



35 years of cooperation between the Netherlands and Bangladesh

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The Netherlands leads the donor group that deals with water management and tries to bring all partners in the water sector together. We work intensively with the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural

Development and Cooperatives. We also work with BRAC and associated NGOs, and with the Asian Development Bank, Worldbank, UN and with other donors. Together with our partners we have a stake in around 400 million US dollars worth of

investments in the water sector in Bangladesh. And every year we disburse some 25 million US dollars in our water programmes.

So what does all of this lead to? Read this story of Rahima Begum:

Rahima lost her house and

all her belongings in the Meghna River. She moved to Boyer Char near Noakhali, an area where the Dutch-Bangla Char Development and Settlement Project is operating. With help of the CDSP Rahima was trained as a Shastha Shebika (community health worker), earning around Taka 800 per month. But more importantly, Rahima has become the proud owner of a piece of land, with a title deed to her name, as a woman! Her family can now grow the traditional crops to feed themselves, and receives training on new crops and how to sell these for a profit!

In this way, and in other manners, The Netherlands and Bangladesh will continue to fight the fight of improving the life of the people of Bangladesh through better water management.

Below are some of the other areas supported by the Netherlands in Bangladesh:

Education

In the Education sector, the Netherlands has been Bangladesh's steady partner for many years. Together with other development partners, we support both formal and non-formal basic education programmes and encourage participation of civil society in policy development, implementation and monitoring. We are strong advocates of the involvement of local communities and parents in school activities.

Health

In addition to supporting the multi-donor Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme, we contribute to

within which elected representatives of the people work in transparent and accountable ways. Dealing with these challenges requires a concerted effort and a commitment by all. Meeting basic needs and improving livelihoods of vulnerable and poor people require interventions that have sustainable outcomes. The Netherlands is working together with the Government, civil society and the private sector to ensure stronger governance and more effective democratic structures.

Private sector

Private sector development (PSD) is a crucial element in achieving sustainable poverty reduction. A strong and vibrant private sector is the engine for economic growth. Economic growth alone, however, is not enough. What is needed is pro-poor growth. Pro-poor growth is a high growth rate in combination with a pattern of growth that enables the poor to increase their income and to take advantage of these opportunities. The conditions for PSD and pro-poor growth are influenced by five factors: economic governance and reform, access to markets, access to finance, quality of infrastructure, and human capacities. Together, these five factors make up for the business enabling environment in a country. While we already support a number of activities which contribute towards improving this enabling environment, a more comprehensive programme is envisaged in the years to come.



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CONTROL UNION (BD) LTD.

www.controlunion.com

69/K Panthapath, 6th Floor, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

Phone: 880-2-8651244, 865309-2, Fax: 880-2-8653055

Email: cubdac@bdcom.net

Branches at Motijheel, Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna

Head Office: Boompjes 270, P.O. Box 893 3000 AW ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands

Phone: 31(0)10-2823217 / 2823308, Fax: 31(0)10-4123967 / 282 33 14



reaching the health related MDGs through providing core support to ICDDR'B and funding activities of NGOs, such as BRAC.

Governance

At the sectoral (education, health and water) level, enhancing participation, accountability and transparency is a key objective. Communities have a better voice in water management through Water Management Organisations, parents are active in School Management Committees and women support groups are set up to act as watchdogs to ensure maternal and neonatal care.

At the central level, Bangladesh is facing many challenges including upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights and human security and promoting a democratic system of governance

Gender equality

In all our activities the role and position of women and girls receive special attention aiming to ensure their basic human rights as citizens of this country. This means among others that we try to make sure that women are sufficiently participating in Water Management Groups and School Management Committees; that the latter have an eye for the specific problems girls face when going to school and that health systems are not neglecting the specific needs of women and girls. International evidence shows that sustainable economic growth and good governance is strongly promoted when women are allowed to play an active part in economic, social and political life and to enjoy equal rights as men.

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Our approach - thinking in all dimensions

House: 10A, Road: 103, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tel: 880-2-8811049, Fax: 880-2-8811115

e-mail: haskoban@bangla.net, INTERNET: www.royalhaskoning.com