



Watershed
empowering citizens

Report

Gender and Inclusion Coaching Visit to Bhola



Gender and Water Alliance- Bangladesh
15-19 August 2017

Hs 14A, Rd 2/2, Banani, 1212 Dhaka,
swandipta.sadique@gwapb.org; khadiza.akter@gwapb.org; jokemuylwijk@chello.nl.

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Introduction

The overall task of GWA-B in the Watershed project is the capacity building of the first level CSOs in the area of Inclusion and Gender. In this phase of the project the targeted CSO is Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), and to some extent also WaterAid. It is the task of DORP to build capacity of the CSOs at the grassroots level. In this phase these are the Water Management Citizen's Committee (WMCC) and the NGO Platform in Bhola island. For GWA to know how to strengthen the capacity of DORP for coaching and training the Bhola CSOs, it is needed to have information about the people, the CSOs, the selected villages, the men and women villagers, their problems and their skills. While reviewing secondary data, water policies, and the observations made and information collected during the previous field visit, we felt the need to conduct another field visit to the island to gather additional information. This was planned in combination with coaching sessions for the CSOs, in order to assess their level of understanding of gender and inclusion. This second field visit to Bhola was made from 16-19 August. It included the coaching of two groups of CSOs, Focal Group Discussions (FGD) in the villages, some inquiries and transect walks, some data collection, and a debriefing at the end of our visit to explain our findings and initial analysis.

General notes and findings

The coaching session of the CSOs was facilitated in English, with simultaneous translation into Bangla by the local GWA facilitators so as to ensure that participating CSOs understood the content of the session. The facilitators also translated participants' comments and questions into English for Joke – the main coach – and her response was again translated into Bangla. In this way GWA tried to ensure that the participants were not limited by their knowledge of English to participate and benefit from the coaching.

What struck us was the eagerness and interest of the CSOs to learn about the Watershed programme's activities, guided by their interest to use the information for the benefit of their local community and their respective advocacy activities. However, we observed that while the NGO Platform consists of rather educated people, the Water Management Citizen's Committee includes both influential and educated as well as mostly local men and some women with little education and power. The creation of both these forums was initiated through the Watershed programme with the objective of giving citizens a voice in their local planning and policies. The different levels in the WMCC has large advantage, because those who are powerful will have to meet with and listen to those who are most marginal. It also has a disadvantage, because it is difficult for the uneducated people to speak freely with influential men at the head of the table. In conclusion, GWA thinks that while separate platforms may help a more open and inclusive brainstorming of needs and interests by different groups, it is essential that equal weight is given to the outcomes of different platforms. Moreover there needs to be more tolerance and respect between members of the CSOs to allow everyone to speak freely and fully. The GWA team observed that the same questions from us received different answers and information from the two CSO platforms, signaling a lack of sharing

of knowledge and information between different groups. The more influential people have a much more optimistic picture of the overall access to safe water and improved sanitation of the population of Bhola, than the marginal groups have.

From our field visit, inquiries and FGDs in Bhola, it appears that ground water extraction is not a matter of concern. In fact, most of the local agriculture relies on surface water. The government stakeholders tend to focus on the fact that there are too many tube wells in the area however secondary data suggests that ground water extraction amount is under 2%. So, we might need to consider and understand why the government duty bearers are worried about this usage.

The next part of this report describes the activities of the 3 day visit to Bhola, including the field visit inquiries and coaching sessions with the two CSO platforms.

Please see Annex 1 for the Programme Schedule

Day 1: 16th August Coaching of Group 1 CSO- The NGO Network

Facilitator: Joke Muylwijk

Translator: Swandipta Sadique

Reporter: Khadiza Akter



The number of participants in the first CSO coaching session was 25, of which 4 were from DORP (4 men), 17 from CSO (7 , 10 men, and 4 from GWA (3 women, 1 man).

Partha S K from DORP opened the meeting and asked Mr. Taher, chairperson of the Citizens Committee to share the experiences of his CSO group. Mr. Taher talked about the work his group had been carrying out in Bhola on water and sanitation over the last eight months. Initially they had chosen two Unions: Dhania and Vedia due to their poor water and sanitation facilities. The CSO group has made an improved separate budget for WASH in these two unions, a task in which they were helped by Development Organization of the Rural Poor (DORP). The budget was published in the form of a booklet. The CSO group also constituted an Upazila WASH committee, of which DORP

is also a member. Because of lobbying done by the WASH committee, BWDB has undertaken the work of constructing an embankment in the bank of the Meghna river. DPHE has also committed to carry out some work. The CSO group has contacted Bhola Sadar Union and enlisted their support. DORP, together with Family Planning Department, also provided sanitary napkins to a local girls' school. This initiative was an eye-opener for the villagers, who learned important facts about menstrual hygiene, and appreciated the group's activities. Mr Taher concluded his talk saying "This is only the beginning phase of the programme. Our work will spread in different dimensions."

After Mr. Taher, Mr. Amir Khasro, from DORP briefly talked about DORP's involvement in the Watershed programme. DORP was established in 1989 and has mainly been working in lobbying and advocacy for the rights of poor and marginalized women and men since then. . One initiative of DORP named 'Shwapno Package' has been adopted by the national government. One of the main activities of the Watershed programme is related to building the capacity of CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively for the human right to water and sanitation and the reduction of inequalities in access to WASH/IWRM services, and this aligns well with DORP's mission. In Bhola, DORP is working to increase the government's budget allocation for water and sanitation services. Mr Khasro concluded his talk saying "We will try to ensure equal participation of both men and women for decision making so that these CSO committees will be able to continue their work competently when this programme ends."



Partha S K then briefly clarified the purpose of the coaching session explaining that three organizations from Bangladesh are partnering for capacity building activities within the Watershed programme which are DORP, GWA-Bangladesh and WaterAid. Today GWA will facilitate the coaching session on the subject of Gender and Inclusion in an interactive and participatory style. This style

expects your active participation in the session to be fruitful and generate mutual understanding and consensus about your major concerns and priorities in water and sanitation.

