068		
		3	B.i.d.c	333		
4		Bahar Colony	2945			
5		Bahar Noagaon	664			
6		Bahubal	1871			
7		Bahubal Colony	631			
8		Balutikar	1211			

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	9	Bangshidhar	1205		
	10	Bateshwar	1392		
	11	Bateshwar Chuabahar	1514		
	12	Bhawal Tila	730		
	13	Bowerper Bateswar	540		
	14	Buri Basti	667		
	15	Chak Daspara	1205		
	16	Chak Gram Atgaon	1279		
	17	Chamelibagh Debpur	983		
	18	Chowdhurypara	591		
	19	Dalpara	2514		
	20	Daspara	1923		
	21	Daspara Bhaur	455		
	22	Dattagram	2763		
	23	Detarkendro Debpur	42		
	24	Dewaner Chak	1157		
	25	Dhankandi	877		
	26	Gailapara	482		
	27	Goalgaon	753		
	28	Hairohora	176		
	29	Harpara	285		
	30	Hatura	1746		
	31	Islamabad	1002		
	32	Islampur Colony	1627		
	33	Islampur-1	1346		
	34	Islampur-2	613		
	35	Jahanpur	974		
	36	Kalatikar	1337		
	37	Kallogram	3366		
	38	Kandihota	22		
	39	Kanugul	644		
	40	Keoa	537		
	41	Khadimpara	3065		
	42	Kollogram			
	43	Krishi Khamar	54		
	44	Kulautti	178		
	45	Kunir Chak	630		
	46	Kushirgul	626		
	47	Lalkha Tongi	1118		
	48	Malaitila	1034		
	49	Maligaon	184		
	50	Malipara	116		
	51	Manipuripara Basti	562		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	52	Mir Mahallah	730		
	53	Mirer Chak	1281		
	54	Mohammadpur	1774		
	55	Mollar Char	240		
	56	Mubarakpur	830		
	57	Mugir Para	538		
	58	Mukamergul	1406		
	59	Muradpur	1674		
	60	Murila	355		
	61	Muslimnagar	204		
	62	Nairgol	260		
	63	Nath Para	1487		
	64	Naya Basti	697		
	65	Noaga	1453		
	66	Nurpur	1189		
	67	Palia (Chandpur)	956		
	68	Panchghari	550		
	69	Paschim Bhat Para	1319		
	70	Pesh Nowaz	1891		
	71	Pirer Chak	3385		
	72	Poranbari Bateswar	305		
	73	Purba Bhat Para	602		
	74	Purba Islampur	1971		
	75	R.d.t.i.	77		
	76	Rustampur	2027		
	77	Sayedpur	1987		
	78	Shah Paran	1105		
	79	Shamoli Debpur	1437		
	80	Shyampur	382		
	81	Sonapur	603		
	82	Sukurartuk	655		
	83	Sylhet Textile Debpur	336		
	84	T.t.d.c.	59		
	85	Talopara	912		
	86	Telipara	141		
	87	Tikir Patti	1733		
	88	Totarami Char	561		
	89	Uddinar Tila	581		
	Sub Total		88793		
	1	Alai Bahar	352	Kushal	181
	2	Atkiari	295	Rampur	511
	3	Babhairgul	106	Sarisharkandi	160
	4	Babhirbari	162		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	5	Bacha Tila	192		
	6	Bagaiura	346		
	7	Baghmara	160		
	8	Baliakandi	397		
	9	Ban Bidyalay	242		
	10	Bara Sala	3411		
	11	Baraban	350		
	12	Baraikandi	363		
	13	Bargan T.g.	707		
	14	Batrikona	135		
	15	Bauarkandi	594		
	16	Bazartal	529		
	17	Bgararhat	131		
	18	Bhata	577		
	19	Biman Bandar	671		
	20	Bit Office	5		
	21	Cadet College	674		
	22	Chandai	429		
	23	Chanpur	277		
	24	Char Charikandi	231		
	25	Charagang Tg	715		
	26	Chatliban	1382		
	27	Chatul	2468		
	28	Chhalepur	706		
	29	Chhalia	2405		
	30	Chhalir Mahal	185		
	31	Dalia	983		
	32	Dalia T.g	5		
	33	Debair Bahari	416		
	34	Dhadarani	44		
	35	Dhapna Tila	326		
	36	Dhupagul	1232		
	37	Eolartuk	819		
	38	Faringura	969		
	39	Fetehghar	398		
	40	Gankirtuk	89		
	41	Ghuramara	932		
	42	Gorautikandi	259		
	43	Hana Para	230		
	44	Kakuarpar	757		
