Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Activity: Water Support Fund (WSF) 2023-2026 (23-0000170)

Id	23-0000170
Date	14-10-2026
SAP application number	4000006583

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Key data

Activity basics

Type	Standard
Short name	Water Support Fund (WSF) 2023-2026
Contract party	Stichting Netherlands Water Partnership NWP (30011745)
Contract party	Haskoning Nederland B.V. (30011845)
Contract party	Wageningen Universiteit Faculteit Dierwetenschappen (30012045)
Contract party	Stichting Both ENDS (30012364)
Contract party	MDF Training en Consultancy B.V. (30016542)
Contract party	A.E. Gordon (30056080)
Contract party	Institute of Water and Flood Management ICWFM (30062690)
Contract party	Bangladesh Institute of Planners (30209893)
ODA	Yes
Amount EUR	600000
Start date	01-01-2023
End date	30-04-2027
Full name	Water Support Fund (WSF) 2023-2026. impact 23-0000170
Summary	Impact 23-0000170 This is a support fund for implementing a number of joint activities with mutual objectives to support portfolio management, as well as the Government of Bangladesh and our partner organizations (incl. universities, consultants, implementing partners, NGOs, NPOs etc) continuing the development collaboration between Netherland and Bangladesh in the broad sector of Water, Climate and Agriculture with links to other cross sectoral issues like Gender, peace, humanity, DRR, migration, sustainable economic development, enabling environment, sustainability, and social progress.

Activity details

Date of receipt of proposal	01-01-2023
Proposal’s reference number	Not applicable
Budget holder	Ambassade Dhaka (8241DHA)
Limit access	No
Related activity	28956

Accounting data

SAP application number	4000006583
Main funds center	Water deleg: integrated water management (1702U0203)

Policy data

Cooperation modality	Project support
Technical assistance	50% or more of the activity budget
CRS code	14010 Water sector policy and administrative management
Policy Keywords	
Policy Markers	
Climate change: adaptation	Significant
Climate change: mitigation	Significant
Drinking water and sanitation	Significant
Good Governance / participation	Significant
Integrated water management	Significant
Private sector development	Significant
Research and knowledge	Significant
Explain your choices	In the new MACS (2023-2026), water sector is one of the prioritized spearheads for Dutch development cooperation in Bangladesh. The water thematic sector in the MACS has been defined broadly as an integration of water, WASH, climate and agriculture where gender, governance, peace and security, migration, sustainable economic development, social progress and environmental issues are tagged as well. For the water sector, MACS targets various GKBN related activities [Government to Government (G-G), Knowledge to Knowledge (K-K), Business to Business (B-B) and NGO to NGO (N-N)] for implementation. The MACS identifies that Bangladesh has significant gap in "ease to doing business", "project readiness", "participatory water management", and sustainability.

Beneficiary location

Beneficiary location	Country
Country	Bangladesh
Location type	
Specific location	

Policy Appraisal

Policy relevance

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

The proposed activity ties in line with the strategic objectives of the sustainable development, water and climate of the MACS (2023-26) and Annual Plans of the Embassy, as well as related policy memorandums. It is relevant with the result framework of water as identified by BUZA. Individual activities may be be relevant to the cross cutting themes of Human rights including DRR; Peace, security, stability and migration; sustainable economic development including trade and investment; social progress including civic space, gender, etc.; and disaster and climate risk reduction.

Rationale

- What issue/problem will be addressed by the activity
- Why does the activity help to address the issue/problem?

  For ODA activities over EUR 250.000, please explain the Theory of Change

Despite the rapid economic growth (prior to the Ukrain-Rusia war), Bangladesh ranks very low on most indexes of ease of doing business including project readiness and enabling institutions and environment. Due to current global economic crisis and dolar crisis, the government is struggling to keep projects water sector projects for capacity building, ownership development, partnership development (for knowledge generation, climate adaptation), international cooperation, and enabling environment (institutional social and political). Such capacity gap of the government risk our ongoing projects and projects in pipeline. This activity therefore targets to support our own portfolio as well as our implementing partners, knowledge partners, NGOs, consultants, and partner universities to continue their cooperation and knowledge exchange with us; organizing workshops, seminars, conference, public events, dialogues, conducting field visits; attending international meetings/conference; conducting pilot research, monitoring, evaluation and learning study; as well as to help improving ease of doing business, project readiness and to monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing other activities.

