

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply



ADB

The Government of Bangladesh has set a target of providing safe water coverage and full sanitation throughout the country by 2015. However, achieving and sustaining this target remains a major challenge, with population growth in urban areas much higher than the national average.

The Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) has been relying heavily on groundwater as a source of water supply, but current abstraction is beyond sustainable yields. Groundwater resources are depleting, and the water table is falling by 2–3 meters per year, which makes the lifetime of deep tube wells shorter, with 40–60 deep tube wells becoming inoperable each year.

To help provide more reliable and improved security of water supply in Dhaka, the

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project on 22 October 2013. The project will develop a new surface water supply scheme for supply augmentation, which includes the development of a water intake at Meghna River, a raw water transmission pipeline, a water treatment plant at Gandharbpur with capacity of 500 million liters per day, a treated water transmission pipeline to the existing water supply network, and distribution reinforcements. The project will also improve distribution networks to reduce nonrevenue water (NRW) and will improve the quality of water supply services, including support to low-income communities.

DWASA is implementing distribution network improvements for water supply with ADB.

PROJECT FEATURES

The major benefits of the project will be sustainable water supply to a growing population in service areas—including improved access, convenience, and reliability of water supply, as well as increased quantities of water and improved water quality. Other indirect benefits arise from the employment of skilled and semiskilled workers in the construction works.

Reduced NRW. Reduction of NRW is actively being pursued before supply is augmented, and the project will include distribution network improvements to reduce NRW to 15%.

Design–build–operate modality and cofinancing. The project adopts the design–build–operate modality and, in line with a conclusion of a postevaluation study that scaling up interventions through cofinancing is a good option, Agence Française de Développement and the European Investment Bank will be cofinancing the project.

Capacity development of communities. The project will support organizing community-based organizations, with help from nongovernment organizations, to make them eligible for legal water connections. Households in low-income communities, including those headed by women, will have access to water supply either through legalization or new connections. People at the intake area will benefit from a deep tube well built by the project, as arsenic is a common problem in shallow tube wells in the area.

Expansion of the piped water supply network will benefit women by reducing their burden of fetching water for the family.



The project will improve distribution networks to reduce nonrevenue water.



Women will be encouraged to play a major role in community-based organizations in low-income communities.

The ongoing investments are rehabilitating and strengthening the water supply systems based on the long-term policy and investment road map, complemented by capacity building of DWASA to manage the water supply systems competently.

The project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB's South Asia Department. The strategy focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public-private partnership, and good governance.

The project will improve access to, and quality of, sustainable water supply services in Dhaka

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Cost and financing: Asian Development Fund, \$250 million; Agence Française de Développement, \$64 million; European Investment Bank, \$136 million; Counterpart, \$225 million

Project approval date: 22 October 2013

Project themes: Social development, environmental sustainability, governance

Status of project implementation: Ongoing

Executing agency: Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority

FOR INFORMATION

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Link to South Asia Project Briefs:
<http://www.adb.org/publications/series/south-asia-project-briefs>

Sources: Project Data Sheet. <http://www.adb.org/projects/42173-013/main>; ADB. 2013. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan and Administration of Loan for the Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project in the People's Republic of Bangladesh*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/dhaka-environmentally-sustainable-water-supply-project-rrp>



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