After this introduction Joke Muylwijk of GWA started the session expressing her happiness to be in Bhola for the first time. She felt proud to see all of them together in the same platform. She informed participants that the core of the project is to "leave no one behind". Everybody should have equal access to safe water and sanitation. She explained that the coaching session would be divided into three parts. These were: 1) Explanation and discussion on the gender aspects of water 2)

Explanation and discussion on the gender aspects of sanitation and 3) an Interactive Discussion round where participants can share questions, opinions, ideas and concerns.

Gender aspects of water

Though Bhola has more than 30 NGOs, not all of them are working with water. Drinking water supply is getting scarce in the world while the population is increasing. If we think of all the water in the world being contained in a bathtub, then only one spoon of this water is available for people to use, for all the needs, for rivers, and also for agriculture.

If we look at Bangladesh, there is a lot of fresh water but 96% is used for agriculture and only 4% for other uses. The agricultural sector's water use is even demanding a share from this 4%. So, if we are interested to have water for drinking and sanitation, we have to make a strong commitment to Integrated Water Resource Management. Otherwise, one day there will be no water for drinking and sanitation. Joke questioned participants that if water becomes scarce, who suffers most?

Participants' responses were:

- People especially poor and marginalized people
- Crops
- Animals
- Trees etc.

There is a lot of rain in Bangladesh but still not enough fresh water everywhere, all the year round. In the Northern part, people are using a lot of water for agriculture. Consequently, wells are getting dry, and the households suffer. This is one reason why we need to apply IWRM.

After collecting participants responses Joke drew a pie chart showing the water use in Bangladesh.

The chart illustrated that 96% of usable/fresh water in the country is used for agriculture, 2% for drinking and domestic purposes, and other 2% for industries.

She said that because of this scarcity of water, everybody suffers but some people suffer more. These include the very poor, minority groups (religious, ethnic), disabled people, elderly and women, who cannot move freely or talk to others. Now in Bangladesh, there is a very good Water Act and a



National Water Resources Policy. Joke asked participants whether they knew about the preferential uses of water mentioned in the Act. None of them knew it. She informed them about the eight priorities for water use (in order) as outlined by the Act:

1. Drinking (highest priority)
2. Household
Agriculture
Aquaculture
5. Ecosystem
6. Wildlife
7. River
Industry
9. Sanitary control
10. Power generation
11. Amusement
12. Other purposes

She also added that in practice the government makes the final decisions on water management, allocation and use. She emphasized the high quality of the Water Act, and that it is clear that drinking water comes first. Some questions followed:

Question: who is taking care of drinking water mostly?

Participants' Answer: women.

Question: who is taking care of domestic water mostly?

Participants' Answer: women

Question: who is more interested in agriculture/aquaculture?

Participants' Answer: 25% women and 75% men.

Question: who is more interested in forest, animals, river and sea?

Participants' Answer: both men and women equally.

Question: who is more interested in small and larger enterprises and industry?

Participants' Answer: 5% women and 95% men.

Joke then explained that while drinking water is the first priority, 96% water is used for agriculture. On the other hand, women are responsible for drinking water and water for domestic uses. So if drinking water is not available, women suffer most, but eventually men, children and the entire household, community suffers.

Comparing the two lists, women are mostly involved in the water with the highest priority, but with the smallest percentage of use. And considering decision-making by men, this is a tricky situation.

Water pollution further reduces people's access to safe drinking water. Participants were asked who pollutes water and who suffers the most from water pollution? Participants replied that we all pollute water but poor people suffer the most from water pollution. Participants were then asked to list some ways we pollute water. Participants replied that we pollute water by throwing waste from different sources into the canal, river, sea and other water sources. That waste then slowly gets towards the sea, polluting and the oceans. We often know which companies are polluting water, but

still buy products from them. She advised participants to exercise their consumer rights in a more socially conscious way.

Participants were asked about the local sources of water for drinking in Bhola. Participants replied that more than 90% people collect drinking water from deep tube-well. In Bhola, the ground aquifer is very good. Good quality water is available at 50-60 feet depth but people still dig too deep - 900-950 feet for deep tube-well (DTW). People who have no access to nearby ponds install shallow tube-wells but they do not use that water for drinking or agriculture. In char¹ areas there are not enough deep tube-wells, so they drink river water, which tends to get saline in the dry season. Though in Bhola Sadar there is no salinity in the water, in char areas people who use river water, face water salinity for one to one and a half month in a year. In these months they resort to drinking water from ponds, leading often to the spread of water borne diseases. This scenario is very common in Tazumuddin Upazila of Bhola district. One participant observed that upazilas which are close to the sea face increasing salinity. 24 villages of Manpura and Tazumuddin Upazila have recorded increased salinity in their groundwater from January to April. Another participant added that because of climate change Bhola is suffering a lot. A lot of wild animals and birds are also suffering.

From the discussion, the main issues related to water availability and use in Bhola is summarized as follows:

- 90% people can easily access safe drinking water but 10% people who are living in the island cannot access safe drinking water easily.
- There is no arsenic contamination of groundwater,
- but some areas face a salinity problem during a few months
- A number of tube-wells and ponds are available.
- For drinking water people mainly use water from deep tube-wells (DTW)
- For domestic uses people use pond water.
- People who collect drinking water from DTWs have no problem
- Those who collect water from ponds or rivers face problems, especially from January to April.

The facilitator then emphasized a characteristic of inclusion: **leave no one behind**, giving an example: May be among 20 persons only 2 persons suffer but as an inclusive group we have to think about those 2 persons. May be we are among the lucky 18 persons with no problem, but we have to use our advantage to lobby and advocate for the rights of the 2 disadvantaged persons.

She noted an important point about the DTWs i.e. they are not equitably distributed. Influential people have easier access to DTWs while poor people do not. Consequently, poor people - especially poor women suffer the most; they have to go far away to fetch water. In response to this observation, Mr. Taher informed participants that 1300 deep tube-wells have been sanctioned for 13 union of Bhola and all the existing deep tube-wells are good. No tube-well has been damaged. He said that people are not informed about the provisions for drinking water in the national Water Act, but they will try to make people in Veduria and Dhania unions more aware about this. This part of the

¹ River islands in Bangladesh formed from sediment deposits, a 'by-product' of the hydro-morphological dynamics of its rivers.

session was concluded with the statement **“Water is our right. We cannot live without water. So we need to be aware about it”**.

