PHOTO ALBUM
Watershed-empowering citizens

Watershed
empowering citizens
Foreword

"Watershed – empowering citizens" is a 5 years (2016-2020) advocacy program focused on WASH and WRM while other programs have a component on advocacy. This project has been implemented by DORP at Bhola Sadar Upazilla since 2017 and scaled up at Bienagatti in 2019 with support from Simavi, IRC and Wetlands International. Alvo and GWA had given technical support on data for evidence and gender issues. Lobby and Advocacy, Budget Tracking, WASH and WRM were the main issues addressed by this project where main objective was to strengthen capacity of local CSO to do lobby and advocacy on sustainable WASH services.

Engaging people from different strata in the CSO platform and NGO Network were coached on these issues so that they can do lobby and advocacy by themselves. Enabling environment for Accountability mechanisms and systems development targeting excluded people was the process of achieving the target. Inter-stakeholder dialogues and policy practice along with implementation was also focused by this project while media has a vital role in terms of awareness and integration. Local government institutes are playing the main role regarding water, sanitation and hygiene services in Bangladesh. Making them accountable and increasing participation from community people leads to increase of budget and better coordination among the stakeholders.

This publication is a reflection of those activities and achievement from last four years of implementation. DORP has played the main role in implementation at Upazilla level with a lottery of 2 Unions where Budget Tracking approach initiated and learning were shared with stakeholders at local and national level which triggered the scale up in other Unions of Bhola and adjacent Unions.

The pictures were taken during the activities organized by DORP and local CSO which are sometimes not in good quality. Additionally, pictures were taken randomly and selected by the team prepared the album including newspaper cutting. I would like to thanks to the project team for their tireless effort and successful completion of this project. Special thanks to WaterAid for leading the project in Bangladesh and connecting the networks for sharing best practices and learning.

Zobair Hasan, Director, DORP
Project Briefing

The main objective of Watershed program (2016-2020) is to strengthen capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to advocate and lobby in the interrelated fields of IWRM and WASH to ensure equity and social inclusion, as well as sustainable usage of water resources. It will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal for universal access to water and sanitation services and water security (SDG6) by making the voices of citizens heard and strengthening governance and accountability. The Watershed programme is implemented in Bangladesh to improve governance for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and integrated water resource management (IWRM) so that all citizens, including the most marginalised, can benefit from sustainable services. The immediate goal is to enhance citizens’ ability to obtain information so that civil society organisations (CSOs) can advocate for change based on reliable, accurate data. In order for WASH/IWRM to become more inclusive, grounded in local context and sustainable in the long run, a model of civic engagement is needed that is: a) organised and vocal about the challenges and demands of marginalised communities; and b) capacitated to participate in state-society dialogues and processes related to WASH and IWRM.

2016-2020

Project locations

The working approach of Watershed Bangladesh demands intervention at two levels: one at the national level where policy influencing, coordination and dialogue are done with stakeholders of larger interest and impact, the other is at local level where capacity of CSOs are built and support is given to construct lobby and advocacy to influence the local government and policies, including budget at the local level.

WaterAid Bangladesh works at national level with stakeholders to improve and influence policies through coordinated actions in the sector.

The field level implementation is done in two sub-districts (Upazillas): Bhola Sadar and Rampati. The intervention in Bhola Sadar has started since the first year of the project while in Rampati it started in the year 2019. The Bhola Sadar Upazilla comes under Bhola district and Barisal division while Rampati Upazilla comes under Laxmipur district and Dinajpur division. Both these sub-districts are located in the coastal zone of Bangladesh and vulnerable to extreme climatic conditions such as cyclones, tidal surge and salinity.
Lobby and Advocacy

The main component of Watershed is lobby and advocacy to be done by CSO after their capacity strengthened where DORP coached them to do these with duty bearers. There are lots of achievements at ground realized during harvesting outcomes since 2017. Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions. Advocacy includes activities and publications to influence public policy, laws and budgets by using facts, their relationships, the media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public. Advocacy can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research. In the social and economic development context the aims of advocacy are to create or change policies, laws, regulations, distribution of resources or other decisions that affect people’s lives and to ensure that such decisions lead to implementation. You need a clear lobby and advocacy action plan to be able to work strategically and to divide responsibilities and tasks within your network or coalition. Identify lobby and advocacy activities and messengers that may influence those in power. In order to accurately plan your lobby and advocacy activities, make sure you take into account the timing, procedures and budget cycles at the appropriate decision-making level.
Learning and sharing meeting with all stakeholders relevant to WASH and IWRM at Bhola.
Lobby and Advocacy
for ensuring sustainable WASH services which is the main approach of Watershed Program and to do that DBRP coached the Water Management Citizen Committee (WMCC), a local CSO for strengthening their capacity.

