

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 (FAP) studies from 1990 to 1995, to identify critical needs of the sector. Since then, development partners have maintained good coordination for the 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 FAP findings. Investments cover various activities, including river management, flood or coastal protections, riverbank erosion protections, river channel restoration, irrigation, and char (river island) livelihood supports.

2. The World Bank has been one of the major players in the water management sector, supporting sector reform and policy issues. It has supported the Water Management Improvement Project, which encompassed both investment and sector 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 (river island) livelihood supports, 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 the water management sector; and has supported various projects including irrigation, protections from floods, riverbank erosions and cyclones, and water resources planning and management. Among them, the Jamuna–Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project, a precursor project of the proposed investment program, introduced innovative cost-effective riverbank erosion protection technologies.¹

4. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has played an important role in supporting disaster management, including institutional strengthening of the Department of Disaster Management.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
ADB	Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project – I, II	1992–2012	150.0
	Jamuna–Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project	2003–2011	42.2
	Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector)	2008–2011	120.0
World Bank	River Bank Protection	1995–2001	121.9
	Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation	1995–2002	59.5
	Water Management Improvement	2007–2013	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
	Meghna Estuary Study – I, II	1996–1999	7.5
	Gorai River Restoration	1998	45.0
France	Study for Five Year Action Plan for Flood Control	1990–1995	8.0
	Bank Protection and River Training (FAP 21/22)	1992–2001	40.0

¹ ADB. 2002. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Jamuna-Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project*. Manila (Loan 1941-BAN (SF), approved on 25 November 2002 for \$42.2 million equivalent, and closed on 30 June 2011).

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Germany	Bank Protection and River Training (FAP 21/22)	1992–2001	40.0
DFID, EU, NADC, AusAID, SIDA, UNDP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II	2010–2014	75.2
JICA	Jamuna Bridge (River Training Component)	1994–1998	70.1
	Capacity Development of Management for Sustainable Water Related Infrastructure	2013–ongoing	

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AusAID = Australian Agency for International Development, DFID = Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, EU = European Union, FAP = Flood Action Plan, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, NADC = Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, SIDA = Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme.

Sources: Various project and program reports.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. In Bangladesh, development partners comprise the Local Consultative Group (LCG) for coordination of their 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 two months, and agenda mostly cover reform related issues in the sector, 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 Government of the Netherlands and co-chaired by BWDB. ADB and the Government of the Netherlands, two of the most prominent development partners for the water management sector in Bangladesh, will cofinance the proposed investment program.

6. 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 the water management sector. This momentum will be maintained. Cofinancing options for future tranches with the Government of the Netherlands and other development partners will also be explored.

C. Achievements and Issues

7. Cofinancing with the Government of the Netherlands for the first tranche has been achieved. 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 investment program has been well understood by other development partners, and mutual data and information sharing was agreed. Relevant projects and programs include (i) the Riverbank Improvement Project of the World Bank, which will cover flood and riverbank erosion risk management works along the Jamuna River upstream of Jamuna Bridge; (ii) JICA's technical cooperation for capacity strengthening of BWDB; (iii) the forthcoming Delta Plan of the Government of the Netherlands; and (iv) the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase II) of UNDP.

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

D. Summary and Recommendations

8. Coordination and collaboration with relevant development partners had been carried out during processing of the investment program. Communication should be maintained during the entire investment program period.