Gender aspects of sanitation

Joke began this part of the session mentioning the most current international agenda for development – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

SDG 1, no more poverty

SDG 2 Food Security for all

SDG 5 Equality between women and men

SDG 6: safe water and improved sanitation for all.

It is particularly this SDG 6 which aims to ensure safe water and sanitation for all by 2030. She asked participants to estimate the approximate percentage of people having access to sanitation in Bhola. Participants' were of the opinion that in Bhola sadar, 95% of the residents could access sanitation. However, the situation is much worse for those who live in more remote and at-risk areas. To explain the term 'safe sanitation' to the participants Mr. Khasro asked them whether they know about 'hygienic latrines'. He said it is important to know this before answering the question on access to sanitation. He explained that a hygienic latrine has some criteria. These are:

- Availability of enough water
- With a 2 pit system
- Without any bad smell
- Protected from insects
- With a proper drainage system etc.

After his explanation participants replied that in Bhola sadar around 20% people are under safe sanitation. At village level it is much less and in whole Bhola it is may not be more than 10%. Despite these low figures for safe sanitation coverage, the situation ten years before was much worse. Then Joke asked for participants' opinion on what they thought are the main concerns in sanitation for women, men, children and others. The responses are summarized below:

- In the village, a toilet is usually 5-10 meter away from a house, which is more problematic for women than for men.
- In the town, women have access to a toilet within their house or very close to the house, but in the village this is not yet the case. As a result especially pregnant women suffer.
- In the village, almost every house has a toilet inside for women. These toilets are kept clean most of the time. Also there are toilets for the community, which are used by men only. These toilets are not always cleaned properly.
- In every Upazilla, there is a cluster village for those who lost their land, and in every cluster village, there is 1 toilet for 20 families. This heavy use of one common latrine creates problems for women.
- In the cluster village, toilets are very far from some houses. As a result it is difficult for some women and elderly to go there at night.

- Public toilets are always dirty. Nobody is responsible for cleaning it and it breaks down very quickly.
- Usually women (70%-80% of the time) clean the toilets but some men also clean them. Usually men clean the toilet which is outside the homestead.
- Pregnant women and old people face severe problems regarding access to adequate toilets.

After this discussion, participants were asked if they knew of any work on advocacy for sanitation in Bhola. Monnan, from DORP, replied that DORP is advocating to increase the allocation of budget for sanitation in the Union Parishad (UP) budget; to include women in the budget committee; to install separate toilets for boys and girls in the school; to install public toilet in public transport routes, and so on. Joke asked about the success of their advocacy work, to which Monnan replied that they had achieved some success and some demands are on their way to being met. For example, the budget allocation for sanitation in the UP's budget has been increased; the UP has included women in the committee; they organized an advocacy campaign on school sanitation; now people who have no latrine near their house are getting an allocation to install latrine.

Next, participants were asked what happened if there are no separate toilets for girls and boys in the school. Mr. Taher replied that during menstruation girls do not go to school because of not having proper toilet facilities for them. So the government has planned to set up separate girls' toilet in every school with facilities for menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Another participant added that sometimes there is a toilet but it is not clean. So girls do not use that and that has a harmful effect on their health. Another participant commented that sometimes there is no water supply in the toilet. So when the toilet becomes dirty nobody uses it anymore. Joke added that sometimes toilets are clean but locked. They are only opened when important people visit.

Regarding sanitation facilities for disabled people, Joke noted that this topic is rarely discussed. Not only do physically disabled people suffer a lot from this, but also mentally challenged people. Even among the disabled, women face the biggest problems. One participant shared that in many local villages, toilets are constructed on a high platform to protect it from the damage during flood. Consequently elderly people face problems in accessing them. Also the low pan/vessel facilities set up by many villagers at home, for urgent toilet needs, are not suitable for them. Then Joke asked participants why they don't arrange a high pan toilet for their elderly relatives. Participants replied that installing a high pan/commode is expensive. It was observed that this is a matter of priorities: if one can buy a mobile or even a smart phone, why could they not buy a high pan for their old family member. Then Mr. Taher remarked that in the market a plastic chair with pan is available, which is not very costly. Poor people can easily buy that for old people.

Discussion round

Joke started the discussion with two questions:

Do you think it is important to consider the priorities of marginalized people in IWRM and sanitation,

even though they may form a minority²; and

Do you think about men, women, disabled and other groups of people separately when you carry out lobbying and advocacy work?

In response to her questions participants reply was that they do consider the needs of marginalize people and also of different groups of people.

All participants were then asked to give their feedback on the Watershed programme and the coaching session, in an interactive round. Their response is summarized below:

- We are proud that the Watershed programme will work in Bhola on water and sanitation.
- We were not aware about gender issues and had not given them much importance. Today we learned a lot about it and we will use it in our work.
- The situation of sanitation in Bhola is very bad. We need real support to improve it.
- Today we learned about safe sanitation and also understand how poor our sanitation services are. So we have to pay special attention to this issue.
- For balanced allocation of tube-wells and sanitary latrines, both NGO's and Government's attention is required.
- Many people do not know how to use the toilet properly. So educational institutions and the UP should engage in hygiene promotion activities. Also people should pay attention to this learning.
- Today we realised how gender issues are interconnected with water and sanitation.
- Today we have learned why it is needed to take account of everybody's issues, especially people who are excluded.
- When there are problems with water and sanitation women suffer more than men. Government and NGOs should pay attention to this.
- Our society neglects the needs and interests of women and children. Until we can ensure a women-friendly environment, there will be no real development.
- This workshop generated learning for us. We will share our knowledge with the people who could not join this workshop.
- We aim for equal distribution of safe water and sanitation facilities for men and women, poor and rich. We will convey this message to the higher authorities.
- Separate toilet for men and women, boys and girls is needed everywhere.
- Raising people's awareness on safe and adequate water and sanitation services is very much needed in the rural areas.

Joke concluded the discussion round, thanking everybody for their participation. She informed participants that the next day's programme includes a second coaching session with other CSO members, followed by a field visit to meet poor, minority and disabled people, and a debriefing session. All participants are welcome to the debriefing session.

² This refers to the earlier example where out of 20 people, only 2 people face a problem in a situation

Field visit: After lunch, the GWA Team visited Tulatuli village in Donia union to conduct some inquiries with local women and men about their experience of local water and sanitation facilities. This location was along the Meghna River, where fisher people, and those who lost land to the river live on both sides of the embankment.

