

Towards a Common Strategy to Assist Bangladesh: Some Partnership Principles

**ADB/DFID/Japan/World Bank
Group**

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Why a joint CAS

- PRSP provides the basis for a more joined up approach and stronger partnership in line with DAC principles of harmonisation and alignment
- Attractive to GOB - Joined up approach, especially of large partners, would both ensure funding as well as positive engagement
- Opportunity for higher-level engagement on sensitive issues such as fragility as a threat to growth and poverty reduction; big carrot/big stick for real change

- High quality of shared analysis, gaining from relative strengths of each and covering wider issues, e.g., non-economic governance areas
- Efficiency gains and reduced transaction costs for both GOB and partners on shared analysis, funding, monitoring, review and impact/outcomes
- Single voice of four large partners will carry more weight for policy dialogue with government at a time when donor voice has lost significance

- Higher returns from joint funding across PRSP priorities, minimising duplication - partners fund their areas of relative advantage using instruments others cannot
- Potential for silent partnerships
- Potential for a step change in government's proposed disengagement with donors on policy dialogue, e.g., less frequent BDF
- But also - what do we lose or compromise on in the interest of joint working

What is a joint CAS?

- A concerted effort by a group of a Bangladesh's development partners to coordinate their strategic planning activities in Bangladesh, using the National poverty reduction strategy as their framework.
- Harmonization of the country strategy documents based on a common understanding of:
 - the key drivers of Bangladesh's development,
 - the country's priority development strategies needed to achieve the key outcomes in the PRSP,
 - the chief constraints and impediments and risks to achieving these national development goals, drawing on the PRSP and studies undertaken by the partners and others.

What is a joint CAS? Contd.

- Joint consultations with key stakeholders including government, civil society, the private sector and other international development partners of Bangladesh.
- Sharing of sector strategies and agreement on a broad division of labor between and within sectors and cross cutting themes.
- Joint mutually reinforcing dialogue with government on the key common issues identified in the exercise.
- Separate business plans reflecting the above broad division of labor between the partners, but responding also to the institutional priorities of each institution.
- Joint monitoring of outcomes and implementation of respective programs.

How we work together

- We will invest time and effort into understanding different agency mandates
- We will recognize our relative institutional strengths and build upon those strengths
- We will work in partnership, resolving differences openly and constructively and respect each others views
- We will share information in a spirit of openness
- We commit to mutual respect in the matter of communication
- We will communicate and maintain agreed common messages to Government and others

How we will work together (contd)

- We will represent each others' interests to the Government and other development partners whenever possible
- We commit to ensuring coherence between field offices and our respective agency headquarters
- We commit to coordinating and harmonizing our activities in support of agreed outcomes
- We recognize the high transaction costs associated with such partnerships and resolve to ensure that we will always carefully weigh the costs and benefits of all joint activities and avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on each other.

How we work with Government

- We aim to build and maintain our understanding of Bangladesh's development context and base our engagement on this knowledge
- We aim to continue to deepen our understanding of the incentives and institutions in each sector where we provide support
- We are committed to building the capacity in Government to lead and implement its development agenda

How we work with Government (contd.)

- We commit to base our dialogue and programs on Bangladesh's development agenda
- We will work with Government to identify a manageable number of achievable priorities and align our strategies around such priorities
- We commit to a participatory approach with the Government, ensuring that commitment and ownership exist before providing support
- We will be realistic in our expectations, we will be patient, and we will take a long-term perspective
- Above all, we will ensure that everything we do is in the long term interests of Bangladesh's poor.