	45	Kalagol	892		
	46	Kalagol T.g	1249		
	47	Kalaiura	333		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	48	Kama Tila	510		
	49	Kandi Para	652		
	50	Kandirpath	541		
	51	Kata Digha	121		
	52	Khadimnagar T.g	2557		
	53	Khagria	713		
	54	Kukuriarkandi	100		
	55	Kunatila	317		
	56	Kuni Para	327		
	57	Kurbain Tila	262		
	58	Lakhaura	820		
	59	Lalbagh	542		
	60	Laugul	783		
	61	Lusain	440		
	62	Mahaldik	922		
	63	Makharkhala	430		
	64	Manglirpar	1658		
	65	Marargaon	445		
	66	Modhu Tila	736		
	67	Multighar	646		
	68	Nakchhapra	435		
	69	Nalia	380		
	70	Naya Tila	310		
	71	Nila Para	406		
	72	Paschim Baish Tila	905		
	73	Pathan Tila	192		
	74	Pathangaon	556		
	75	Pirergaon	461		
	76	Pirergaon	981		
	77	Pitakara Tila	532		
	78	Puainkata	234		
	79	Purabari	913		
	80	Purba Baish Tila	371		
	81	Rakhalgul	344		
	82	Rangi Tila	1269		
	83	Satgachhi	234		
	84	Shimulkandi	380		
	85	Sidairgol	317		
	86	Tila Pata	1119		
	87	Tilargaon	1158		
	88	Tintila	256		
	89	Tiorgaon	229		
	90	Tukergaon	126		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	91	Ugadar Para	848		
	Sub Total		55608		852
Mogalgaon	1	Amanatpur	691		
	2	Ausa	1737		
	3	Bagatipur	638		
	4	Bakhlia	466		
	5	Banagaon	888		
	6	Chandpur	1060		
	7	Chowdhurygaon	661		
	8	Dakshin Moglargaon	1739		
	9	Dhumkhal	141		
	10	Fatehpur	1062		
	11	Galamsar	854		
	12	Kaskalika (Jogirgaon)	768		
	13	Kazirgaon	1168		
	14	Kemidpur	1251		
	15	Khalpar	1980		
	16	Khasergaon	556		
	17	Khittargaon	593		
	18	Khosharpur	627		
	19	Lalargaon	1111		
	20	Lalkha	422		
	21	Lama Para	408		
	22	Lamagaon	658		
	23	Madhabpur	374		
	24	Madhya Noagaon	703		
	25	Maulvirgaon	641		
	26	Mirgaon	1235		
	27	Mobarakpur	663		
	28	Noagaon	502		
	29	Pachim Palpur	437		
	30	Paschim moglargaon	944		
	31	Phulkuchi	739		
	32	Pirgaon	657		
	33	Purba moglargaon	520		
	34	Ramkrishnapur	436		
	35	Saidpur	569		
	36	Sataro	945		
	37	Sekhergaon	573		
	38	Talukpara	473		
	39	Tilakpur	660		
	Sub Total		30550		
Tu	1	Akhaliaghat	1801		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	2	B.d.r. Area	388		
	3	Baragul	736		
	4	Braman Chhara T.g	1118		
	5	Chandi Ali	1223		
	6	Chariugaon	795		
	7	Daldali T. G.	1557		
	8	Dhamali Para	703		
	9	Duski (Baragol)	1029		
	10	Goa Bari	736		
	11	Gouri Pur	213		
	12	Hamidnagar T.g.	365		
	13	Hayderpur	2097		
	14	Hilua Chhara T.g.	1169		
	15	Jugipara	1206		
	16	Kashbaakhalia University Area	1934		
	17	Keoya Chhara T.g.	801		
	18	Khala Para	656		
	19	Khaligaon	906		
	20	Kumargaon	2097		
	21	Kumargaon Wapda	608		
	22	Lakatura T.g.	3313		
	23	Mair Char	2252		
	24	Malni Chhara T.g.	2106		
	25	Mangli Chhara T.g.	313		
	26	Maulvi Bazar	1024		
	27	Najirgaon	1819		
	28	Noagaon (Natun Taker Bazar)	1558		
	29	Noapara	1203		
	30	Noya Khurumkhola	1510		
	31	Pirpur	2226		
	32	Sabergaon	664		
	33	Sekh Para	2401		
	34	Shahpur	1908		
	35	Shahpur Khurumkhola	1970		
	36	Talukdarpara	958		
	37	Tarapur T.g.	568		
	38	Tukergaon	3263		
	39	Upur Para	1883		
			Sub Total	53077	
Tultikar	1	Arapag	1858		
	2	Baghbari	444		
	3	Durga Bari	511		
	4	Kalyanpur	821		