Another village: After this village visit, the team also visited a village of Veduria union named Baro Tarik where it was extremely water-logged. Some tube wells were not functional, but most are.



Figure Waterlogging in the village



Very young mothers

Inquiry³: local woman

Location: her house

Name: Shahida Begum

Age: 25

Address: Tulatuli, Donia, Bhola

Reporter: Swandipta Sadique

Shahida Begum is a 24 year old woman who considers herself a home maker. However, she also generates some income through selling eggs and sewing *tupi* (caps). She has got three chickens and with these chickens she gets eggs to sell in the market. She does not go to the market to sell them because it is not the custom of this area that women go to the market on their own. She lives beside the riverbank and this space is rented by her husband. Her father in law's home is quite nearby. Her husband inherited a portion of land in that area from his father. Yet, they chose to live here because her husband finds it easy for his profession as a fisherman.

At the time of the interview, her husband wasn't there in Bhola. He migrates seasonally to Dhaka to work as a rickshaw puller when the fishing season is closed. Though that rule is meant to protect hilsa, also other fish can then not be caught. Generally, he does not send money home when he is away. So to survive this period she borrows money from her father in law, or borrows food from the neighbor, which she pays back in kind when her husband returns.

They are indebted. They took a loan to build the house they live in. Her husband generally pays back the instalments of the debt. When he is not available, she pays the debt off with the income she gets from sewing *tupi*. It takes 10 days for her to make a *tupi* embroidery and she gets 300 taka for each *tupi*. Her husband got this contract for her. Borrowing and repayment of loans are entirely decided by her husband. Even the household income and expenditure is decided by her husband. When he is not at home, she gets to make some more decisions on these matters, but her father in law is there



to monitor, and the husband keeps checking over the phone. So, she really lacks decision making power even when she earns money and pays the debt incurred by the household. She always carries water from the tube well nearby. It takes two to three minutes for her to fetch water to home. She fetches water thrice a day generally. The water is being used for cooking and drinking. For other domestic needs she uses river water since she lives very close to the river. She is the only one responsible for fetching water.

³ An inquiry is an interview technique, in which people are encouraged to say what they want to say, and are not limited by prefixed questions

When she is sick, her sister comes over to her place and does the household work. Her husband does not do any household work or fetch water. In fact, it is considered shameful for men to fetch water. She said that, “it is not the custom of our community for men to fetch water. It’s not that my husband does not want to do it when I am really sick. But, he is really ashamed to do so.”

She is well aware of the fact that the water of the tube well she fetches is arsenic free. Her husband does not do agricultural work. However, her father in law works in other people’s land as a farmer in high-season, and she knows that the irrigation takes place from the river water. If not river, pond water is being used. The ground water is not being used for agricultural crops. The tidal surge is a common thing within the area and especially people who live at the river bank suffer the most from it. A woman who tried to rear livestock lost them because of tidal surges. During the rainy season, a tidal surge poses a greater threat to life and property. So, before the rainy season, her husband sells the chickens and ducks that she reared, in the market. The money earned from selling them is owned by her husband and spent by her husband. She does not get to decide on this and she is okay with this. She thinks this is the custom and rule that wives should abide by their husbands, and that it is good for the betterment of society. She has got ring slab toilet near the house. The tidal surge washes away the toilet generally. When the house toilet gets destroyed, she goes to her brother’s place. Her father and brother’s house is nearby and so she can go there any time. The toilet is not being cleaned on a regular basis. So, generally, no one cleans the toilet. In terms of setting up and cutting it, her husband does that. The only sustainable sanitary toilet in the river bank is adjacent to the mosque and women are not to use that. That is for the people who go to the mosque to say prayers (mostly men).

She said that her husband and in laws are careful about her health. When she was pregnant, her mother in law used to take her to local health care center for regular checkups. She also received hygiene management training from an NGO and she knows how to keep the house clean and use soap before eating and after toilet. She taught her daughter about it. When she was asked whether or not she faces any trouble during menstruation due to the fact that household toilet is not sustainable and clean, she said that her menstruation is generally off since she is taking birth control pills all year, without interruption. When she used to have menstruation, she used to use sanitary napkins. Her daughter is 6 years old and she goes to school. She thinks that if her husband would have had regular income that would have been easy for her to manage the house. Now, she wants to get rid of their household debt in the first place because it is difficult for her to repay the debt with the income from *tupi* embroidery and selling eggs.

If there is a warning call of disaster, they get to know from the people in the area. Also, the mosque disseminates the information through public loudspeakers. There is a school nearby which would be used as cyclone shelter though she did not need to go there after SIDR. In times of SIDR, she wasn’t even married and didn’t live at the riverbank. She got married at the age of 16. Her daughter was born when she was 17. She thinks that her husband pays heed to her household decisions about their daughter. She thinks that her daughter should be educated enough so that she can earn her own money someday, like the city women.

Polygamy is not very acute within the community. We can hardly find men who have more than one wife. The practice of dowry is quite prevalent in the area. Almost all the marriages require dowry. Violence against women is also common. In particular, dowry-related violence is a common scenario.

Inquiry: elderly woman

Name: Bakul Begum

Age: 55

Occupation: Begging

Address: Tulatuli, Dhonia, Bhola.

Reporter: Khadiza Akter

She lives against the embankment, at the side of the river.

Bakul Begum is a widow. Her husband died about 30 years ago. Though she has 2 sons and 4 daughters, she begs and lives alone. Once her husband owned a house and enough land to farm, but the river eroded all their land. Now she lives for free on someone else's land on the bank of the river Meghna. Every 15 days during spring tide (kotal) her house becomes inundated by river water. Her sons are also too poor to help her. They do fishing in the river. They only catch Hilsa. So when Hilsa fishing is banned for some time, they face unemployment. They also live on leased land for which



they have to give an amount to the land lord on a monthly basis.

Bakul Begum is very much dependent on her earning through begging to live on. If she does not get enough money or rice, she has to starve. Very often she cannot eat three times in a day. During monsoon she faces a lot of trouble because she cannot go out much for begging. Although she tries to grow some vegetables in her yard,

they get damaged due to water logging during spring tide. She has two hens which lay eggs. Usually she eat those eggs. She has tried to get chicks from the eggs but has lost them because of the high river water. .

