Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Activity: Water and River Programme for Bangladesh (25-0002093)

Id	25-0002093
Date	20-10-2026
SAP application number	

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Key data

Activity basics

Type	Standard
Short name	Water and River Programme for Bangladesh
Contract party	Stichting Deltares (30014300)
ODA	Yes
Amount EUR	899946
Start date	15-10-2025
End date	14-10-2027
Full name	Water and River Programme for Bangladesh
Summary	

Activity details

Date of receipt of proposal	18-09-2025
Proposal’s reference number	
Budget holder	Ambassade Dhaka (8241DHA)
Limit access	No
Related activity	

Accounting data

SAP application number	
Main funds center	Water deleg: integrated water management (1702U0203)

Policy data

Cooperation modality	Non-earmarked contributions
Technical assistance	100% of the activity budget
CRS code	14010 Water sector policy and administrative management
Policy Keywords	
Refugees & host communities	No
Team Europe Initiative	No
Policy Markers	
__Trade & The Economy	Not targeted
_Security & Stability	Not targeted
Biodiversity	Not targeted
Climate change: adaptation	Significant
Climate change: mitigation	Not targeted
Desertification	Not targeted
Equality between men & women	Not targeted
Migration	Not targeted
Integrated water management	Principal
Research and knowledge	Principal
Explain your choices	The focus of the proposed activity is on knowledge development, training and capacity development of GoB in the field of river and delta management. Such work would contribute to improvement of the river basin management, water governance, considering climate change related uncertainties. Deltares would co-learn along with the GoB on effectiveness of their innovative approach of off-take management, and erosion monitoring and forecasting. The proposed activity would also capacitate the GoB (especially the Water resources Planning Organization in BD) in adopting ADM approach and BDP2100 knowledge for water resources management planning.

Beneficiary location

Beneficiary location	Country
Country	Bangladesh
Location type	Territory
Specific location	Major River, Coastal Zone and Nationwide

Policy Appraisal

Policy relevance

- What policy objectives, as set out in the annual plan, policy notes etc., will this activity contribute to?

This activity is in line with our strategy of enabling environment as well as creating opportunity for NL water sector by showing and piloting Dutch technology; and impact advocacy. The proposed activity would demonstrate, and institutionalize the NL knowledge and innovation into water sector plans and practices which would give a competitive edge to NL water sector to continue their business in BD beyond the ODA. The approach is fully aligned with the Netherlands' Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation policy (2025), which emphasizes the responsible transition from traditional aid, climate resilience, and fostering international partnerships. It also links to the International Water Ambition (IWA).
The partnership is two-way. Bangladesh benefits from Dutch expertise in adaptive delta management, nature-based solutions, and water governance, while Dutch institutions gain lessons from Bangladesh's dynamic river systems, complex socio-economic contexts, and adaptive planning approaches.

The proposed activity also recognizes the shifts in the financing landscape, the programme strengthens the preparation of bankable cases and practical solutions that can attract government financing, international financial institutions (IFIs), and private sector investments.
The programme takes into account opportunities for the Dutch water sector, in line with the Netherlands' "aid to trade" agenda and the International Water Ambition (IWA). As Bangladesh shifts from aid-driven to investment-driven development, demand is rising for high-quality expertise, tools, and services. The following niches can present strong relevance for Dutch businesses:
• Hydraulic Modelling and Digital Twins: Building on Dutch leadership in advanced modelling, Dutch firms can support Bangladesh in applying predictive models for erosion, sediment transport, and river morphology.
• Dredging and Sediment Management: Dutch dredging companies can play a role in developing sustainable dredging strategies, combining engineering solutions with ecosystem restoration and river training works.
• Nature-Based Solutions (NBS): Dutch consultancy and engineering firms are at the forefront of designing and implementing NBS such as mangrove restoration, sediment trapping, and green embankments—solutions increasingly relevant to Bangladesh's delta systems.
• Asset Management and Infrastructure Resilience: Dutch expertise in lifecycle asset management, monitoring systems, and decision-support tools can help BWDB and other agencies maintain embankments, sluices, and polders more efficiently.
• Data and Remote Sensing Applications: Companies providing satellite imagery, drone-based monitoring, and AI/ML data solutions can support early warning systems and risk assessment (erosion, floods, droughts).
• Urban Water and Climate Services: With rapid urbanization in Bangladesh, Dutch firms specializing in integrated urban water management, climate-proof drainage, and resilience planning can expand their services.
By aligning the programme with IFI funding pipelines and government investment priorities, these opportunities can translate into bankable projects that enable Dutch companies and knowledge institutes to provide services and technologies, while contributing to sustainable and climate-resilient development in Bangladesh.