Union	Sl.No	Connected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Disconnected Villages	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)
	5	Kushighat	810		
	6	Mia Para	984		
	7	Sadipur	1762		
	8	Tilagar	800		
	9	Tultikar	1065		
	10	Tultikar Part	98		
	11	Uttar Baluchar	17611		
	Sub Total		26764		

6 DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

The consultant team collected data from the field on Hard-to-Reach Villages. Data were collected from those villages including population, road alignment information (*type, length, condition*), travel time, a structure required on the alignment, potential Riverine routes that can be used for a multi-modal transport system etc. The data were then analyzed, categorized, and finally used to obtain a priority list along with a map (*Figure:5*) showing prioritized roads and Hard-to-Reach Villages. The proposed Riverine & road connectivity by the UE office have been discussed in this section.

6.1 PROPOSED ROADWAY FOR HARD-TO-REACH VILLAGES:

At present, roads are the most dominant mode of transportation. Most of the structures were built on the rivers to make road communication effective.

Table 3: Summary of the rural roads in the Upazila

Total Road Length of the Upazila (KM)	Paved Length (KM)	Unpaved Length (KM)	Length of unpaved roads of Hard-to-Reach Villages (KM)
646.08	353.45	292.64	17.62

6.1.1 PROPOSED ALL-WEATHER ROUTES:

There are 6 all-weather roads proposed to connect the HTRV within the Upazila. The road name, ID, road condition, and the length of the unpaved roads are as bellow;

Table 4: Proposed all-weather roads in the Upazila

Sl. No	Road Name	Road ID	Road Condition	Unpaved length (Km)
1	Mirpur-Tukergaon Road	691625278	All Weather	1.00
2	Shaheberbazar-Rampur Road	No ID	All Weather	1.50
3	Kalagul Road to Kushal Road	No ID	All Weather	1.20
4	Palpur-Henglakandi Rd.	691624078	All Weather	1.20
5	Noagaon Purbopara - Khasergon Pry. School Road	691625109	All Weather	3.55
6	Sarishakandi-Baistila Road	691625078	All Weather	1.55

6.1.2 PROPOSED ROADS FOR HARD-TO-REACH VILLAGES HAVING NO ID:

There are 2 roads proposed to connect the HTRV within the Upazila that have no ID yet. The road name, ID, and the length of the unpaved part are as bellow;

Table 5: Proposed Submersible roads for Hard-to-Reach Villages

Sl No	Road Name	Road ID	Road Type by Surface Condition	Unpaved length (km)
1	Amantapur Noagaon sluicagate-Alinagor road	691624075	Submersible	3.37
2	Kumargaon Badhaghat-Shiber bazar road-Jainkarkandi Village Road	691625232	Submersible	3.25

Table 6: Proposed roads for Hard-to-Reach Villages having No ID

Sl No	Road Name	Road ID	Unpaved length (km)
1	Shaheberbazar-Rampur Road	No ID	1.5
2	Kalagul Road to Kushal Road	No ID	1.2

6.1.3 PRIORITY FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Considering resources constraint, benefited a group of people, the time required to travel & road hierarchy, a priority list has been developed (Annexure- 2) for the HTRV (Hard to Reach Villages). The priority score has been determined according to following

Table 7: Considered weightage values for the prioritization

Criteria	Weightage
Population	30
Travel Time	20
Cost per 1000 Population	25
Road Type	25
Total=	100

It has been observed that there are a number of roads that bear the same score. In these cases, the minimum budget required for providing connectivity to thousands of people- will get more priority compared to more budget-required roads. The roads bearing ID will have higher priority than the roads without ID.

7 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sylhet Sadar Upazila is located within the *Flood Plain and foothill zone*. Sylhet Sadar is partly covered by 3 major haors/ wetlands and there exist 7(seven) rivers flowing over the Upazila that dominate the ecosystem, and transport system of the Upazila. During monsoons, these rivers carry a huge volume of flood water. Though the Upazila has a number of Rivers, Riverine transport is available only along the Shurma and Kushiara River.
- As the Upazila is heavily flooded during monsoon, rural roads and structures are highly vulnerable in this Upazila.
- The Upazila has a total number of 8 Hard-to-Reach Villages. To develop rural connectivity, there are proposals for both all-weather and submersible roads. This report contains a list of roads with their priority. The priority has been determined based on Population, Travel Time, Cost per KM/1000 people & Road Hierarchy.
- This Upazila is highly vulnerable to disasters. Due to climate change, vulnerability is getting intense. The year 2022 has shown catastrophic flood that was not seen over the last 18 years (*last in 2004 similar to 1998 & 1988*). Therefore, it is highly recommended to study the road alignments before going for investment.
- Case-by-case design of roads in this Upazila considering different aspects such as exposure to floods, erosion etc. is highly recommended. A special study regarding the road and structure design of the Sylhet Sadar Upazila in Sylhet district is highly recommended.