Bakul Begum collects drinking water from the deep tube-well (DTW) near her house. That DTW was installed around thirty years ago but the water quality is still very good. There is no arsenic, salinity, iron or dust in the water. The taste of it is also very good. Most importantly, safe water is available all year round. For other purposes like bathing, washing, cleaning etc. she uses river water and pond water both. However, she likes to use pond water most because it is clearer than river water and dust free. She does not have a pond near her house, so she has to go to her neighbour's pond to use pond water, which is not easy as the pond owner's family do not like her to use their pond. Consequently, she uses river water. To use the river water, especially to bathe, she waits for the time when there are no or very few men on the bank.

According to Bakul Begum, Dhania Union of Bhola district has no water salinity or arsenic contamination in the water. Ponds are also clean. Though some ponds are used for aquaculture, people do not use 'poison' (chemical fertilizers, pesticides) in the pond. She agreed that canal water has become dirty because of throwing of waste in it, linking all the drains and bathing cattle; but she also thinks that because of the tide, the waste floats away and the water become good again. She says that all the people of Dhania Union use canal water for irrigation. They pump it and through narrow drains they supply it to the fields. It does not cause any problem to the villagers. No people use tube-well water for agriculture. Generally rice, dal, sweet potato, chili are cultivated, and except rice no other crops need much water.

There is no toilet in Bakul Begum's house. Once she made a toilet but that got destroyed by the springtide. Then she could not afford to make a new one again. Presently she is suffering a lot for not having a toilet in her house. She has to defecate in open spaces. She uses the open space behind the bush beside her house to urinate, and she does not think that it is bad. Usually she waits for the night to defecate, but in urgent need she goes to her neighbor's toilet. She says the owners of the toilet do not like that she uses their toilet. They ask her "do you clean our toilet? So why do you use it?". She has no response to this question and always remains silent. She does not like to clean their toilet because she does not use it regularly. Bakul says she is often ill and finds it very difficult to go to the neighbour's toilet during these times. She then uses nearby open spaces. From the interview it appears she is not very aware about hygienic practices. She has heard that it is good to wear shoes when going to the toilet, and to wash hands after using the toilet as well as before touching food, but she does not practice this behaviour regularly. Sometimes she uses ash and sometimes soil to clean her hand. She does not think that because of not washing her hand with soap she could suffer from diarrhea or other diseases. She says "If that were the case, then I would have to go to the doctor every day."

Apart from the problems she faces with accessing safe water and sanitation, she has problems with accessing health care facilities. Although the community health care center is near her house the doctor is not always available. She has visited the community health care center often, and feels that the quality of the treatment is not good. Being a poor old women she thinks she should be entitled to a monthly allowance from the government and free health treatment. She opines "Government and rich people should help poor and elderly people for surviving".

Along with riverbank erosion, Bhola district's people are vulnerable to floods, cyclones, tidal surges etc. according to Bakul Begum. However, the good thing is that for any severe disaster they have access to an early warning system. Warnings about oncoming disasters are announced by loudspeakers in local public spaces. There is also a very good cyclone shelter in Dhonia union. However, Bakul Begum does not go to the cyclone shelter all the time. She also mentioned that rich people who have strong brick houses do not go to the cyclone shelter. Only poor people go to the cyclone shelter. During a severe disaster that cyclone shelter is not big enough to accommodate many people and often, really vulnerable women and men cannot find any space there. Though that

cyclone shelter has very good facilities, like a separate place for men and women, as well as water and sanitation facilities; when a lot of people come, facilities suffer from poor maintenance. Generally after any disaster men access humanitarian relief packages and funds. Women's access to this relief is limited due to the purdah custom. Bakul Begum did not get any relief ever.

Bakul Begum informed that the percentage of women working outside Bhola district is very low. She herself has never worked outside. Many men migrate out of Bhola to find work in the lean season, especially as many have lost their main livelihood due to disasters and riverbank erosion.. Women also do not go to the market regularly for shopping. They occasionally go to buy some personal things for themselves, and to the doctor, especially with their children. Usually women go to the market in the evening with proper veiling, and in the company of their male relative. Regarding this Bakul Begum says, "Bhola's people are very concerned about women's purdah. Why should women go to the market? Market is a man's place. Men do everything related to market."

Even though she is living alone, she does not go to the market for her own needs. She gives the money to her sons and sometimes to her neighbouring men to buy her necessary things from the market.

Bakul Begum sees equal number of boys and girls going to school in Bhola. However, the number of women who own land is still very low. Usually men are the head of the family and decide about important issues. In some situations they discuss things with women in their family, however mostly women have very limited decision making power. . Bakul Begum feels that she is empowered. She can do what she wants, go where she wants, without needing to seek permission from a man. But for any important issue, she follows what her sons say. Her sons also seek her counsel for any important decision they need to make. She feels good that everybody respects her in the village, though she is a poor widow.

Inquiry: elderly man

Name: Abul Kasem Pathan

Sex: male

Age: 80

Occupation: Farmer

Education: able to write his name

Address: Dhania union, Bhola

Reporter: Khadiza Akter

Abul Kasem Pathan has three sons and three daughters. All of them are married and have children. He was a rich farmer. His father had a lot of agricultural land and he inherited that. Most of that land has been eroded now by



the river Meghna. However, he still has a good area of land which is used for agriculture. Presently he is not rich like before, but well-off. He also has some gardens of betel nut, coconut and some other fruits. Because of his reduced physical ability, he does not work in the field anymore, and leaves this work to his sons. They mainly cultivate rice in the field, two times in a year. They also produce dal and chili. He still tends to the vegetable gardens regularly.

His family faces no problem year-round, regarding water, sanitation or food. In his homestead there is a shallow tube-well for washing, cleaning and all other work, except drinking or cooking. There is also a deep tube-well (DTW) very near to his house. Mainly female members of his family collect water for drinking and other uses. All the members of his family bathe in the pond. They have no contamination from arsenic, salinity or iron in the water. Though the DTW from which they collect drinking water is more than thirty years old, it still yields very good quality water. His sons use canal water for irrigation in the field. He thinks that using canal and river water for irrigation is the best idea and not harmful for the water bodies. He mentions that people often wash their cows in the canal, thereby polluting it. However this is not a problem as high tide washes away the dirty water.