Rationale

- What issue/problem will be addressed by the activity

In 2026, Bangladesh is scheduled to officially graduate from LDC status and be recognized as a developing country, which logically means that funding from international donors and partners, may be based on different principles.
At the same time, there are still clear technical and institutional gaps within the overarching themes of river and delta management, for which knowledge and experience from the Netherlands is highly pertinent, specifically within the thematic areas of riverbank erosion prediction, offtake management and adaptive planning. Moreover, it is increasingly recognised that valuable lessons can be learned in Bangladesh which can be applied in the Netherlands.

- Why does the activity help to address the issue/problem?

The rationale for this programme lies in the pressing need to strengthen technical and institutional capacities to manage the delta, river dynamics, protect communities, and plan under climate uncertainty, while also ensuring that knowledge is embedded in decision-making processes and connected to financing pipelines. The programme responds directly to the demand of Bangladeshi institutions such as BWDB and WARPO, while fostering opportunities for Dutch expertise and business engagement.
The overall objectives of the programme are:
• To strengthen institutional and technical capacities for adaptive river and delta management in Bangladesh;
• To co-develop innovative knowledge, tools, and approaches that address priority challenges such as river erosion, offtake management, and adaptive planning;

• To build long-term human and institutional capacity through training, outreach, and the engagement of young professionals;
• To foster sustainable partnerships and create opportunities for investment and Dutch–Bangladeshi cooperation in the water sector.

Activities:
To achieve these objectives, the programme is structured around three interlinked Work Packages (WPs). Together, these work packages form a coherent programme that combines knowledge creation, institutional strengthening, and capacity development, while ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.
• WP1 – Knowledge Development: Implementing projects that address priority knowledge gaps and strengthen decision support for river and delta management.
• WP2 – Training and Outreach: Building capacities, strengthening institutional embedding, and disseminating lessons learned nationally and internationally.
• WP3 – Programme Management: Ensuring effective coordination, governance, and accountability.

Outcomes

- Improved understanding, knowledge and capacity at BWDB and all others involved in the project on the use of remote sensing, AI and data-driven decision support tools for erosion and river management.
- The project will result in a strengthened WARPO with enhanced institutional and technical capacity to implement adaptive and participatory approaches to water resources planning, and river basin management.
- Skills in monitoring, evaluation, and scenario-based assessment will be consolidated through direct exposure to best practice and through application in the Bangladeshi context.
- In the selected basin or basins, stakeholders will be actively engaged in the co-development of adaptive pathways, creating a structured link between adaptive planning, investment preparation, and implementation. By strengthening the competences of WARPO in planning monitoring, the long-term position of WARPO will be enhanced.
- On the long-term, the outcome of this project is that BWDB and its partners will be able to identify erosion risks proactively and allocate resources more efficiently, reducing the cost and disruption associated with emergency interventions.

Contextual analysis

- Who is/are the target group(s) and why?

young and mid-level officials working in WARPO, BWDB, BIWTA and MoWR are the target group for training and capacity building.

- Who are the other main stakeholders?

The main stakehoders are WARPO, BWDB, BIWTA and MoWR, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Delta Wing, SIBDP, and IFIs Funded relevant Projects in Water Sector in Bangladesh

- To what extent have stakeholders been involved in formulating the proposal?

This project document builds on a concept note, shared and discussed earlier with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and provides a more detailed overview of activities under the Water and River Programme for Bangladesh. These activities are also the result of a scoping visit to Bangladesh, in which several discussions with knowledge clients in Bangladesh have been held; focusing on knowledge questions related to river erosion monitoring, offtake management for medium and large rivers and adaptive planning principles are strong preferences of the knowledge clients. The envisioned projects therefore focus on these three topics.

- Is the intervention aimed at a specific geographical location, and if so, why?

The research activities target major rivers and coastal area as per the need of the knowledge client. The capacity development of national institutes like WARPO, BWDB, etc. benefits the entire country.

Added value

- What is the added value of the Dutch government being involved in relation to other donors, the EU, NGOs and local authorities?

The programme explicitly supports the implementation of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100), the forthcoming National Water Resources Plan (NWRP), and the National Water Act (2013). It also contributes to the operationalization of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and national disaster risk reduction frameworks.

