

# Water for Growth, People and Environment Bangladesh



## Focus Areas

- The government of Bangladesh and the 2030 WRG have formalized a multi-stakeholder partnership, which includes high-level representatives from the government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and academia. The partnership developed three work streams to address the country's water challenges:

- **Water governance and sustainability**
- **Greater Dhaka watershed restoration**
- **Agricultural water**

## The Challenge

- Bangladesh has too much water in the wet season and too little in the dry season. It gets more than 90 percent of its water from transboundary rivers. Less water reaches Bangladesh from these rivers during the dry season because countries upstream use more water at that time of year.
- High levels of pollution of the country's surface and groundwater water resources are compounded by sharp declines in the groundwater table.
- The Ganga Brahmaputra Meghna Delta is Asia's largest delta and home to more than 200 million people, 160 million of whom live in Bangladesh. It is under immense pressure due to recent catchment developments, as well as population and economic growth, making it vulnerable to coastland flooding, wetland losses, shoreline retreat, and infrastructure losses.
- In the north-west, extended droughts and declining groundwater levels are threatening agricultural productivity.
- These challenges are exacerbated by legislative gaps, policy overlaps, and a lack of institutional capacity, which make it difficult to govern the country's water resources.

## Results and Outcomes

In 2016, Bangladesh formed a national steering board under the leadership of the Cabinet Secretary, the most senior government official

in Bangladesh. The multi-stakeholder partnership is developing concrete proposals as part of four concepts approved by the steering board for the Bangladesh program.

### Water governance and sustainability

- The multitude of government bodies responsible for water governance in Bangladesh has been largely unsuccessful in coordinating its activities. Inter-agency coordination is vital for successful water reforms. The 2030 WRG partnership will continue to promote coordination across sectors to establish efficient and sustainable partnerships.

### Greater Dhaka watershed restoration

- The 2030 WRG is supporting the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority on industrial wastewater treatment and reuse.
- The 2030 WRG also started collaborating with the Bangladesh Local Government Department and other stakeholders to develop pathways for accelerated and sustainable treatment

of municipal waste water in the greater Dhaka area, including wider roles for the private sector.

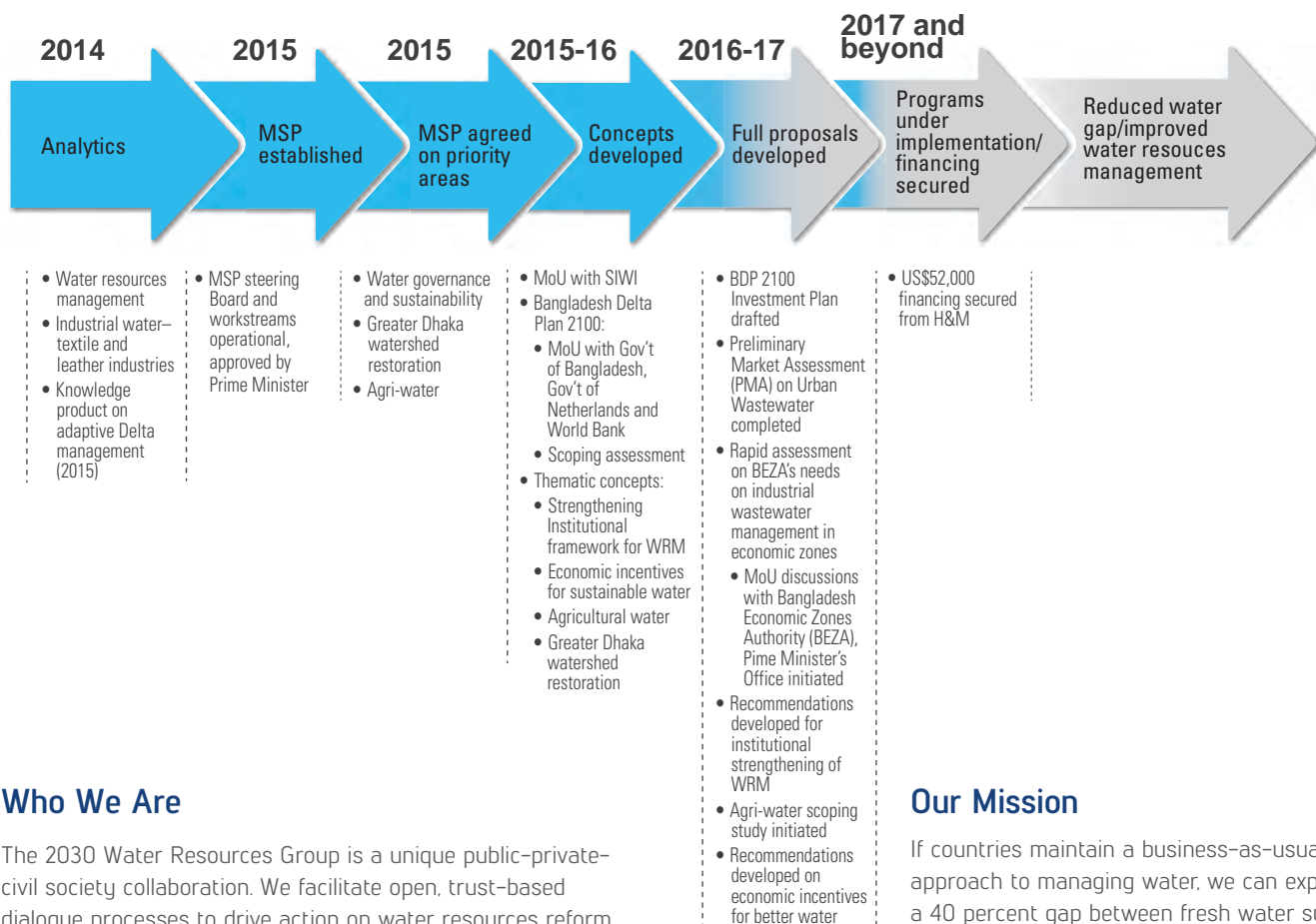
### Agricultural water

- The 2030 WRG Bangladesh partnership aims to improve irrigation efficiency by promoting a gradual shift to high-value crops that are not water-intensive, which in turn will increase farmers' adaptive capacity, resilience, and income.

### Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

- The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 aims to identify and prioritize infrastructure investments, primarily related to water resources, to ensure sustainable development of the Bangladesh Delta. The 2030 WRG and the World Bank are supporting the development of an investment plan focusing on three thematic areas (institutional and policy reform; enabling private sector participation; and climate change adaptation) and six regional hotspots in the Bangladesh Delta.

## BANGLADESH



## Who We Are

The 2030 Water Resources Group is a unique public-private-civil society collaboration. We facilitate open, trust-based dialogue processes to drive action on water resources reform in water stressed countries in developing economies. The ultimate aim of such reforms and actions is to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.

## Our Mission

If countries maintain a business-as-usual approach to managing water, we can expect a 40 percent gap between fresh water supply and demand by 2030. Our mission is to help countries achieve water security by facilitating collective action between government, private sector and the civil society.

### Contact

Christoph Jakob | Regional Co-Head Asia | [cjakob@ifc.org](mailto:cjakob@ifc.org)  
 Tanzeem Qayyum | Country Representative Bangladesh | [sqayyum@ifc.org](mailto:sqayyum@ifc.org)  
[www.2030wrg.org](http://www.2030wrg.org)