According to Abul Kasem Pathan, access to sanitation rather than water is a problem in Bhola,. In his house, there are two tin sheds with a ring-slab latrine. One is outside the house for use by men, and one is close to the house for use by both men and women. Generally the outside toilet is cleaned by men and the inside one is cleaned by women around three times in a month.

Abul Kasem Pathan informed that women of Bhola usually do not work outside, so also not his female family members. But women help in agricultural work which is home-based. Women also rear livestock and poultry as well as do kitchen gardening. The income from those sources goes to women and they use that for family purposes. Sometimes they also give some money to their husbands and children.

As Abul Kasem Pathan is now too old, he is not the head of the house. His sons are now head of the household. They make major decisions but often seek his counsel. He feels much respected in his family and village. Whenever there is a *salish* (village court) in the village, people call him. He likes to do his own work, spend time in the market, and with his grandchild. He hopes that the government and NGOs will do something to stop riverbank erosion.

Day 2, 17 August 2017:

Coaching of Group 2 CSO- Citizen's Committee

Facilitator: Joke Muylwijk

Translator: Khadiza Akter

Reporter: Swandipta Sadique

Note: not all the participants were from the Water Management Citizen's Committee. Since there was space for more participants we encouraged some local residents to join the session to allow for more inclusivity and diversity, and some more women came.

Introduction

Khosru opened the second day coaching session with some advice for the participants. He explained that DORP aims to help poor people to help themselves better. He told participants that they know their problems better than any other, so if they do not discuss their needs and priorities openly, there will be no solution at the end of the day. The facilitator's /DORP's work is to help you discuss your problems and know how to seek support for them through lobbying and advocacy. He reminded participants that the political leaders and influential people often get support that is meant for disadvantaged people. So, certainly the services are not distributed properly. He concluded his talk saying "You know a lot about your area. You know about your rights. Now you will need to talk and ensure this for yourself".

Partha added that coaching is not the end, but a method to help participants learn to identify and solve their own problem. Eventually when NGO and project support finishes, it is important for the CSOs to lobby and advocate effectively to ensure the rights of the local people.



After this opening by DORP, Joke began the coaching session with the note that the Watershed programme focuses on the theme "leaving no one behind". She added that the aim of the coaching session is to facilitate participants so they can represent all the people in the local area in their lobbying and advocacy work, especially women, children, elderly, disabled and other marginalized people.

Drinking Water

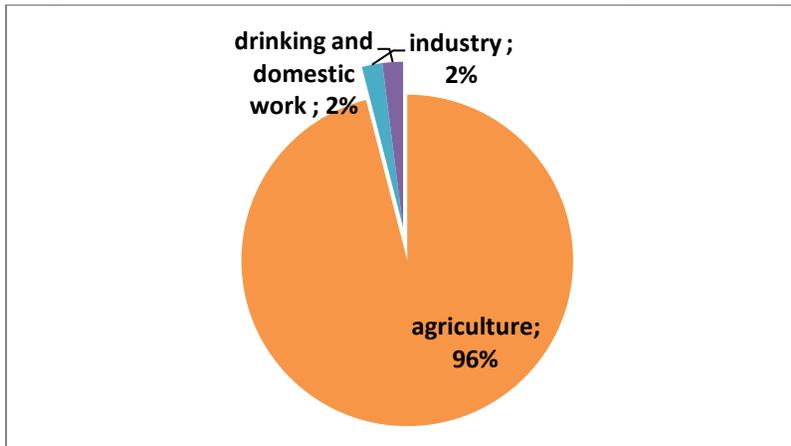
Participants were asked: Who needs water?

Participants' responses were:

we all need water; rich and poor people need water; women need water; animals, trees, everything needs water; we need water to grow crops; we need water for aquaculture work; we cannot live without water.

Agreeing with this last statement, Joke pointed out that although Bangladesh has so much water and gets plenty of rain, there are still people in this country who suffer from drought. In fact research

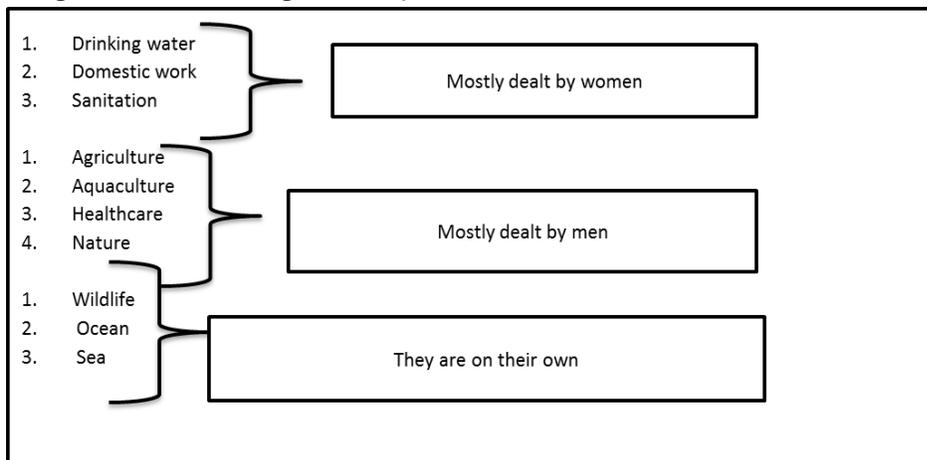
states that in the north and west side of the country, people go through 7 months of drought. People in other countries cannot believe that drought can be a problem in Bangladesh.



She showed participants a pie chart of water use in Bangladesh where 96% of the water is being used for agriculture. 2% is being used in industries and 2% is used for drinking and domestic work. So we see that agriculture is the biggest user of potable water. Since mostly men make the decisions and own resources from agriculture, and most policymakers are men; little attention is paid to that 2% of water usage which is managed by women. If agriculture keeps extracting ground water to this extent, one day we might not have any water to drink. It is good to hear that in Bhola irrigation is only with surface water, never with groundwater.

It is time we put emphasis on the drinking and domestic water sector, with the participation of women who are its primary task-bearers, as this ultimately determines the wellbeing of the entire society and nation. Participants were informed about the National Water Act of Bangladesh which prioritizes certain water uses, and recognizes the importance of water for drinking and domestic use.

