

## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

### A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. From April to June 2014, floods severely affected around 132 districts (out of a national total of 388) in 26 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. About 140,000 people were directly affected, and more have lost access due to road closure or bridge destruction, and/or damage to irrigation facilities. Key water resource sector projects are outlined in the table.

#### Water Resource Projects Supported by the Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
<b>Irrigation</b>			
ADB	Western Basin Water Resources Management Project	2006–2014	ADB: \$66 Cdn Gov: \$8.4
ADB	Multitranchise Financing Facility, Water Resources Development Investment Program, Tranche 1	2009–2017	ADB: \$86.6 DFID: \$3.3
ADB	Multitranchise Financing Facility, Water Resources Development Investment Program, Tranche 2	2013–2017	ADB: \$100
ADB	Community-Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development	2012–2017	JFPR: \$10
EU	Panj-Amu River Basin Program	2009–2015	EU: EUR45
USAID	Irrigation and Watershed Management Program	2012–2017	USAID: \$130
US DOD	Dahla Dam Improvements	2013–2015	AIF: \$27.02
US DOD	Kajaki Dam Improvements	2013–2015	AIF and CERP \$26.20
US DOD	Central Helmand Valley Irrigation System Rehabilitation	2012–2014	AIF: \$11
World Bank	On-Farm Water Management Project	2011–2014	ARTF: \$25
World Bank	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project	2011–2017	IDA: \$98, ARTF: \$48.4
World Bank	Results-based Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	2005–2009	ARTF: \$5.0

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AIF = Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund, ARTF = Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, CERP = Commander's Emergency Response Program, Cdn Gov = Government of Canada, DFID = Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, EU = European Union, IDA = International Development Association, US DOD = United States Department of Defense, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

### B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Emergency Assistance Coordination

2. Afghanistan now has well-developed systems for disaster management and provision of humanitarian assistance. During and after the 2014 northern floods, numerous government departments, United Nations agencies, and nongovernment organizations provided a wide range of physical and financial assistance to help families recover from the immediate loss of houses, assets, and family members. Disaster management is coordinated through the National Emergency Operations Center under the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, reporting to the President. The structure is replicated in the provinces; in most provinces the delivery of tents, blankets, food, and cash is effective and reaches the most vulnerable immediately after natural and human-induced disasters. Disaster risk management and coordination is described in Disaster Risk Management.<sup>1</sup> While the humanitarian response is normally effective and immediate, the longer-term recovery of economic assets and livelihoods is not regularly supported; hence the need for the current project is vital and will recover the damaged irrigation systems to ensure income generation of the affected communities and repair portions of road damaged to maintain connectivity.

<sup>1</sup> Disaster Risk Management Overview (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2 of the report and recommendation of the President).

3. Coordination between development partners in water is achieved mainly through the bimonthly development coordination meetings held by rotation between key ministries involved (Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, and Ministry of Energy and Water), the various main donors, and consultants working in the sector. ADB will take over the organization and conduct of this meeting in September 2014, where the focus will be streamlined and efforts put in place for emergency assistance coordination among several stakeholders, so that all are informed on project progress and achievement.

4. Unlike the situation in a more conventional development project, little donor coordination will be required during project implementation. No other program has been designed to repair village irrigation and road infrastructure in the project provinces, and irrigation system repair will be limited to two ADB-supported schemes. Although the World Bank intends to support the irrigation system repair, its work will be confined to systems it has previously supported under its completed and ongoing projects. Ministry of Energy and Water will coordinate the activities of both donors and ensure that donor efforts are not duplicated.

### **C. Achievements and Issues**

5. Irrigation sector projects implemented with ADB funding since 2003 are generally rated successful.

6. Sector outputs include about 140,000 hectares (ha) of irrigated land rehabilitated and upgraded, with an additional 160,000 ha in progress. Investments in the sector have led to more efficient use of water resources, increased agricultural productivity, reduced postharvest losses, and higher incomes received by farmers. Through pipeline projects, further improvements in irrigated agriculture and water management are expected, and will help reduce the economic incentives to grow opium poppy.

