

## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

### A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Government of the United Kingdom through the Department for International Development are major development partners of the Government of West Bengal (GOWB). German development cooperation through KfW supported the first externally aided rural drinking water supply scheme in West Bengal in 1996, followed by JICA's support to one of the water-stressed districts, Purulia, through the West Bengal Piped Water Supply Project in 2013. Details of the projects are in the table.

2. ADB's support for drinking water supply in India, including in the state of West Bengal, has so far been limited mainly to urban areas. The ADB-assisted Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program aims to improve access to water supply and sanitation within the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) through the rehabilitation of related infrastructure to peripheral areas of the KMC, and the strengthening of its institutional capacity.<sup>1</sup> Past loans to the KMC include the Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project and its supplementary financing, which targeted improvements to the water supply, sewerage, and drainage services, and improvement of the financial management of the KMC.<sup>2</sup>

3. The West Bengal Institutional Strengthening of *Gram Panchayats* Program (ISGPP), financed by the World Bank, helped the state (i) strengthen the institutional and financial capacities of gram panchayats (governing bodies working at the village level); and (ii) invest in priority local infrastructure and service delivery projects.<sup>3</sup> During the first phase of the ISGPP, performance-based block grants were given to gram panchayats in nine districts and similar activities are envisioned under the second phase of the ISGPP in the remaining *gram panchayats*.

4. The JICA-supported West Bengal Piped Water Supply Project proposes to provide safe and adequate piped water supply to people living in nine blocks of the Purulia district of West Bengal that suffer from an acute scarcity of water and arsenic contamination of the groundwater.<sup>4</sup>

5. The KfW-funded Rural Water Supply Project in West Bengal created the necessary infrastructure for piped water supply in the selected blocks of Birbhum district and demonstrated health benefits by ensuring adequate drinking water within the project areas.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2013. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Multitranches Financing Facility to India for the Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/78962/42266-013-ind-rrp.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> ADB. 2000. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors. Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/71695/rrp-29466-ind.pdf>; and ADB. 2006. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors. Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project (Supplementary Loan)*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/66656/29466-02-ind-rrp.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Program Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US\$210 Million to the Republic of India for a West Bengal Support to Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayat Program – Phase II*. Washington, DC. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/610531490101977113/pdf/WBISGPP2-Program-Appraisal-Documnet-02242017.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> JICA. 2013. Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Government of India. News Release. 28 March. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2012/130328\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2012/130328_01.html).

<sup>5</sup> KfW. 2009. *Ex Post Evaluation Report: India: Rural Water Supply, West Bengal*. Frankfurt. [https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/migration/Entwicklungsbank-Startseite/Development-Finance/Evaluation/Results-and-Publications/PDF-Dokumente-E-K/India\\_West\\_Bengal\\_2009.pdf](https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/migration/Entwicklungsbank-Startseite/Development-Finance/Evaluation/Results-and-Publications/PDF-Dokumente-E-K/India_West_Bengal_2009.pdf).

### Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project	Duration	Amount
<b>Urban and Water infrastructure and services</b>			
ADB	Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project	2000–2012	\$250 million
	Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project (Supplementary Financing)	2006–2013	\$80 million
	Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program	2013–2023	\$400 million
JICA	Kolkata Solid Waste Management Improvement Project	2006–2014	¥3,584 million
	Kolkata East–West Metro Project	2008–2013	¥6,437 million
	Kolkata East–West Metro Project (II)	2010–2017	¥23,402 million
	West Bengal Piped Water Supply Project (Purulia)	2013–2019	¥14,225 million
DFID	Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor	2004–2015	£94 million
Kfw	Rural Water Supply, West Bengal	1996–2001	€39.5 million
<b>Transport Infrastructure</b>			
ADB	West Bengal Corridor Development Project	2001–2007	\$210 million
<b>Public Finance and Governance</b>			
ADB	West Bengal Development Finance Program	2012–2014	\$400 million
	Second West Bengal Development Finance Program	2017–2019	\$300 million
World Bank	West Bengal Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayat Program	2010–2016	\$200 million
	West Bengal Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayat Program II	2017–2022	\$210 million
DFID	West Bengal Public Sector Enterprise Reform	2008–2011	£23 million
	Capacity Building Program	2002–2009	£28.3 million
<b>Social Sector</b>			
JICA	West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project	2012–2022	¥6,371 million
DFID	West Bengal Civil Society Support Program	2006–2010	£2 million
<b>Irrigation Infrastructure</b>			
World Bank	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation	2011–2017	\$250 million
JICA	Purulia Pumped Storage Project III	2006–2013	¥17,963 million

ADB = Asian Development Bank, DFID = Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Sources: Asian Development Bank project data sheets; DFID project data sheets; JICA project data sheets; World Bank project data sheets.