Diagram depicting the priority of water usage given to sectors in the National Water Act of Bangladesh, and their gender aspects



Participants were then asked about the drinking water sources in their area:

Tube well: In towns, women get tap water from home or communal stand points, and boil the water for household drinking. This water is also used for domestic chores. In the villages, women use tube well water for drinking and cooking. For other domestic chores like cleaning, they rely on pond water. Women living beside the river bank use river water for these activities. The nomadic woman said she cannot always get access to tube well water since they live on boats. When she does get access she collects tube well water twice a day. Sometimes, the family has no choice but to drink river water purified with *fitkiri* or bleaching powder. Often, she feels ashamed while collecting water because other women mock her for being a nomad.

They were also asked how much time it takes them to fetch water. They replied that this depends on the area of residence. The town women do not have to fetch water at all since they get it from the tap. In villages, women fetch water from the tube well which might not be very time consuming because tube wells are available throughout the villages. However, women of a cluster village may need to spend half an hour to fetch drinking water. The nomadic women find it even more difficult to access tube well water, and even have to drink river water sometimes, as they face ridicule from the other villagers for being nomadic. The local Imam said that he always fetches water even if it is not common for men to do this work. He does this 5-6 times a day and it takes 5 minutes to fetch water each time. He does this because he doesn't like the fact that women in his family go outside the house.

Coming back to the problem of inequality in water allocation and usage between agriculture and the other sectors, participants were asked how the issue should be resolved. Participants' responses are briefly summarized below:

- In important decision making, there is a need of 50% participation of women.
- Women should decide on water use since they are responsible for drinking water for the household, for cooking and cleaning and all the domestic work associated with water. Also they play an important role in homestead aquaculture work (pond fishing).
- We all need water. If there is a situation where there might not be water to drink, it is time we focus on women. In fact everyone needs water. So we have to ensure that.
- Women need more water in day to day life since they deal with all household activities. So it is important for them to be part of the decision making process.
- I don't mind if men fetch water. If they do that, there would be more availability of drinking water resources. Since men do not fetch water they don't understand the hardship of collecting water from faraway places.
- What if both men and women do agricultural work? Will that make any difference?
- Women should take part in 70% of decision making in the water sector.

Sanitation

Joke told participants that they had heard from the NGO Network that 90% of the households in Bhola have a sanitation facility close to their house. Do they agree with this?

Participants replied that not even 50% had this kind of access.

One of the participants noted that although the municipality has guidelines to distribute sanitation services for all residents in the area, often things get sanctioned which are not allocated equally. Mostly the influential people get it all. In east Ilisha, there are several tube wells near one single house. But in the cluster village, it is difficult to find a tube well for even 10 houses.

A major issue is toilets getting submerged when there is tidal surge, as this not only damages the toilet, it also causes water contamination and spread of water-borne diseases. When questioned about their sanitation facilities, participants answered most of them have ring slab toilets.

They do not appear to have a clear idea about improved sanitation. So, Khosru from DORP explained the criteria that makes a toilet hygienic (availability of water, no stink, protected from insects, twin pit latrine, and good drainage system) He explained that a ring slab toilet on its own is not an improved toilet until it fulfills the other criteria. It is important to be aware of this when lobbying and advocacy in terms of getting access to improved sanitary facilities.

Joke then asked the participants if they knew about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and it was found that hardly anyone had heard about it. She explained, in simple terms, that the SDGs aim to make the whole world perfect in terms of development. There will be no poverty, no hunger, equality among all people, and like these there are 17 goals, each with specific targets. And we have to achieve these goals by 2030 which is a big challenge for most countries. She explained that there is a specific SDG 6 on safe water and sanitation for all.

Clarifying the concept of 'inclusivity' to the participants, Joke explained that although, as a CSO, they probably represent 20% of their community, it is essential that they lobby and advocate for the rights of 100 % of their community. They must make sure that no one is left behind, whether they are men, women, children, adolescent boys-girls, disabled men-women, elderly men-women, marginalized men-women, the third gender people etc. All these groups have differences in their needs and interests which must be discussed and integrated in their lobbying and advocacy activities. All participants were asked their opinion, and one man of the most marginal group rightly commented that the problem of no toilet is much more uncomfortable for women than for men. One of the participants remarked that women are often house-bound due to their responsibilities and customs, and go through different situation than men (pregnancy, menstruation). So, they have a need of a separate toilet.

Answers of participants about sanitation:

- For the wellbeing of the family and nature
- The toilet has to be clean
- We must be aware and make others aware
- For us, in de river, for men it is OK not to have a toilet, but women face a big problem
- The imam: I will push to have toilets for river nomads
- Fish-aquaculturalist: I have separate toilets for the workers
- Doctor: wash hands
- Yoghurt-maker: separate shoes for toilet and outside, separate toilets for women and men. Don't go to the toilet on bare feet.
- For all our wellbeing: clean toilets.

Joke added that disabled people, both men and women have different needs. Also the elderly people suffer a lot when the sanitary systems are not healthy. They have special needs in terms of sanitation.

Important issues of inclusion, mentioned by the participants:

- Needs of pregnant women and disabled persons
- Everybody needs a toilet
- Old people are more comfortable with a high commode, whilst for young people a low one is fine.
- New mothers also need a high commode, and close to the house.
- The toilet is dangerous at night for women
- In schools girls and boys need separate entrances to the toilets, and not right next to each other.

So as a CSO, we need to ensure a facility where we can address these different needs considering the situation. For example, if you don't have a high commode or low ring slab toilet, you might buy a chair-toilet for an elderly relative, so that it becomes easier for him/her to use the toilet. The nomadic women can hardly have access to a separate toilet because they live on the boat. When the nomadic woman participant started talking about her access to toilet, many of the participants were tempted to laugh. At this point the facilitator pointed out that respect and understanding of others is an essential part of being inclusive. Our situation may be different from others in the community, but one still needs to listen and understand other's problems in a serious and respectful way, and include it in the lobbying and advocacy work.

Mr Taher illustrated this point clearly saying "I have got 5 toilets in my house. I use a high commode and I certainly don't represent the majority of the people. But whenever I do lobbying and advocacy, I must take into consideration those people who do not have the access to water and sanitation". On this note Joke concluded the session and thanked everyone for their active participation in it.