Civil Society Organization demands more WASH budget

Mohammed Zohair Hossen

It is understood that compared to the restructuring of 7 ponds and the budget allocation and the infrastructural and availability of water and sanitation, it is very necessary to increase investment in the sector. Local government and related service providers need to be urged to be more active in this matter. SDG cannot be easily achieved, must be done.

Media coverage
for awareness among stakeholder and mass people on WASH services and Budgets.
WASH service monitoring tools

was shared with CSO at Dhaka jointly organized by IRC, WaterAid and DEEP.

CSO members and government service providers at Dhaka participated in a consensus meeting.
Introduction

Existing budgeting systems of MAM is fragmented through different ministries, divisions, and regions, leading to the lack of a comprehensive and unified budget. Despite the existence of the Ministry of财位, Land, and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Public Health, there is no unified system for budgeting. In addition, the budget is not transparent and lacks accountability. The lack of budgeting is a significant challenge in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set by the government. The current budgeting system needs to be improved to ensure better planning and its execution at a national level.

BUDGETING

The government's budgeting process is the execution of the legal framework outlined in the constitutional and legal provisions. It is crucial to ensure that the budget is aligned with the national vision and objectives. The process involves the allocation of resources to achieve the developmental objectives of the country. The budgeting process should be transparent, participatory, and inclusive, ensuring that the views of all stakeholders are heard. The budget should be prepared by the Ministry of Finance and submitted to the National Assembly for approval. The Government of Bangladesh has been working on improving the budgeting system to ensure better planning and execution at the national level.

Responsible Departments for Budgeting:

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for preparing the budget and ensuring its execution. Other relevant ministries and departments, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Land, are also responsible for budgeting. The Ministry of Finance, in coordination with other departments, ensures that the budgeting process is transparent and aligned with national priorities.

Radio campaign during Covid-19 pandemic at Bhalo and adjacent areas.
Pro-people wash budget: A sustainable development agenda

Published: Dhaka, 31 February 2018 at 12:00 AM

Abdulrahman Gafur, Jaman

Introduction

Pro-people budget process is to ensure the inclusion of the rights of the people in the budgetary process. The pro-people budget process is to be carried out in a participatory manner. The process is to be carried out in a participatory manner. The process is to be carried out in a participatory manner.

Budgeting

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Petition submission to service providers by the CSO members along with implementing and consortium partners at Bhalia.
Observed Global Hand Washing day in 2018.

Women speaking in the coaching session on lobby and advocacy at Bholia with CSO reflecting voices are being listened.

Sustainable WASH services are very much dependent on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) where various stakeholder are involved.
WASH and IWRM

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and IWRM depend on each other. To ensure a sustainable supply of good water quality drinking water for all, water sources should be properly managed. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems". WASH is an acronym that stands for "water, sanitation and hygiene". Universal, affordable and sustainable access to WASH is a key public health issue within international development and is the focus of Sustainable Development Goal 6. There are three major obstacles to Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services are:

1. Firstly, the lack of understanding of proper water resource management.
2. Secondly, operationalize the policy and strategy at ground though improved coordination among relevant stakeholder.
3. Freshwater ecosystems risk pollution from untreated wastewater and degradation by overexploitation of ground water.

DORP has worked at Bhoia and Rampati Upazilla on these issues through communicating with stakeholders and try to improve the coordination among them where Water Management Citizen Committee (WMCC) played the main role.
Changes are visible in WASH practices by excluded people at Bhola with improved services.

WASH Desk set up at one Union of Bhola Sadar Upazila to connect the disconnects between supply side and demand side in WASH sector.

We can see the situation before and after of Watershed being implemented.
Women are happy to fetch water from nearby tube well which installed by DPHE.
Social mapping during Corona crisis as a service monitoring tool.

Canal re-excavation by Municipality and BWDB @ Bhoia Sadar Upazila.

Union IWFM committee meeting at Rampati.