- Are the recipients making an own contribution or co-participating in the activity, and if so, to what extent?

No.

Lessons learned

- What lessons learned (from previous or comparable activities, published evaluations, relevant publications) will be addressed by the activity?

One of the early finding of the evaluation of DBP2100 related activities indicates that Knowledge creation, and institutionalization in the field of BDP 2100 retain competitive position of NL water sector as a knowledge leader in (adaptive) delta management. The midterm evaluation of the earlier Joint Cooperation Programme (JCP) implemented by Deltares recommended more engagement and collaboration with the knowledge clients. The evaluation also suggested joint working with knowledge client rather than providing training to them. These findings have been considered in the design of this new activity. The below table describes how the lessesson learned from past activies have been incorporated in this new activity:

Lesson Learned (JCP, WMKIP, SIBDP)	How Incorporated in New Proposal
Institutional embedding is crucial	Tools and guidelines embedded in WARPO/BWDB frameworks; train-the-trainers approach ensures sustainability and uptake.
Co-creation with local partners	Methods and tools co-developed with BWDB, WARPO, IWM, CEGIS; joint sprints and workshops for ownership and integration
Policy alignment ensures relevance	Programme supports BDP2100, NWRP, National Water Act; activities designed to fit national priorities and follow-up (investment) programmes
Innovation drives impact	Use of AI/ML, remote sensing, nature-based solutions; iterative learning cycles and joint experimentation
Participatory planning is essential	Stakeholder engagement across all levels; inclusive approaches for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Stakeholder management has the explicit focus of programme management
Capacity building must be continuous	Embedded in all activities; study visits, workshops, e-learning, train-the-trainers model for cascading knowledge.
Financial sustainability is needed	Outputs linked to GoB-IFI-bilateral funding pipelines (EKN, World Bank, ADB, IFAD, others); bankable cases for investment and continuity.
Systematic monitoring and learning	MEL framework with quarterly reviews, joint reflection sessions and learning workshop(s)

Durability

- How will the results of the activity be sustained after its end date? What is the exit-strategy?

Institutional anchoring is central to the programme's sustainability. Tools, methodologies, and guidelines are embedded within official planning frameworks such as WARPO's manuals for national water resources planning and BWDB's investment and maintenance cycles. By aligning with BDP2100 and the NWRP, the programme supports the translation of long-term strategies into actionable short- and medium-term investment decisions. Furthermore, by connecting outputs to IFI pipelines (World Bank, ADB, IFAD), the programme enhances the likelihood of sustained financing and implementation.

Gender

The project recognizes that women and marginalized groups face disproportionate risks from flooding, drought, and salinity. Participatory activities will ensure their perspectives are included in developing adaptive pathways, and training materials will integrate gender-sensitive approaches, with documentation made available in Bangla. Climate change is central to the design: the Bangladesh Metamodel and Pathways Generator both use scenario analysis to assess future risks to water, agriculture, and food security. Linking these tools with participatory planning ensures that adaptation strategies incorporate both climate and gender dimensions.

Cooperation, harmonisation and alignment

- Does the activity involve cooperation with Dutch organisations, the EU or other donors (including delegated cooperation), local organisations or other parties?
- How does the activity contribute to harmonisation and/or multi-donor financing?
- What is the degree of (policy and financial) alignment?

Digitalisation

- Have proposed digital technologies been developed or chosen in collaboration with end-users?

Yes, the proposed digital tools and knowledge products have been chosen in consultation with the BWDB, WARPO.

- Does the proposal include an analysis of the local digital ecosystem?

It has included a brief discussion on existing practices.

- Is data security guaranteed?

They will follow international principles of digital development

- Are digital solutions locally sustainable/relevant?

Yes, because the knowledge tool / digital tool to be developed will be built on existing ecosystem and tools. Besides, they are considering activities related to institutionalization of the tools and knowledge products.

