

3. Description of the Project Area

CDMP II is a natural expansion and a logical scaling up of its first phase, CDMP-I. The pioneering phase has laid the foundation for institutionalizing the risk reduction approaches and frameworks developed through pilot testing. It also aims to institutionalize the adoption of risk reduction approaches, not just only for the host Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, but more broadly also across thirteen key ministries and agencies of the Government of Bangladesh.

Urban risk reduction is a potential thematic area (Outcome 3) within six specific outcomes of CDMP-II, that comprises of reducing risk for urban populations through structural and non-structural interventions, improved awareness of natural hazard events and the piloting of urban community risk reduction methodologies that targets the extreme poor. This area covers the assessment and management of earthquake, landslide, hydrometeorological and anthropological hazards in urban context.

As an action, CDMP II has taken initiative for earthquake preparedness and risk reduction activities which will be expanded as pilot project in six towns in Bangladesh, such as, Mymensingh, Tangail, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinaipur and Rajshahi under the thematic area of Urban Risk Reduction. Those towns have been selected based-on the earthquake macrozonation (BNBC, 1993) maps of Bangladesh.

According to the MoU, UDD has been given a pilot project on “**Preparing a Module for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction Measures into Comprehensive Land Use Development Planning and Management for Mymensingh Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) Area**” where the existing Mymensingh municipality is situated as a core urban area.

3.1 Location:

The Mymensingh Zila headquarter is located at a distance of about 121 km (75 miles) away from the capital of the country, Dhaka. The Pourashava (Municipality) is located within the Zila headquarters. It lies between the 24⁰43' and 24⁰45' north latitude and 90⁰23' and 90⁰25' east longitude.

Figure- 3.1: Location of Mymensingh Project Area (MSDP, 2011-2031) in the context of Bangladesh.



Source: CDMP II, November, 2010

3.2 Delineation of the Project Boundary:

The Project area is composed of Mymensingh Paurashava (municipality) area and nine (09) surrounding unions of Mymensingh Sadar Upazila. Initially, CDMP II has selected only municipality area for the project to prepare a module for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures into Comprehensive Land Use Development Planning and Management, which used to be designed usually for 20 years time-span. But after consultation with UDD officials, the adjoining nine (09) unions have been included in the Planning area. The final delineation of the project area is more or less around 25,171 hector or 62,200 acre of land mass. Detailed administrative boundary of the project has been summarized in table-3.1 below:

Table-3.1: Name and area of Mymensingh Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) area.

S/N	Paurashava/ union name	Count	Area in sq. meter	Perimeter (m.)	Area in acres	Area in hectares	%
1	Akua	1	13301643.87	24145.59	3286.90	1330.16	5.28
2	Baera (Kewatkhali)	1	5789287.81	11596.54	1430.56	578.93	2.30
3	Bhabkhali	1	30887714.95	29310.68	7632.49	3088.77	12.27
4	Char Ishwardia	3	28938812.45	42833.73	7150.91	2893.88	11.50
5	Char Nilakshmia	2	32467582.38	33607.18	8022.88	3246.76	12.90
6	Dapunia	1	28385178.69	37181.16	7014.10	2838.52	11.28
7	Ghagra	1	33911339.94	28045.63	8379.64	3391.13	13.47
8	Khagdahar	3	26883066.46	51356.87	6642.92	2688.31	10.68
9	Paurashava	2	21456656.27	37155.97	5302.03	2145.67	8.52
10	Sirta	1	29693158.65	27271.55	7337.31	2969.32	11.80
11	Total area	16	251714441.47	322504.90	62199.74	25171.44	100.00

Source: BBS, 2001 and GIS Lab, MSDP, UDD, September, 2011

3.3 Existing Land Use Pattern of the MSDP (2011-2031) Area

It is noticeable from the above table-3.1, that the municipality or paurashava area is only 8.5% of the total planning area. From the experiences of Reconnaissance Survey at Mymensingh by the Project Director (PD) and Project Managers (PM), there is a trend of expansion of the urban area at Akua union and Baera (Kewatkhali) union which is also very significant (7.58% of project area). Therefore, it could be concluded that over-all existing urban and its influenced area is 16.10 % (8.52+2.30+5.28) of project planning area. Remaining 83.90% of project area is rural character in nature. Due to its proximity to Dhaka Mega-City and considering the present urbanization growth trend, this existing land use pattern is under tremendous pressure to change its original character. The detailed existing broad brush character of Land Use pattern has been summarized in the Table-3.2 below.

Table-3.2: Broad-brush Land Use Pattern in the Project Area.

S/N	Paurashava and Union name	Area (%)	Comments
1	Akua	5.28	Urban fringe area (growing)
2	Baera (Kewatkhali)	2.30	Urban fringe area (growing)
3	Paurashava (Mymensingh Municipality)	8.52	Existing Urban area
4	Urban & it's influenced area (urban fringed)	16.10	Present urbanized area
4	Rest seven (07) unions	83.90	Predominating Rural area
5	Total project area	100.00	MSDP, 2011-2031

Source: BBS, 2001 and GIS Lab, MSDP, UDD, September, 2011

The river Brahmaputra sub divides the Mymensingh Strategic Development Planning (MSDP) area into two distinct parts. The present Brahmaputra River is representing the original course of the mighty river Jamuna which has been shifted its course after a massive earth quake in 1897.

