

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. In response to the extreme 1987 and 1988 floods, 16 development partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) conducted the Flood Action Plan studies from 1990 to 1995 to identify critical needs of the water management sector. Since then, development partners have maintained good coordination for water and flood management in Bangladesh to address challenging water-related issues in the country. Most of the policy reform and investments supported by development partners for the sector have been planned in line with the Flood Action Plan findings. Investments cover various activities, including water and river management, flood or coastal protection, riverbank erosion protection, river channel restoration, irrigation, and *char* (river island) livelihood support.

2. The World Bank has been one of the major players in water management, supporting reform and policy issues. It has supported the Water Management Improvement Project, which encompassed both investment and reform support. The Government of the Netherlands has been another prominent actor, covering a range of projects and programs for the sector, such as irrigation, coastal protection, *char* livelihood support, and river channel restoration. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has also assisted the sector, including technical cooperation for institutional capacity strengthening of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

3. ADB has played a key role among development partners in water management, and has supported various projects including irrigation, flood protection, riverbank erosion protection, cyclone protection, and water resources planning and management. Among them, the current Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Development Project introduced the participatory water management approach to large flood control, drainage, and irrigation (FCDI) schemes.¹ ADB has also played a leading role in introducing participatory water management approaches to small-scale FCDI schemes through three phases of small-scale water resources development sector projects.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
ADB	Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection – I, II	1992–2012	\$150.0
	Small-Scale Water Resources Development Sector – I, II	1995 - 2010	\$66.0
	Jamuna–Meghna River Erosion Mitigation	2003–2011	\$42.2
	Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector)	2008–2011	\$120.0
	Participatory Small-Scale Water Resources Sector	2010–ongoing	\$55.0
World Bank	River Bank Protection	1995–2001	\$121.9
	Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation	1995–2002	\$59.5
	Gorai River Restoration	1998	\$3.0
	Water Management Improvement	2007–2014	\$136.7
	Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration	2008–ongoing	\$109.0
Netherlands	Jamuna Bridge (River Training Component)	1994–1998	\$70.2
	Char Development and Settlement – I, II, III, IV	1995–2013	\$120.0
	Small-Scale Water Resources Development Sector – I, II	1995–2010	\$31.1
	Gorai River Restoration	1998	\$45.0

¹ ADB. 2005. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Development Project*. Manila (Loan 2200[SF] and Grant 0036-BAN, approved in November 2005, and scheduled to be closed on 31 December 2015).

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management	2003–2011	\$34.6
	Blue Gold	2014–ongoing	€50.0
	Delta Plan	2014–ongoing	€7.6
Canada	Modernization of BWDB's Accounting – II	1997	\$1.7
	Modernization of MOWR Financial Management	1999	\$2.2
JICA	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (including the river training component)	1994–1998	¥21,562
	Small Scale Water Resources Development Project	2007–ongoing	¥5,313
	Capacity Development of Management for Sustainable Water-Related Infrastructure	2013–ongoing	-

ADB = Asian Development Bank, BWDB = Bangladesh Water Development Board, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, MOWR = Ministry of Water Resources.

Sources: Various project and program reports.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

4. In Bangladesh, development partners are part of the Local Consultative Group (LCG) for coordination of activities.² They hold regular meetings for each sector, called working groups. In the early 1990s, the LCG started as an information-sharing forum and gradually evolved into a collaborative forum. Meetings are usually held every 2 months, and the agenda mostly covers reform-related issues, presentation of major pipeline projects and programs, and exploration of opportunities for cofinancing. ADB regularly participates in meetings for the water management working group, which is chaired by the Embassy of the Netherlands and cochaired by BWDB.

5. ADB has maintained direct coordination with other development partners separately from the LCG working group meetings, to explore the most effective mutual collaboration and coordination with their projects and programs in water management. This momentum will be maintained.

C. Achievements and Issues

6. During project preparation, ADB had discussions with development partners that have been conducting or will conduct relevant projects and programs, to ensure effective demarcation, collaboration, and coordination of activities. The proposed project has been well understood by other development partners and mutual data and information sharing was agreed.

7. Cofinancing with the Government of the Netherlands will enhance the national institutional strengthening support of the project. The Embassy of Netherlands and ADB have been two of the major development partners contributing to the promotion of participatory water resources management in the country, through cofinancing and collaboration. The Government of the Netherlands cofinances the current Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project and the first and second phases of the Small-Scale Water Resources Development Sector Projects (see table). It also supports similar projects such as the Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management Project. Cofinancing by the two most prominent development partners in the sector will enable strategic support for developing BWDB's capacity for integrated participatory water resources management.

² LCG Bangladesh. <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/>

8. The cofinancing arrangement will be mutually beneficial for the ongoing Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 program that is supported by the Government of the Netherlands.³ The Delta Plan will formulate holistic and comprehensive national development plans of various scenarios for the next 50–100 years in consideration of the water-related features of the country. It seeks to “ensure long-term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively coping with natural disasters, climate change and other delta issues through robust, adaptive and integrated strategies, and equitable water governance,” which is coherent with objectives of the proposed additional financing. The proposed additional financing could contribute to the formulation of a long-term national development plan that will become the basis for long-term investment plans in the country.

9. Moreover, through the institutional capacity strengthening component of the proposed additional financing, especially for the Office of Chief Water Management of BWDB, ADB and the Government of the Netherlands can jointly support the establishment of a firm and sustainable national institutional set-up of BWDB for participatory integrated water resources management. This will contribute to the capacity development goals of the Delta Plan. Under the Delta Plan, a study is also being conducted on functionalizing participatory water management in BWDB’s projects as a water governance initiative. The outcome of the study could be utilized in the proposed additional financing to streamline the functions of water management organizations and make them more effective in participatory water management. Experiences of participatory water resources management under the proposed additional financing could also be incorporated into future implementation of Delta Plan initiatives.

D. Summary and Recommendations

10. Coordination and collaboration with development partners has been carried out during the current project and processing of the proposed additional financing. Communication should be maintained during the entire project period.

³ Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. 2013. *Project Document for the Formulation of the Delta Plan Bangladesh 2100*. Dhaka.