

I N D I A

Dhaka



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

M Y A N M A R

# Bangladesh

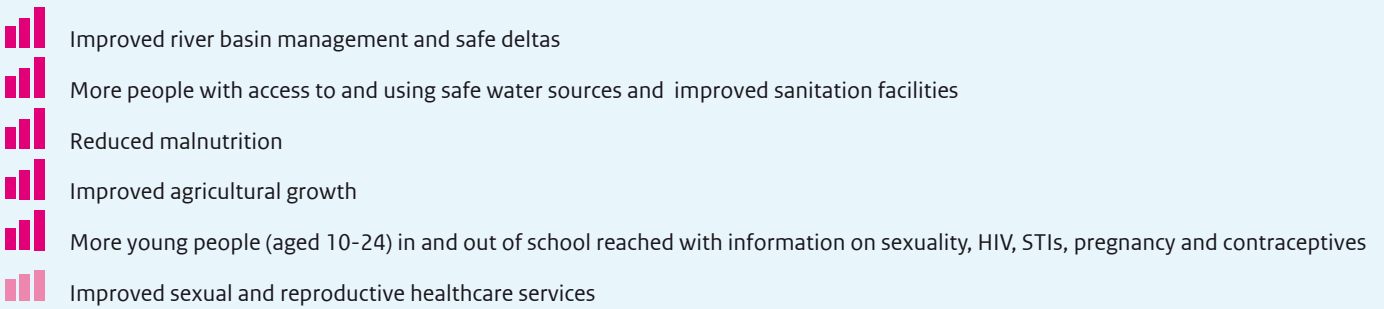
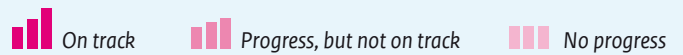
## Overview of main development results in 2015

### Context

Dutch development cooperation with Bangladesh helps improve the living conditions of the poor, particularly in three areas: water, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and food and nutrition security. Bangladeshi-Dutch relations are in transition from an effective aid relationship to a responsible trade relationship. Planned contributions and activities will align with national policy and development plans. The Netherlands seeks to link development cooperation activities with efforts and investments by the Dutch private sector. Labour conditions in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector are a priority issue. The Netherlands will continue to foster gender equality in all its programmes.

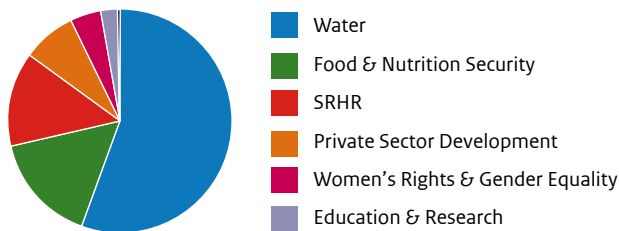
Bangladesh is a rapidly emerging market with aspirations of becoming a middle-income country by 2021. Its growth in 2015 was 6,6% and the Bangladesh economy remained strong and resilient despite external and internal challenges. Since elections in 2014, Bangladesh has witnessed political unrest and a tightening on freedom of speech and space for civil society. In 2015, the freedom of expression has been even more constrained, as several bloggers and their publishers were murdered by Islamist militants for promoting secularism and violent attacks on non-Muslims, westerners and an officer engaged in combatting terrorist groups took place.

### Developments in Bangladesh

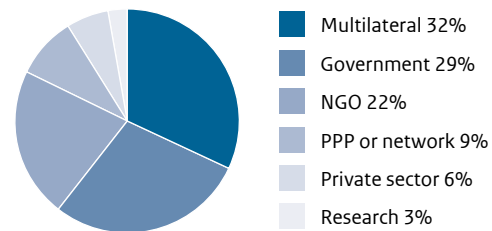


### Expenditures 2015 per theme

Total expenditure Embassy € 41.525.554



### Expenditures 2015 per channel



## Key results of the embassy in Bangladesh

### Water

- The drafting of Bangladesh's Delta Plan (BDP 2100) is well underway. World Bank-supported development of the BDP 2100 investment plan has begun. The concept of adaptive delta management is now an integral part of the country's seventh Five Year Plan, with in principle 2% of GDP allocated for a Delta Fund and the establishment of a Delta Commission being considered.
- Through our WASH projects, in 2015 394,400 Bangladeshis gained access to safe drinking water and 420,780 to improved sanitation. Overall the development organisation BRAC's WASH project, which ended in 2015, has since 2006 provided 5,870,000 people with a water supply and 26,550,000 with sanitation, a major contribution to the Netherlands' MDG commitment.

### Food & Nutrition Security

- Bangladesh met the MDG goals to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Progress on stunting is impressive but its prevalence nationwide remains at unacceptable levels. Through Dutch-funded agricultural support or fortified rice distribution, more than 377,000 undernourished people have increased their food intake. Two other Dutch projects are addressing food insecurity through a value chain approach with a specific nutrition and WASH focus. They have a substantial immediate impact at

local and district levels rather than national level. Through these projects 190,400 people (m/f/child) have access to improved food intake.

- Overall agricultural growth in 2015 has been satisfactory (more than 3%) although lower than overall economic growth (more than 6%). Agriculture remains an important pathway out of poverty. Yet, the unused potential of agriculture is big. Through three Dutch funded projects 113,100 farmers (50,700 female) have increased productivity and (direct) income.

### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Most of the programmes are providing information on SRHR issues to young people (aged 10-24) in and out of school. Awareness raising activities target both educational institutions (including madrasas) and communities (including gatekeepers like religious leaders and teachers). Almost 260,000 young people have been reached, and many are changing from passive listeners into active service seekers.
- The number of safe menstrual regulation services provided in 2015 (8,315) has more than doubled since 2014 (3,904). More and more women and girls seem able to identify the right time, place and service provider for menstrual regulation.

## Interpretation of the results in context

Food and nutrition security results are in line with plans, having a direct impact despite a limited budget. Indirect results through knowledge development, project spillover effects and policy recommendations are significant but difficult to quantify. Except for some delays experienced in the Blue Gold and River Management projects, results in the area of WASH and water management are generally in line with expectations. The eight SRHR programmes

are making a major contribution to promoting comprehensive sex education. Innovative interventions have yielded experience, knowledge and evidence. Community mobilisation, involvement of all men, women and young people, media campaigns, improved referral systems and training have led to observable behavioural change in government (including an adolescent health strategy and youth-friendly services).

## Glimpse into the future

Implementation of the MASP will continue as planned and be consolidated. Several new activities are in the pipeline. We will concentrate on portfolio review, learning and disseminating lessons, policy dialogue and focused engagement with the private sector. The focus of future food and nutrition security planning will shift to stunting and more synergy with gender, water and SRHR. More attention will be paid to babies, newly married girls, value chain development and market transformation (to ensure

inclusive development). The focus of water activities will have to be on completing and following up BDP 2100 activities, revising Blue Gold plans and relevant Development Project Proposals (DPPs), and identifying/initiating two or three new WASH activities. The SRHR programme will start a project aimed at using experience and evidence gained in previous years to improve government programmes. Menstrual hygiene for young girls, nutrition and gender diversity will be integrated into next year's programme.