The North-Eastern part (36.19% of the project area) of river which is predominantly of rural character is experiencing slow but steady urbanization process. Moreover,

due to its close proximity to government administrative zone which is situated on the opposite bank of river, has a tendency to change its existing land uses in future.

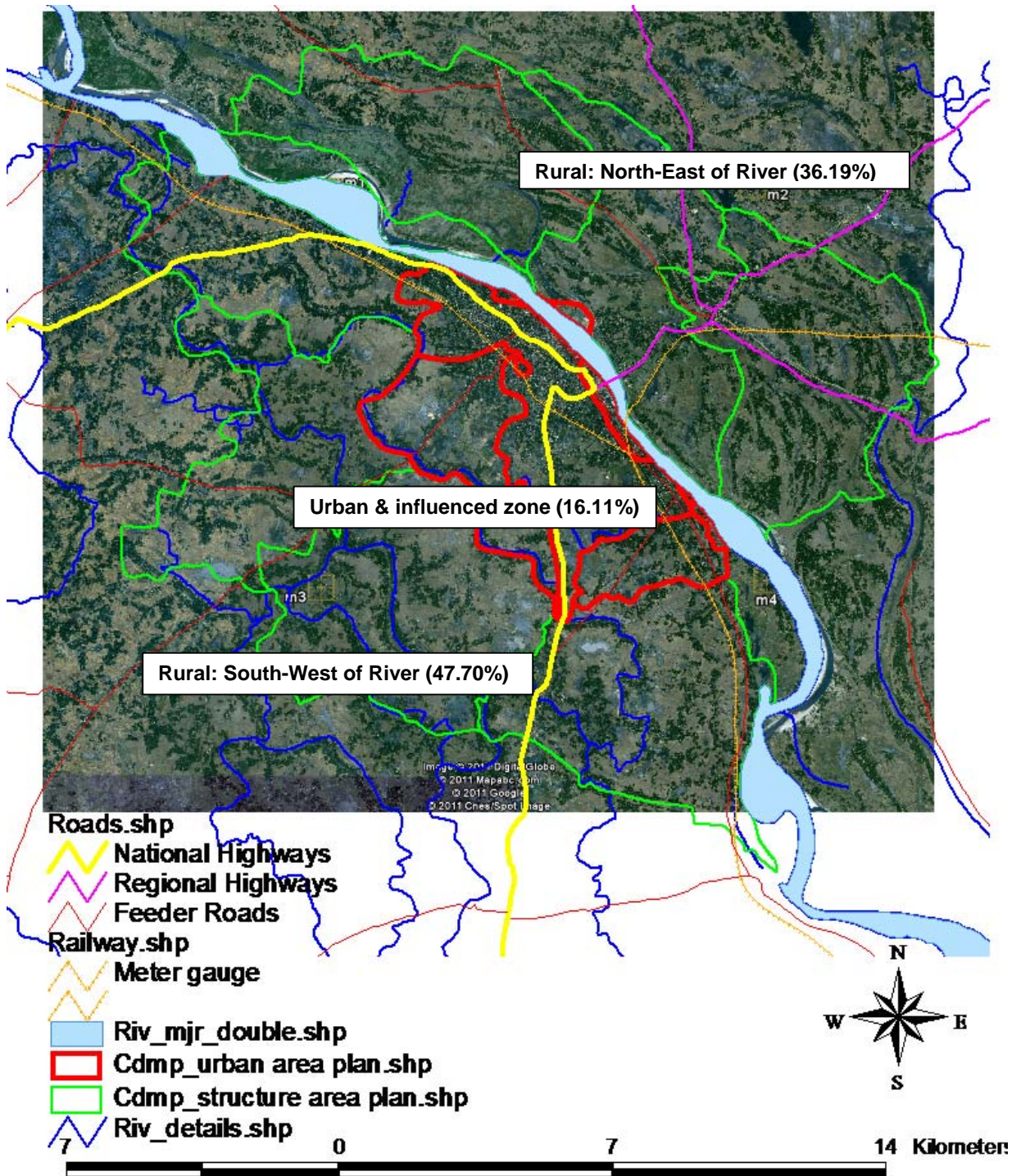
The South-Eastern part (63.81% of the project area) of river which is the main urban area of the proposed project area. This part has two different characteristics namely as (i) core urban area (16.11% of the project area) and (ii) urban fringe area (47.70% of the project area). Detailed strategic rural-urban zoning of the proposed MSDP (2011-2031) project boundary has been summarized in table-3.3 and shown in the figure-3.2 below:

Table-3.3: Strategic rural-urban zoning of the project area.