ANNEXURE - 1

DETAILS OF GROWTH CENTER & HATBAZAR

Sl. No.	Union	Market Name	Market Category (GC=Growth Center, HB=Hat Bazar)	Market Listed? (Yes/ No)	Market Category (General/Special/Collection center)	Market Category (Wholesale/Retail/both)	Hat Day	Chandina Viti (Number)	Chandina Viti (Land)	Chandina Viti (Shop)	Land Area (Acre)			Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2020)	Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2019)
											Toha	Khas	Private		
1	Hatkhola	Shiber bazar	GC	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	93	0.00	93	0.11	1.19	0.49	4105000	2505000
2	Hatkhola	Pitargonj bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	21	0.00	21	0.03	0.35	0.00	15668	15200
3	Hatkhola	Badaghat bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
4	Hatkhola	Umairgaon bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1.13	0.00	0	0
5	Jalalabad	Islamgonj bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	18	0.00	18	0.01	0.81	0.00	814	7800
6	Jalalabad	Kalirgaon bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
7	Jalalabad	Shahajalal bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.50	0.00	0	0
8	Jalalabad	Islampur bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
9	Kandigaon	Balaura bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	5	0.56	40	0.03	0.56	0.00	6500	0
10	Kandigaon	Kaligonj bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	4	0.03	15	0.02	0.30	0.00	0	0
11	Kandigaon	Mashukganj bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	3	0.25	136	0.12	0.57	0.00	11000	10000
12	Kandigaon	Chowdury bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
13	Kandigaon	Elahigonj bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
14	Kandigaon	Ghopal bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
15	Kandigaon	Sonatala bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
16	Khadim Para	Pirer bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	51	0.56	51	0.22	0.92	0.00	30250	0
17	Khadim Para	Pargonar bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	0	0.00	0	0.50	0.50	0.00	0	0
18	Khadim Para	Ballah naya bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Sl. No.	Union	Market Name	Market Category (GC=Growth Center, HB=Hat Bazar)	Market Listed? (Yes/ No)	Market Category (General/Special/Collection center)	Market Category (Wholesale/Retail/both)	Hat Day	Chandina Viti (Number)	Chandina Viti (Land)	Chandina Viti (Shop)	Land Area (Acre)			Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2020)	Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2019)
											Toha	Khas	Private		
19	Khadim Para	Botesshor bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
20	Khadim Para	Gudaura bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	7	0	0.00	0	0.42	0.42	0.00	0	0
21	Khadim Para	Khadimnagar bazar	GC	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
22	Khadim Para	Muktirchak bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
23	Khadim Para	Sha-paran bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
24	Khadimnagar	Shaheber bazar	GC	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	2	47	0.24	47	0.15	0.78	0.00	256500	246100
25	Khadimnagar	Chatol bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
26	Khadimnagar	Islampur bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
27	Khadimnagar	Lakkatura	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
28	Khadimnagar	Motorghat bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
29	Mogalgaon	Fatehpur madrasha bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	7	2	1.25	8	0.02	1.25	0.00	0	0
30	Mogalgaon	Mogolgaon bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	7	5	1.00	40	0.04	1.00	0.00	0	0
31	Mogalgaon	Karimganj bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	7	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
32	Mogalgaon	Lalar gaon bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	2	0.44	0	0.00	0.44	0.00	0	0
33	Sylhet Paurashava	Ambarkhana bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
34	Sylhet Paurashava	Bharthokhala bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
35	Sylhet Paurashava	Brohmyamoyee bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
36	Sylhet Paurashava	Chandnighat bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
37	Sylhet Paurashava	Charer par masimpur bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
38	Sylhet Paurashava	Chouki dakhi bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Sl. No.	Union	Market Name	Market Category (GC=Growth Center, HB=Hat Bazar)	Market Listed? (Yes/ No)	Market Category (General/ Special/ Collection center)	Market Category (Wholesale/ Retail/both)	Hat Day	Chandina Viti (Number)	Chandina Viti (Land)	Chandina Viti (Shop)	Land Area (Acre)			Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2020)	Lease/ Khas Collection BDT (2019)
											Toha	Khas	Private		
39	Sylhet Paurashava	East kazir bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
40	Sylhet Paurashava	Eidgha bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
41	Sylhet Paurashava	Jalal bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
42	Sylhet Paurashava	Kalighat bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
43	Sylhet Paurashava	Kazitola bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
44	Sylhet Paurashava	Lal bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
45	Sylhet Paurashava	Mira bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
46	Sylhet Paurashava	Patantula bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
47	Sylhet Paurashava	Rikabi bazar (m.a)	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
48	Tuker Bazar	Puran tuker bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Both	7	8	0.70	165	0.06	0.70	0.00	0	1945650
49	Tuker Bazar	Toker bazar	GC	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
50	Tuker Bazar	Noya tuker bazar	HB	Yes	General Market	Wholesale	7	4	2.36	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
51	Tuker Bazar	Akhalia naya bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
52	Tuker Bazar	Moirchar bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
53	Tultikar	Baluchar bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
54	Tultikar	Kushighat bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
55	Tultikar	Tultikar naya bazar	HB	No	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