Canal water is being polluted by waste which should be addressed by Department of Environment and local administration.
Climate change is affecting rivers and canals at coastal regions of Bangladesh which can be addressed by IWRM.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is working on embankment strengthening to protect river erosion.

Pond re-excavated by Department for Public Health Engineering (DPHE) at Bhoa Sadar Upazilla.
Observed International Wetlands Day at Bhola with relevant stakeholders.

Training on WASH service monitoring tools at Bhola with CSO by WaterAid and IRC organized by DORP.

River erosion is a common problem for coastal regions, especially at Bhola as an island.
unveiled the booklet "Pani Vandana" on easy version of water rules under water act at Bhuja by Shri. Badrinarayan Singh, Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
Municipality of Ramgarh installed a public toilet with separate chamber for women.

UPIE installed hand washing devices at various public places at Bhole and Ramgarh to address the corona pandemic.
পানি বিধিমালা
সহযোগী পথ
Implementation of Water Security Plan

at Union level supported by local government departments.

Budget Tracking

The intention of budget tracking is to ensure that public resources reach their intended beneficiaries and that the funds are well spent, bringing value for money. It can be initiated by governments or by civil society, and can operate at a national, provincial, state or local level. WASH & IWRM Budget tracking is a process which helps to visualize the ground reality and to see how budget is allocated and utilized at Union Parishad in order to improve the WASH & IWRM situation. It can ensure budget for most marginalized people thus giving access to WASH services by all leaving no one behind which is the goal of watershed program. By implementing activities properly under budget tracking process can push for more resource availability at Union Parishad and Upazila level departments who are responsible for providing services on WASH and IWRM. There are three major obstacles to appropriate budget tracking are:

1. Getting access to information can sometimes be problematic.
2. Local authorities might view budget tracking teams as adversaries.
3. Following up on the findings of budget tracking is often the hardest and most crucial part.

DORP has tried to address these issues through engaging community people and CSOs by organizing Open Budget Dialogues, Pre-budget dialogues, wall painting, standing committee activation, campaign, etc.
CSO at Bhola and Ramgati organized Pre-budget and facilitated Open budget dialogue at Union Parishads which has been scaled up in other Unions by Upazila Parishad.

Bhola is prone to natural disaster every year like cyclone, river erosion, high tide flush flood etc.
National newspapers are focusing peoples needs on WASH through writings and publishing news.
A book was published with stories of water from notable writers in 2019 at Dhaka.

TV Talk Show’s organized with eminent persons working in WASH and IWRM sector.

Enabling environment for accountability mechanism is very important to improve the system on WASH services. Pre-budget and Open budget dialogues at Union (lowest tier of local government) level as well as citizen scoring are part of the mechanism.
human chain demanding more budget allocation and expenditure for 90.58 at Upazila level.
7m still go without safe water in BD, says WHO-UNICEF report

Financial Express

Accountability mechanisms and documentation

A

For advocacy and stakeholders
Gender and Social Inclusion

Inequality between women and men of different categories persists, thus social inclusion is crucial in water management and in all projects. Women and girls are responsible for water in the house, both in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. In case a WASH committee is formed, women need to be in the leading positions. Often women’s names are included, but they are not invited in the meetings or they are not listened to. Their true participation needs to be ensured. It is often seen that the poorest categories, widows, who live alone, cannot afford anything for tube-wells or toilets, because they have no income at all. Sanitation and hygiene topics are usually taboo subjects to discuss. One is not supposed to talk openly about issues of defecating, urinating, menstruation, pregnancy, etc. thus neglecting the importance for health of all. DORP is trying to break this taboo in a decent way, using acceptable words, which respect dignity of women and men and everyone. The CSO at Bholia and Rampati have included women, disable, landless, daily labor, Dalit, nomadic people along with teacher, journalist, ex-government officials and journalist to be a reflection of all community people representation.

“After the installation of the tube well everyone told me that because of you we have got the tube well. People said: so many people tried before but couldn’t do it. After you became the member of the CSO, we could get a tube well. Because of you we are able to access clean and safe drinking water”

“Citizens who know how to speak up can realize change, We empower citizens”
- Dutch Government
Capacity of CSOs have been improved through coaching for effective lobby and advocacy where inclusion of marginalized people is equally important to share their voice by themselves.

Coaching on Gender and Inclusion with the learning from Simavi and GWA throughout the implementation period.