S/N.	Paurashava & Union name	Area (acre)	Area (hectares)	Area (%)
1	Akua	3286.90	1330.16	5.28
2	Baera (Kewatkhali)	1430.56	578.93	2.30
3	Paurashava	5302.03	2145.67	8.52
4	Urban & influenced zone	10019.49	4054.76	16.11
5	Dapunia	7014.10	2838.52	11.28
6	Ghagra	8379.64	3391.13	13.47
7	Bhabkhali	7632.49	3088.77	12.27
8	Khagdahar	6642.92	2688.31	10.68
9	Rural: South-West of River	29669.157	12006.730	47.70
10	Char Ishwardia	7150.91	2893.88	11.50
11	Char Nilakshmia	8022.88	3246.76	12.90
12	Sirta	7337.31	2969.32	11.80
13	Rural: North-East of River	22511.10	9109.96	36.19
14	Total area	101888.39	41232.93	100.00

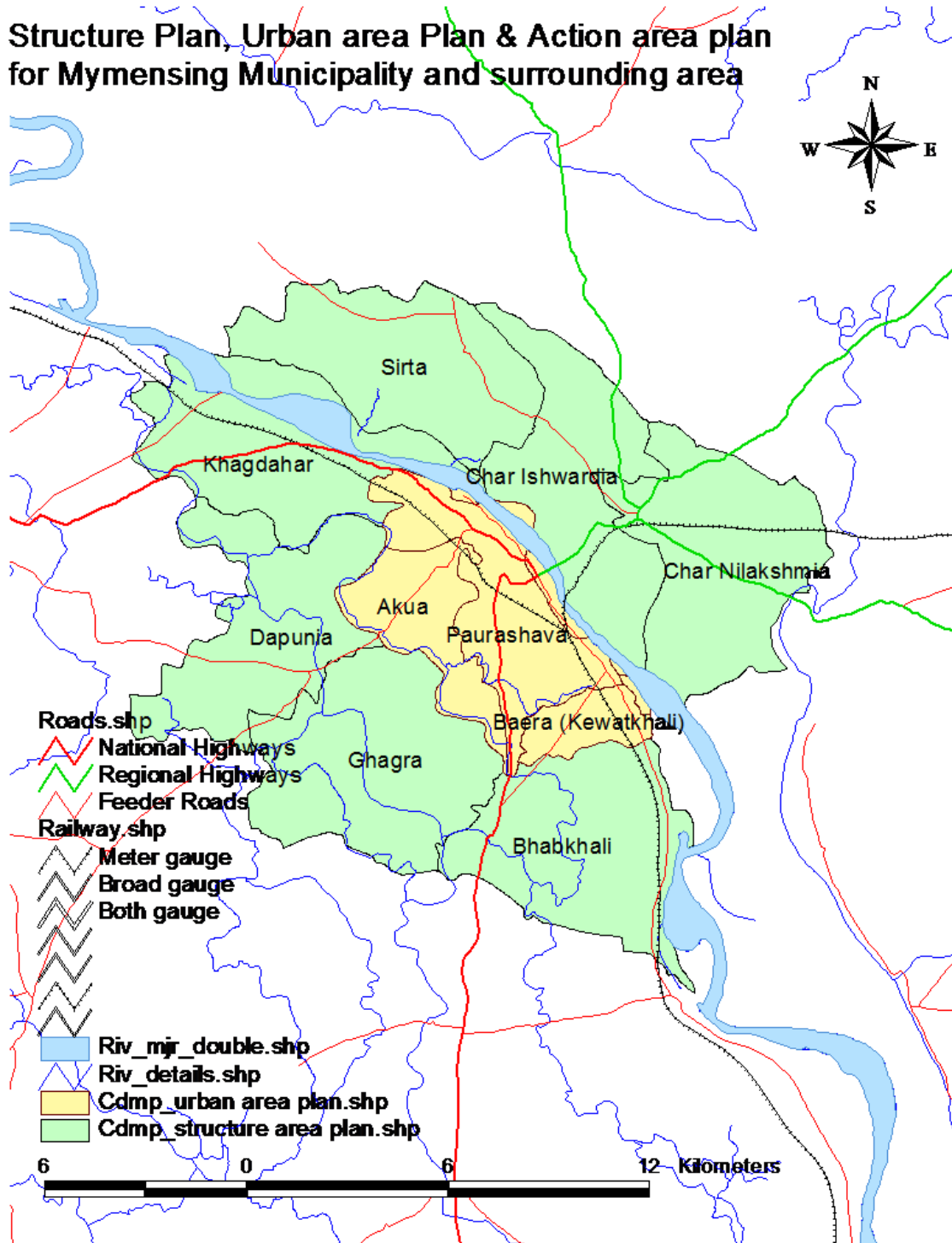
Source: BBS, 2001 and GIS Lab, MSDP, UDD, September, 2011

Figure- 3.2: Image of MSDP (2011-2031) Area and its strategic rural-urban considerations.



Source: GIS Lab, MSDP (2011-2031), UDD, September, 2011

Figure- 3.3: Strategic Structure and Urban Planning Area of MSDP (2011-2031) project.



Source: GIS Lab, MSDP (2011-2031), UDD, September, 2011