7. ADB investments in agriculture and water resources infrastructure have been increasing, making ADB a key development partner in the irrigation and water management sector. The \$303 million mutitranchise financing facility for the Water Resources Development and Investment Program, approved in 2009, is increasing the productivity of irrigated agriculture as a result of improved water resources management through infrastructure development, capacity building, and institutional strengthening. Tranche 1 is making important investments in (i) water resources infrastructure in irrigation systems located in the Northern River Basin and along the main canal of the Nangarhar Valley Development Authority, (ii) flood management, (iii) 250 new canal structures in the Northern River Basin, and (iv) rehabilitation of Bangala weir; the latter two investments support the rehabilitation of the irrigation system serving 50,000 ha. Tranche 2 of will improve water resource management in the Lower Kokcha Irrigation System.

8. ADB is now active in the Helmand, Kabul, Northern and Western river basins. In 2013, total project investment reached \$543 million. These projects aim to (i) rehabilitate and establish new irrigation infrastructure, (ii) develop market-based agricultural infrastructure, and (iii) strengthen the institutional environment to facilitate overall growth in the sector. These investments have resulted in improving rural livelihoods, economic growth, and water resource management.

9. The World Bank is presently implementing the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project in the northern provinces. The project supports government efforts to increase the irrigated area by about 15%, crop yields by at least 20% in project areas, reduce water-related

disputes by at least 30% in these areas, and prepare more cost-effective designs for the rehabilitation and development of irrigation systems using improved hydro-meteorological data.

10. The United States Agency for International Development is funding the ongoing Irrigation and Watershed Management Program to improve watershed and catchment management, water productivity, and post-farm linkages to market. This is implemented off-budget using American contractors.

11. General sector issues are weak technical, institutional, and financial capacity of the government water institutions and ministries; key challenges are infrastructure investment, operation and maintenance, institutional development, and security. The government's priorities are the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing irrigation and water resources infrastructure, development of new irrigation and water resources infrastructure, flood management infrastructure, institutional strengthening for river basin agencies and water user associations, and capacity building for key staff throughout the sector.

12. Most agriculture and natural resource sector projects are in the central and northern provinces. This is driven by security concerns, and could over time lead to inequality in development efforts between the north and south of the country.

#### **D. Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund**

13. The ADB-administered Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AIF), established in 2010, has been providing an opportunity for bilateral, multilateral, and individual contributors to partner with ADB in financing infrastructure investments. As of 30 June 2014, the total amount received was \$300.92 million from the governments of Japan (Embassy of Japan, \$123.00 million), United States (United States Agency for International Development, \$105.00 million), and United Kingdom (Department for International Development, \$72.92 million out of a total commitment of \$272.43 million).

14. The contributions to the AIF have been allocated to grants and technical assistance in the transport and energy sectors. In 2013, ADB approved one grant (North-South Power Transmission Enhancement Project) and two technical assistance projects (Support for the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Energy and Gas Development Master Plan), bringing the total number of AIF-cofinanced projects to six. The six projects have a total cost of \$1,056.7 million, \$747.7 million of which is financed by ADB through the Asian Development Fund. The AIF contributes \$269.3 million or 25% of the total project cost, while the government provides a counterpart contribution to \$39.7 million. In 2014, AIF funds of \$17 million will support the proposed Northern Flood-Damaged Infrastructure Emergency Rehabilitation Project, \$13 million for energy projects.

#### **E. Summary and Recommendations**

15. Throughout the processing of the project, the project team maintained close dialogue with stakeholders to ensure synergy and avoid overlaps, as better coordination will allow more efficient planning of emergency assistance in terms of time and place. Better coordination is also vital to ensure quick and effective assistance to communities in distress, to have the ability to reach out to communities in the most remote locations yet ensure optimum utilization of resources. It is recommended that ADB, in coordination with development partners and other stakeholders, support the government's post-flood recovery efforts, and respond to the request placed for immediate support to affected structures and communities.