

SRI LANKA

Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management



About 95% of Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital city and economic and administrative hub, is covered by a piped water supply system. Because the system has low and fluctuating water pressure and intermittent supply, some areas of the city receive water only during off-peak hours and others receive water for an average of only 6–10 hours a day. Many parts of the distribution network were built more than 100 years ago.

Various projects to address increasing water demand have been developed, but significant network rehabilitation has not been done. Nonrevenue water (NRW) remains around 49%. The water tariff is below full cost recovery.

To enhance water conservation through the standposts in underserved settlements, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) has launched various pilot programs across the country and specifically in Colombo.

To help the government manage water supply more efficiently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management Project on 22 November 2012.

The project supports the government in achieving its water supply and wastewater targets under its development policy framework. The framework's objectives include reducing and managing NRW holistically

PROJECT FEATURES

Multitranche Financing Facility (MFF). The MFF was selected to allow phased implementation and funding of individual projects when they are ready. Tranche 1 of the project focuses on rehabilitating the pipe distribution in Colombo, and strengthening institutional structure and capacity of NWSDB to reduce NRW.

Focused efforts. The government recognizes that focused efforts, including Colombo citywide NRW reduction and institutional reforms, are necessary to improve service and increase water availability in Colombo to manage increasing demand. To this end, supplementing ongoing projects and expected funds from other development partners, such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency and NWSDB, ADB financing under the MFF will provide 100% of the investment needed to achieve the water supply targets and 85% of the investment needed to achieve the wastewater targets. The MFF will fund about 20% of the \$1.5 billion financing needed by the government under its investment plan for water and sanitation in Greater Colombo.

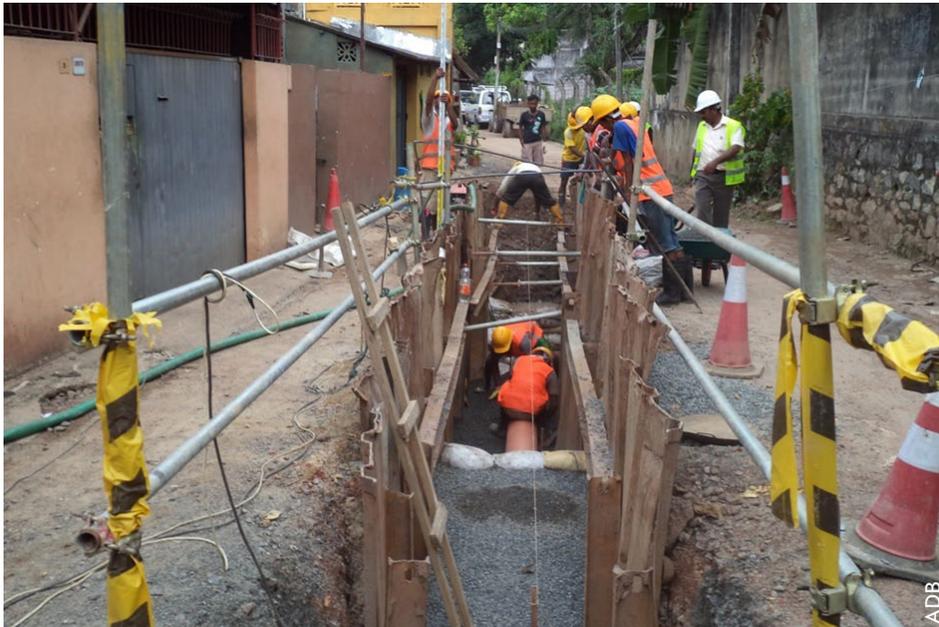
Best practice and proven approaches to NRW. Global best practice and proven approaches to NRW reduction will be used to lower NRW from the current 49% to 20% in Colombo, and from about 60% to 18% in critical areas, by the end of the investment program in 2020. The government has prepared a sector strategy supported by an investment plan for the next 8 years.

The investment program's outputs include rehabilitating and expanding the water supply system and reducing NRW in Colombo, improving wastewater services in Greater Colombo, strengthening institutional structure and capacity of service providers, and implementing the investment program.

and sustainably; improving governance, management capacity, and accountability within the NWSDB and Colombo Municipal Council; and improving water and wastewater

service delivery and amounts. It includes plans to increase the national coverage of piped water supply from 37% to 60%, and piped sewerage from 2.5% to 7% during 2010–2020.

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.



Nonrevenue water will be reduced using global best practice and proven approaches.



ADB financing under the multitranche financing facility will provide 100% of the investment needed to achieve water supply targets.

Sources: Project Data Sheet. <http://www.adb.org/projects/45148-005/main>; ADB. 2012. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Multitranche Financing Facility for the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management Improvement Investment Program in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/greater-colombo-water-wastewater-management-improvement-investment-program-facility-rfp>

By project completion, residents, especially women and the poor, will have more time for productive activities because of 24-hour water supply

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Cost and financing: Ordinary capital resources, \$70 million; Asian Development Fund, \$14 million; Counterpart, \$28 million

Project approval date: 22 November 2012

Project themes: Social development, environmental sustainability, governance, capacity development

Status of project implementation: Ongoing

Executing agency: Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage, and Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils

FOR INFORMATION

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