

OBJECTIVE

Contribute to reduced poverty within the Sixth Five-year Plan and Poverty Reduction Strategy Development Objectives for Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Bangladesh

Objective-1

A permanent water supply and sanitation policy unit establishment in LGD

Objective-2

LGD enhancing Water Supply and Sanitation Policy and Strategic Framework through implementation of Sector Development Plan

Objective-1.1

PSU adequately staffed and funded

Objective-2.1

The sector policy and strategy framework has been adapted to reflect current sector challenges

Objective-1.2

LGD assisted in establishing WSS policy unit

Objective-2.2

Sector Coordination and knowledge dissemination of sector issues has been strengthened

Objective-1.3

LGD/PSU capacitated to pilot, coordinate and monitor SDP implementation

Objective-2.3

Sector institutions have been supported in enhancing the regulatory framework, the monitoring system and in developing/adapting technologies to future climate changes



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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Local Government Division



GoB-Danida
Sector Policy Support Project
of the
Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-sector
in Bangladesh, Phase-III
POLICY SUPPORT UNIT



The Policy Support Unit (PSU) for Water and Sanitation Sector (WSS) provides technical assistance for the Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C), to develop and review sector policy strategies and plans; coordinate and monitor performances; and facilitate the development of institutional capacity.



Background

The PSU was set up initially as Unit for Policy Implementation (UPI) in 1999 under the Institutional Development Component of Danida Water and Sanitation Sector Programme Support (WSSPS) for five years (1999-2005) to increase coordination among sector stakeholders and support the LGD to formulate policies, strategies, and guidelines. Danida took the initiative as the agencies and organizations were undertaking a variety of project interventions focused on tubewell installation indiscriminately and sporadically in response to the declaration of International Drinking Water Supply Decade (1980-90). Moreover, arsenic contamination was identified with tubewell water, which added to the concern about the interventions in Bangladesh. Danida supported the second phase of Policy Intervention as the Policy Support Unit (2006-2011) under WSSPS-II. The formulation of the "Sector Development Plan (FY2011-2025) for Water and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh" was one of the major achievements during the period.

PSU in Phase-III

The Government of Bangladesh and Danida are committed to continuing their support for the Policy Support Unit in the SWSSS (2012-2015). The Unit has already started functioning under the leadership of a Project Director (PD) who also is the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh.

Two assistant project directors (Deputy Secretary, LGD), one international adviser, three advisers, one program officer, three accounts and admin personnel, and two IT officials are providing support to the PD to accomplish the assigned tasks and responsibilities of the Unit.

The PSU is Secretariat to the National Forum for Water and Sanitation, Local Consultative Group (LCG) for the WSS, Policy & Monitoring Support Committee and Technical Committee. Moreover Government of Bangladesh has established Water Cell in PSU to facilitate reforms.

Main Functions of PSU in Phase-III

The main functions of the Policy Support Unit in the current phase are to:

- facilitate the establishment of the Policy Support Unit (PSU) in the revenue setup of the Local Government Division;
- assist the LGD in the institutional capacity building of water and sanitation utilities, and reviewing and developing policies and strategies for the WSS Sector; and to
- monitor the implementation of the Sector Development Plan (SDP).

Development Partners

Danida keeps supporting the PSU. Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), JICA and Water and Sanitation Program-World Bank (WSP-WB) are also providing technical assistance.

Significant Achievements

The significant achievements of the PSU include among others the formulation of:

- National Hygiene Promotion Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation in Bangladesh, 2012;
- National Cost-sharing Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh, 2012;
- National Strategy for Water Supply and sanitation Sector for Hard-to-Reach Areas in Bangladesh; 2012;
- National Management Information System (NaMIS) for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector, 2011;
- National Ground Water Database for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector, 2011;
- Sector Development Plan (FY 2011- 2025) for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh, 2011;
- Water Safety Framework (WSF) in Bangladesh; 2011;
- National Vetting Guidelines for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh; 2009;
- National Sanitation Strategy, 2005;
- Pro-poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh, 2005;
- Sector Development Programme, Water and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh, 2005;

The PSU has also facilitated the establishment of:

- National Forum for Water Supply and Sanitation (NFWSS);
- Policy and Monitoring Support Committee for WSS;
- Technical Support Committee for WSS;
- Twelve Thematic Groups for WSS;
- National MIS at DPHE for WSS;
- Monitoring Committee for SDP Implementation Agreed Agencies; and
- Local Consultative Sub-group for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector.

Moreover, the government has taken steps to establish the PSU in its permanent revenue setup of the Local Government Division.