Theory of Change

This fund is to support a number of joint activities with an overarching aim of achieving the result of MACS 2023-2026.

The objective is therefore to contribute to the realization of MACS 2023-2026 Water Strategic Goal: Sustainable Development, Food Security, Water and Climate which would cover :

- capacity development and ownership building of the GoB
- changing the role of GoN from "Development Partner" to "Knowledge Partner"
- increasing footprint on climate change adaptation, mitigation, access to financing instruments as a prominent partner with a focused role in climate advocacy, diplomacy and negotiation
- maintaining effective relationship with other development partners in water sector
- ensuring individual activities deliver results as envisaged

The outputs of this umbrella activity would be to financially support activities like diagnostic analysis, policy dialogue, capacity building, short-term consultancy, pilot research, monitoring and evaluation studies, organizing conference, workshop, seminars in line with the water strategic goal of MACS 2023-2026 and Annual Plans.

The outcome would be an enabling environment for achieving the results of MACS 2023-2026 and annual plan in line with the water sector result framework of DGIS/IGG. The outcome would cover the topic of capacity development, government advocacy/lobby, policy advice, finance, education/knowledge research, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, sustainability, innovation and technology, water and climate diplomacy, etc.

Contextual analysis

- Who is/are the target group(s) and why?
- Who are the other main stakeholders?
- To what extent have stakeholders been involved in formulating the proposal?
- Is the intervention aimed at a specific geographical location, and if so, why?

The target groups for the activity are primarily the organizations involved in implementing and/or supporting EKN funded integrated water resources management activities at both national and local level which include (but are not limited to) Government agencies, (i)NGOs, NPOs, civil society, private sector, universities, and research organizations. External expertise can be hired (consultancies).

The activities might take place anywhere in the country, or in the Netherlands. However, as per the MACS and Annual Plans, the hot-spot areas of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 would get priorities while selecting any geographical location for an activity under the WSP.

Added value

- What is the added value of the Dutch government being involved in relation to other donors, the EU, NGOs and local authorities?
- Are the recipients making an own contribution or co-participating in the activity, and if so, to what extent?

The activities to be financed by the WSP will facilitate and compliment the embassy's activities related to strategic objective of "sustainable development, food security, water and climate" in line with the MACS 2023-2026 and Annual Plans. In this way, the WSP would contribute to achieving the results as per the MACS and Annual Plans.
Interest of other development partners on water sector is increasing. However, NL remains in the central position of ensuring donor coordination, co-chairing the Local Consultative Group on Water and Delta along with the Ministry of Water Resources of Bangladesh. The WSP would finance activities which would facilitate and enhance NL's position among the community of development partners and IFIs.

Lessons learned

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

The earlier WSF's were very effective to ensure the results of the onging project were in place. The fund helped to continue relationship with implementing partner, to provide additional support to implementing partners to enable environment for project implementation, following up learing from ongoing projects, etc. which were not directly possible under the other means (i.e. ongoing projects)

Durability

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

The expectation is that the outcome of the activities under WSF would help ensuring the durability of Water Activities of MACS and Annual Plans. For example, evaluation studies to be financed by the WSP would help better designing projects ensuring a perfect exit. MEL, other pilot research or workshops, and other foresee-able activities under WSF would help the ongoing and future projects to ensure sustainability of participatory water management, WASH entrepreneurship, PSD in agriculture, which are the exit strategy adopted in the MACS 2023-2026.