## B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

6. The Government of India coordinates the activities of its development partners to ensure that effective and harmonized assistance is built around the country's development agenda and to avoid duplication of investment. The Department of Economic Affairs within the government's Ministry of Finance oversees the work of both multilateral and bilateral funding agencies in India. A screening committee at the national level—comprising the Department of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS)—reviewed and approved the proposal from the GOWB for the West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project in September 2016, considering its synergy with the GOWB's Vision 2020 and the MDWS's National Program.<sup>6</sup>

7. At the state level, the State Water and Sanitation Mission—a registered society formed within the GOWB's *panchayats* and Rural Development Department—provides policy guidance and supports the convergence of various government programs and projects. District Water and Sanitation Mission was formed to support coordination at the district level.

<sup>6</sup> Government of West Bengal, PHED. 2011. Vision 2020: To Provide Safe, Sustainable, and Adequate Water Supply to All Humans and Livestock in West Bengal by 2020. Kolkata; and Government of India, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. 2016. National Sub-Mission Guidelines to Provide Safe Drinking Water to Arsenic and Fluoride Affected Habitations in Rural India on Mission Mode. New Delhi.

8. The ADB project team held consultations with other development partners during the project preparatory stages to (i) avoid any overlap between ADB's assistance and that of other agencies; (ii) maximize impact and results; (iii) identify priority reforms areas to promote sustainable service delivery; (iv) build partnerships and support coordination with other sector programs, especially the National Sub-Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride of the MDWS; and (v) learn lessons from past initiatives and incorporate those into the project design.

9. **Partnerships.** The government's strong ownership of ADB's India program and its recent push for transformative changes in the urban and rural water supply and sanitation sector through introduction of many central schemes provide an excellent basis for a highly productive partnership. ADB (i) regularly consults with government agencies to convergence with government programs; and (ii) has benefited greatly from cooperating and coordinating with development partners. For example, access to the trust funds of development partners has complemented ADB assistance to engage more intensively in pro-poor sectors and poorer states.

10. At the project level, various partnerships incorporated in the project design complement and strengthen the project outcomes. For example, the proposed grant under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, supported by the Government of Japan, will assist the project *gram panchayats* by equipping them with the necessary tools and skills on sustainable water service delivery and strengthening the related policy framework.<sup>7</sup> The transaction technical assistance attached to the project, financed on a grant basis by the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund<sup>8</sup> under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility and administered by ADB, will support the GOWB in strengthening smart water management at the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) level, and climate resilience in project districts.<sup>9</sup> ADB has also partnered with the World Health Organization to strengthen GOWB's water and sanitation safety planning. The World Bank's program of strengthening the gram panchayats will supplement the project initiatives.

### C. Achievements and Issues

11. West Bengal, India's fourth most populous state, is the worst impacted by untreated naturally elevated levels of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater, which poses serious public health risks. The GOWB's Vision 2020 and the MDWS's Sub-Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride emphasize (i) drinking water security; (ii) provisioning of house-to-house connections; and (iii) conjunctive use of surface and subsurface water. The PHED's experience in implementing rural water supply schemes has helped it incorporate lessons learned into the project design. Innovative features of the project include the following: (i) increased resilience through development and efficient use of surface water sources; (ii) high service levels; (iii) use of smart water management; (iv) sustainable asset management and service delivery framework between the PHED (the bulk supplier and regulator) and the project gram panchayats (the distribution service managers); and (v) extensive skilling and employment generation of local stakeholders, particularly women.

### D. Summary and Recommendations

12. Coordination among development partners and government agencies involved in drinking water projects is important to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts, contribute to a common sector improvement and reform agenda, and optimize development impacts. ADB, with the support of the GOWB and MDWS, will continue to share and coordinate with other development partners toward these objectives.

<sup>7</sup> Attached Grant Proposal under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the report and recommendation of the President).

<sup>8</sup> Financing partners: the Rockefeller Foundation and the governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> Attached Technical Assistance Report (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the report and recommendation of the President).