Submitting petition to DPHE by the CSO considering need of women and include them in the decision making process.
Court-yard meeting on Gender and Inclusion at Ramgati with community people.

Advocacy meeting with BWDB on IWRM organized by CSO at Bhola

People living on boats are most excluded in the society who also face challenges in natural disasters.
NGO network meetings happened for evidence based lobby and advocacy on WASH and IWRM both at local and national level.

Consultation meeting at national level on WASH and IWRM with relevant government and non-government stakeholders.
WSSCC annual grassroots meeting held at Bhola in 2017

Coaching and training by GWA at Bhola with CSO and NGO Network members on Gender and Inclusion

Word meeting at Union level at Bhola with Community people were women were encouraged to join and share their demand on WASH.

Inclusion is an integral part of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) so that no one is left behind.
Solution to drinking water crisis in coastal areas

The coastal areas of Bangladesh face a severe drinking water crisis due to a combination of factors such as rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and climate change. The government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been working tirelessly to address this issue, but progress has been slow due to various challenges.

In this context, the Daily Sun newspaper has reported on a groundbreaking initiative in Cox’s Bazar, a coastal district in Bangladesh. The local government has introduced a comprehensive approach to tackle the drinking water crisis by implementing a water conservation and management strategy.

The initiative includes the following key components:

1. **Water Conservation**: People are encouraged to use water-saving devices and practices to reduce the demand for fresh water.
2. **Water Harvesting**: Rooftop rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in schools, offices, and households to collect and store rainwater.
3. **Water Efficiency Programs**: Public awareness campaigns are conducted to educate people about water conservation and efficiency.
4. **Support to NGOs**: The government has allocated funds to support NGOs in their efforts to provide clean drinking water to the affected communities.

These measures have not only helped in providing clean drinking water to the affected areas but have also highlighted the need for a sustainable approach to water management in coastal regions.

The Daily Sun article also emphasizes the importance of community involvement in addressing the water crisis. It highlights how the local community has been actively participating in the efforts to tackle the issue, demonstrating the power of collective action in overcoming challenges.

This initiative serves as a model for other coastal areas in Bangladesh and beyond, showing that with the right strategies and community engagement, it is possible to make significant strides in addressing the drinking water crisis.
fetching water during covid-19 pandemic at Bholaa.

Awareness on Covid-19 and Waters Security Plan implementation at Bholaa.

Court-yard meeting on Gender and Inclusion along with needs of disables people at Bholaa.

Union WASH standing committee meeting happening bi-monthly at Bholaa and Ramgati.
Increasingly citizens are getting the opportunity to get involved in the decision-making process of WASH service delivery at Upazila (sub-district) level. Almost 15% budget for WASH from Annual Development Programme (ADP) is a commitment from Local Government Division (LGD) of Government of Bangladesh which is an opportunity for CSOs to explore and influence local authority to ensure those allocations for poor and marginalized. This guidance has been given through the Pro-poor strategy of Bangladesh.

The community demand on WASH-related issues was shared with Upazila Parishad via petitions organized by CSOs. Thus, bottom-up and systematic lobbying was done through budget tracking initiatives in Bangladesh. The issues related to equity, gender and social inclusion cannot be addressed without involving and engaging local communities as well as CSOs.

Through budget tracking, CSOs were able to achieve the following positive outcomes:

- Increased budget allocation in unions due to lobby and advocacy of CSOs. The use of the WASH budget monitoring tool led to 13-15% increase in the annual budget at the Union Parishad level. The findings demonstrate that gender and social inclusion in budget monitoring lead to increase in WASH allocations for socially excluded groups if it includes processes that increase participation and access to information for socially excluded people.
- Budget is now open to all, thereby, increased accountability and transparency among duty bearers.
- Helped in mobilizing the community and ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders such as service providers, public representatives, and right holders.
- Addressing SDOs-68 (support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management) by which localizing SDG is ensured.
- Helpful to link local with national issues. Leaving No One Behind is a global as well as national commitment, using the Budget Tracking tool, we can check on the ground the follow up to the governmental UNO agenda.

We will continue to demand people’s participation in the budgeting process and create an enabling environment for CSOs to mobilize Local Government to establish inclusive accountability mechanisms to ensure that budgets are fully utilized for the intended purpose, efficiently spent and accounted.

Article Published 2020: Sanitation and Water for All
Watershed project has been ended with all global partners in 2020
And closed with launching ceremony namely Legacy Campaign.