- Is duplication avoided? yes

Additional remarks (if applicable)

Results

Water

3.1. Policy development and diplomatic outreach

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for policy development and diplomatic outreach?
Measurements:

Indicators
3.1. What has been achieved by this activity on policy development and diplomatic outreach?
Measurements:

3.3. Knowledge development and research (knowledge for policy)

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for knowledge development and research?
Measurements:

Indicators
3.3. What has been achieved by this activity on knowledge development and research?
Measurements:

3.4 Capacity building and technology transfer (policy for knowledge)

Learning questions
What have we learned from this activity for Capacity Building?
Measurements:

What have we learned from this activity for Technology Transfer?
Measurements:

Indicators
3.4. What has been achieved by this activity on capacity building and technology transfer?
Measurements:

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

MEL Framework and Logical Framework Development At the start of the programme, during the Inception Report, a detailed logical framework (logframe) will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including BWDB, WARPO, and Dutch partners. This logframe will define:

• The programme's overall goal, specific outcomes, and outputs.
• Key quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor progress and results.
• Baseline conditions to measure change over time.
• Milestones and targets aligned with programme timelines and donor expectations.

This logframe will guide all MEL activities, providing a structured basis for reporting, adaptive management, and decision-making throughout the programme.

Monitoring will be continuous and closely integrated with programme activities. Key approaches include:

- Quarterly assessments consolidating progress from sprint sessions, training participation, tool development, and institutional embedding of methods within BWDB and WARPO workflows.
- Regular documentation of advances in modelling tools, training materials, and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Joint reflection sessions at the end of each sprint, capturing lessons learned and translating them into improvements for subsequent activities.

  Use of relevant indicators from the Water Results Framework, particularly those related to water management (Indicators 7, 8, 10a/10b) and enabling environment (Result Area 3).

Evaluation

It is proposed that internal evaluation (Internal) will be conducted at the last month of the project and will be reported with combined narrative report:

• The evaluation (internal) would assess overall impact, including the usability of tools, the degree of institutional embedding, the effectiveness of training, and lessons for policy and future projects.

(Internal) M&E findings will be integrated into all programme reporting, including:

• Quarterly reports summarizing progress, challenges, lessons learnt and corrective actions.
• Final programme report synthesizing results, lessons, and recommendations for both Bangladeshi and Dutch partners.

Finance

Budget breakdown

The total cost of the programme has been estimated as 899.946 EUR. Deltares calculated its rates in accordance with the Subsidy Scheme for Institutes for Applied Research (SITO scheme). The budget provided below has been prepared on activity basis.