Gender

- Does the proposal include a gender analysis? If yes, what are the main outcomes? If no, why not?
- Does the proposal justify the target group's gender-specific interests and needs (and why)? Please explain.
- Have women and young people been included in the stakeholder analysis? Please explain.

The WSF might include activities related to gender analysis if it is required for ensuring sustainability of an ongoing/future project. The WSF does not target any person or population rather it targets institutions or organization. However, while selecting a partner organization, gender specific interests as per the MACS and annual plans can be kept.

Climate change

- Does the proposal include an analysis of the possible effects of climate change on the activity or its results?
- Does the proposal include any interventions to combat these effects (adaptation/mitigation)?

This WSF might support onging and future projects to ensure climate change is considered in the activities. But the WSF itself does not include any intervention which might be sensitive to climate change. The activities to be supported by WSF would be mostly MEL study, pilot research, event, community dialogues, workshops, seminars, meeting, etc. which are not sensitive to climate change but these might influence the ongoing project to ensure climate change issues are covered by the project activities.

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?

The WSF might finance an activity which would involve cooperation with Dutch organizations, other donors, local organization and other parties. In case of multi-donor financing, the activities to be financed by WSF shall be marked and well defined to avoid any duplication and to ensure tracking the result of WSF contribution. While selecting the activity, activities with moderate to highest degree of (policy and financial) alignment shall be prioritized.

Digitalisation

- Have proposed digital technologies been developed or chosen in collaboration with end-users?
- Does the proposal include an analysis of the local digital ecosystem?
- Is data security guaranteed?
- Are digital solutions locally sustainable/relevant?

- Is duplication avoided?

In case of an activity related to or having an opportunity of digitalization, data security shall be guaranteed, local sustainable digidat solution shall be adopted and duplication shall be avoided.

Additional remarks (if applicable)

Results

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

- Specify what reporting information is required for this activity, based on the activity analysis decision tree (see Help).

Include the following elements:

- Planning versus realisation: tracking progress against predetermined objectives as laid out in the project proposal.
- Performance and quality: checking relevance and appropriateness of the implementing organisation's performance based on key assumptions in the proposal and the outcomes of the risk analysis.

Pay attention to the method and frequency of monitoring and describe the roles and responsibilities. For further information, see Help.

Evaluation

Describe whether a final evaluation and/or a mid-term review has been planned. If yes, state:

- who will commission the final evaluation and/or mid-term review (for options, see Help);
- whether the procedure and practical arrangements have been agreed on with the implementing organisation (for details, see Help).

The WSF would finance small activities only, with a maximum of EUR 200.000, but typically, activities will be < EUR 25.000.
Reporting requirements will be decided per individual activity.
Evaluation is not required.

Finance

Budget breakdown

- Include an overview of the activity budget, including overhead costs.

For each individual assignment under this support fund, a detailed budget will be assessed.

- Are the amounts/rates in the budget acceptable?

Separate assessment of budgets will be done for each individual contract.

Earmarking

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

Under the support fund, each separate assignment will be for a specific purpose.

Prepayments

- Based on the prepayment decision tree (see Help), do the payments need to be entered as prepayments and why? In the case of a lump sum, assess this against the applicable criteria and give the reasons for your choice.

To be decided per individual commitment.

- What is the maximum percentage that can be paid as prepayment, and why?

To be decided per individual commitment.

Typically, for short assignments, a 80% lumpsum payment can be done up on signing the contract and the remaining 20% after acceptance of the output/report.

- Which are the reporting obligations on the basis of which prepayments can be closed?

To be decided per individual contract.

Available resources

Embassy will reserve an amount of EUR 600.000 for this support entity.

Audit opinions

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

Normally, for short assignment no audit obligations are required.

Other:

Selection of activities will be decided by the Water and Food Cluster. The basic rules and regulations, including formal approval, for the activity cycle and IMPACT will be followed. For assignments (ARVODI), procurement regulations will be adhered to. In practice, this means that funding up to EUR 33.000 (excl. VAT) can be awarded without the requirement to tender ('directe gunning').