ANNEXURE - 2

PRIORITY LIST FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT

SL No	Upazila	Connecting Union	Connecting Village	Village Population BBS 2011	Population 2021 (Based on BBS 2011)	Road Name	Road ID	Road Type	Road Type by Surface Condition	Total Road Length	Paved length (Km)	HBB Length (km)	Unpaved length (Km)	Total Road Length to be Developed	HBB + Unpaved in (km)	Approx. Cost of Road (Lac)	Structure/ Gap (Meter)	Cost of Structure (in Lac)	Total Cost (in lac) (Roads + Structures)	Population /KM	Tentative Budget/1000 Population (in lac)	Travel Time (in min)	Weightage for Population	Weightage for Travel Time	Weightage for Cost	Weightage for Road Hierarchy	Total Weightage	Priority
1	Sylhet Sadar	Kandigaon	Gobindapur	1057.00	1211.07	Mirpur-Tukergaon Road	691625278	VRB	All Weather	2.00	1.00		1.00	2.00	1.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	120.00	1211	99.09	15.00	18	10	25	12	65	1
7	Sylhet Sadar	Khadimnagar	Rampur	511.00	585.48	Shaheberbazar-Rampur Road	No ID	VRB	All Weather	1.50			1.50	1.50	1.50	180.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	390	307.44	22.50	15	10	25	12	62	2
5	Sylhet Sadar	Jalalabad	Alanigar	1482.00	1698.02	Amantapur Noagaon sluicagate-Alinagor road.	691624075	VRA	Submersible	3.37			3.37	3.37	3.37	606.60	30.00	270.00	876.60	504	516.25	50.55	18	10	20	12	60	3
14	Sylhet Sadar	Jalalabad	Henglakandi	358.00	410.18	Palpur-Henglakandi Rd.	691624078	VRA	All Weather	1.20			1.20	1.20	1.20	144.00	8.00	72.00	216.00	342	526.59	18.00	15	10	20	12	57	4
11	Sylhet Sadar	Khadimnagar	Kushal	181.00	207.38	Kalagul Road to Kushal Road	No ID	VRB	All Weather	1.20			1.20	1.20	1.20	144.00	0.00	0.00	144.00	173	694.37	18.00	15	10	20	12	57	5
13	Sylhet Sadar	Hatkhola	Jainkarkandi	738.00	845.57	Kumargaon Badhaghat-Shiber bazar road-Jainkarkandi Village Road.	691625232	VRB	Submersible	3.25			3.25	3.25	3.25	585.00	16.00	144.00	729.00	260	862.14	48.75	15	10	20	12	57	6
17	Sylhet Sadar	Khadimnagar	Sarisharkandi	160.00	183.32	Sarishakandi-Baistila Road	691625078	VRB	All Weather	1.55			1.55	1.55	1.55	186.00	4.00	36.00	222.00	118	1210.98	23.25	15	10	15	12	52	7
16	Sylhet Sadar	Jalalabad	Khasergaon	342.00	391.85	Noagaon Purbopara - Khasergon Pry. School Road	691625109	VRB	All Weather	3.55			3.55	3.55	3.55	426.00	15.00	135.00	561.00	110	1431.67	53.25	15	10	15	12	52	8

*** Cost for Roads & Structures; (All Weather Rd= 120 lac/km, Submersible= 180 lac/km, Structure= 9 lac/m)
 *** Weightage Values; (Population = 30, Travel Time= 20, Cost per KM/1000 people= 25, Road Hierarchy= 25)