S.No	Items	SUM					YEAR	
1	**Technical assistance and programme management**						2025	2026
1,1	Professional Fees	€ 580.088					€ 153.013	€ 427.075
			Roles	Daily Rate (EURO)	Days 2025	Days 2026		
	Programme Management	€ 47.920	*Programme Manager*	€ 1.945	4,5	20,1	€ 8.751	€ 39.170
		€ 77.786	*Stakeholder Management Expert*	€ 1.945	20,0	20,0	€ 38.893	€ 38.893
	Bangladesh Erosion Monitor 2.0: Data to Decisions	€ 53.478	*Erosion Expert*	€ 1.945	7,5	20,0	€ 14.585	€ 38.893
		€ 64.713	*GIS Expert*	€ 1.145	6,5	50,0	€ 7.445	€ 57.268
		€ 43.491	*Modeller*	€ 1.500	7,0	22,0	€ 10.498	€ 32.993
	Offtake Management for navigation, river restoration and ecosystem services	€ 63.201	*River Dynamic Specialist*	€ 1.945	7,5	25,0	€ 14.585	€ 48.616
		€ 26.500	*River Engineer*	€ 2.208	2,0	10,0	€ 4.417	€ 22.083
		€ 19.875	*Morphodynamic Specialist*	€ 2.208	1,0	8,0	€ 2.208	€ 17.667
	Capacity Development of WARPO on Adaptive & Integrated Water Resources Planning	€ 43.062	*Water Resources Expert*	€ 2.208	7,5	12,0	€ 16.562	€ 26.500
		€ 9.245	*Adaptive Pathway Expert*	€ 2.208	0,5	3,7	€ 1.104	€ 8.141
		€ 26.994	*Flood Impact Modeller*	€ 1.500	3,0	15,0	€ 4.499	€ 22.495
		€ 29.994	*Trainer*	€ 1.500	5,0	15,0	€ 7.498	€ 22.495
		€ 25.198	*Hydrologist*	€ 1.145	5,0	17,0	€ 5.727	€ 19.471
		€ 18.326	*Governance Expert*	€ 1.145	5,0	11,0	€ 5.727	€ 12.599
	Sustainable Polder and River Management	€ 17.667	*Water Resources Expert*	€ 2.208	3,0	5,0	€ 6.625	€ 11.042
		€ 12.640	*Institutional Expert*	€ 1.945	2,0	4,5	€ 3.889	€ 8.751
1,2	Lump Sum Reserve for Engagement of Partners	€ 155.000					€ -	€ 155.000
	Bangladesh Erosion Monitor 2.0: Data to Decisions	€ 25.000	*Contracting IWM*					€ 25.000
		€ 25.000	*Contracting CEGIS*					€ 25.000
	Offtake Management for navigation, river restoration and ecosystem services	€ 30.000	*Contracting IWM*					€ 30.000
		€ 30.000	*Contracting CEGIS*		*To be defined*			€ 30.000
	Capacity Development of WARPO on Adaptive & Integrated Water Resources Planning	€ 15.000	*Contracting IWM*					€ 15.000
		€ 20.000	*Contracting CEGIS*					€ 20.000
		€ 10.000	*Contracting BIP*					€ 10.000
	ical assistance and programme management and Lump Sum Reserve for Engagement of Partners	€ 735.088					€ 153.013	€ 582.075
2	**Material Costs: Transportation**						2025	2026
2,1	International Flights	€ 37.500					€ 12.000	€ 25.500
	Programme Management	€ 12.000					€ 3.000	€ 9.000
	Bangladesh Erosion Monitor 2.0: Data to Decisions	€ 6.000					€ 3.000	€ 3.000
	Offtake Management for navigation, river restoration and ecosystem services	€ 6.000					€ 3.000	€ 3.000
	Capacity Development of WARPO on Adaptive & Integrated Water Resources Planning	€ 10.500					€ 1.500	€ 9.000
	Sustainable Polder and River Management	€ 3.000					€ 1.500	€ 1.500
2,2	National Flights	€ 3.300						€ 3.300
2,3	DSA	€ 25.058					€ 2.506	€ 22.552
2,4	Local Transportation	€ 2.500						€ 2.500
2,5	Visa Costs	€ 1.000						€ 1.000
	Total Material Costs: Transportation	€ 69.358					€ 14.506	€ 54.852
3	**Reservations**						2025	2026
3,1	Study Visit to The Netherlands	€ 30.000						€ 30.000
3,2	Dissemination	€ 2.000						€ 2.000
3,3	Translation	€ 2.000						€ 2.000
3,4	Venue Rent	€ 4.500						€ 4.500
3,5	Student Researcher and Supervision	€ 10.000						€ 10.000
3,6	In City Workshop(s)	€ 7.000						€ 7.000
	Total Material Costs: Reservations	€ 55.500					€ -	€ 55.500
	Total Costs	€ 859.946						
	Technical Assistance, Programme Management and Lump Sum Reserve for Engagement of Partners	€ 735.088						
	∑ Material Costs Transportation and Material Costs Reservations	€ 124.858						
	Contingency	€ 40.000						
	Grand Total	€ 899.946						

Please note that the above budget is based on actual costs only. No financial and/or commercial costs have been included. Deltares is not conducting any economic and/or commercial activities.

Earmarking

- Is the Dutch contribution to the programme earmarked (i.e. reserved for a specific purpose)? If so, specify the reasons why.

The budget is not earmarked. The cost of the entire program is financed by EKN. The expenditure as well as reporting will be made as per the budget line mentioned in the detail proposal.

Prepayments

- This is a standard grant; the performance needs to be established through the final narrative and financial reports. An advance up to 95%, covering maximum 12 month expenditure, will be made available (as per HBBZ regulations).
- The final grant amount will be determined at the end of the activity on the basis of their actual expenditure and results achieved.

Available resources

	Foreign currency	EUR
Implementing organisation's own contribution		0
Firm commitments by other donors (for each donor)		0
Dutch contribution		899.946

	Foreign currency	EUR
Total available resources		899.946
Budget needed		899.946
Still to be financed		0
Soft commitments by other donors (for each donor)		0
Uncovered balance		0

Grant with a repayment obligation, loans, equity investment or guarantee

- Does the Dutch contribution take the form of a grant with a repayment obligation, a loan, an equity investment or a guarantee (either in whole or in part)? If yes, briefly set out the consequences for accounting and how correct processing in the financial records will be ensured.

No

- Are there revolving funds? If yes, please explain what will happen to any residual funds, how closure will take place and which agreements should be made.

N/A

Audit opinions

- Is an audit opinion required for the activity (see Help)? Briefly explain.

No