Field Visit: After lunch we visited another village of another union named Baro Tarikh to make some observations of the water and sanitation situation there, and speak with the inhabitants.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD): Men residents of Baro Tarikh village

Location: in a school room

Facilitators:

1. Joke
2. Swandipta
3. Khadiza
4. Partha
5. Shakeel
6. Khosru
7. Torun
8. Mannan

9. Woman member of the Union Parishad

Participants, selected by DORP, to represent many different professions and crafts

1. Jakir Hossain
2. Mamun -job holder
3. Shah Alam -shop keeper
4. Babul -farmer
5. Nijamuddin - village doctor

6. Rashid -fisherman
7. Abbas Ali -mechanic
8. Mustafa -farmer
9. Mijan -tailor
10. Abu -timber business
11. Shamshu -fish businessman
12. Kamal Hossain -fish businessman
13. Salam -business man
14. Jamal -carpenter
15. Kalu Mia -fisher man
16. Nijam -rickshaw puller
17. Jalem -farmer
18. Mintu –farmer

After introducing our group to the men, Partha from DORP, briefly talked about the Watershed programme to the men, mentioning the open budget in the Union Parishad where many of the respondents participated. He encouraged everyone to participate actively in the FGD and put forward their concerns openly.

When the men were asked who needs water, they said that everybody needs water and everything requires water. From drinking, cooking, cleaning, taking a bath, to agricultural and industrial work - we need water for it all. Even the trees need water. They think that the quantity of the water in the area has increased, however the quality



has decreased. The tube wells are providing discoloured water day by day and tube well the water is not useable. Especially after the month of June, the quality of water in several tube wells deteriorates. They feel that the tidal surge, flood, water logging in the area are actually causing these problems. They have tested the water for arsenic tube wellbut the results came out negative.



The problem is the water colour and the bad taste. They also think that due to the increase in population these days the number of the tube wells is increasing, thus the water crisis and problems are increasing day by day. Earlier the tube wells used to be 1000-1200 feet deep. Now they are only 800-900 feet deep. Also the tube wells with inferior water quality have only been tested for arsenic contamination. Maybe other tests are required in

order to locate the problem. In fact, in this village, about a quarter of the 400 tube wells are providing low quality water. Firstly when the tube well starts providing low quality water, the water is unusable, and then the Tube well becomes unfunctional because it is not used regularly. Once that happens it stays like that forever.

Generally women fetch water for the household. Men usually do not fetch water, but they say that they sometimes do. Especially when the tube wells are far away and women are sick, men fetch water for the household. There are some men who do not like their women relatives to go out of the house, and in those cases they fetch the water for the household. Men who do agricultural work do the irrigation through pumping water from the river or canal. Generally they require three months of irrigation. They don't have any idea how much water they are using for irrigation, but confirm that the ground water is not used for irrigation.

All the respondents would like to have a sanitary latrine but it is not affordable for all. All the participants have access to a toilet which is built for their household use. These are mostly ring slab toilets. Poor people, who do not have this ring slab, cover an area with cloth, plastic or sacking material in order to use that place as toilet. Mostly this arrangement is made for women. Men often defecate in public. The people face severe problems when the toilets are submerged under water because of the tidal surge. This also increases the expenditure of toilet management. In some cases even the sanitary latrines are not sustainable enough to survive the surges. In terms of menstrual hygiene management men said that poor women use cloth. The women of well-off families use sanitary napkin. All the men in this group said that they clean toilets twice a week, and that both men and women do this. (The woman UP member contradicts this). In terms of household washing, cleaning, domestic work, women are solely responsible for these tasks because men have to work to earn money. However, they claimed that in special cases when women are not at home, or visiting their parental home, or are sick; they do some household work. Men collect fuel for cooking. They said that women generally do not go out to do that.

The major occupations in this area are fishing, agricultural work, business, doing service etc. Most of the people here are Muslim. In fact there are 22000 voters in the union among which only 42 are Hindu. Generally Hindu people work as barber, cobbler, sweet maker etc. Some Hindu men work as a farmer but there are very few in number. Almost all the women do homestead gardening for household food security. However, the tidal surge makes it difficult for them to grow vegetables in the yard all around the year. Even when women do contribute to the household income by livestock rearing, *tupi* and *kantha* stitching etc., men sell the products and keep the money. Also men are the major decision makers in the family.

They feel that their main problem is the tidal surge. Once, their major problem used to be river erosion. In fact, among the respondents, more than half lost their land and houses 5-7 time due to river erosion. Almost everyone has experienced river erosion. Now, because of the tidal surge they are also losing houses, livestock etc. The toilets break during the tidal surge and the congested water becomes polluted. During the period of tidal surge, flood, water logging they are more prone to be affected by diarrhea and skin diseases. The pond water also gets polluted and fishes in it die.

During this situation, the price of necessary product likes rice, vegetable etc. also increases. They think women suffer more. . The embankments are in urgent need of being repaired and elevated to reduce these problems. Also sufficient sluice gates and culverts are needed so that the water does not stagnate and can flow away. Though men do work to earn their living, it was found that they still have some leisure time every day which they spend in the market place. Also, when there is no work in certain seasons, they spend time idling. On the contrary, they agreed, women do not have holidays and they have to work every single day.

We also visited the **Union Parishad Centre** and found the impressive budget sharing work supported by DORP. It was painted on the wall of the Union Parishad so that everybody can view it.



In Bhola Sadar, just outside the town, is the **school for disabled children Bhola’s Children**. We visited this school, where there is also the location of DORP’s office. This is a clean and friendly environment where the children of different ages and backgrounds are happy and safe. The building is colourful, the toilets are sanitary and clean, the dormitory rooms for boys and girls are in separate buildings. They have a cow, and grow vegetables and fruits. The school is owned by an NGO who is also member of the NGO Network. When the children get older, the NGO takes care that they are admitted in good schools of their level, in Dhaka.

Day 3, 18 August 2017

FGD: Women residents of Baro Tarikh village

Location: Outside, at the steps of the pukur

Facilitators:

1. Joke
2. Swandipta
3. Khadiza

Participants:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nasreen Akter – Home maker 2. Shirin Akter- Home maker 3. Nazma- Home maker 4. Tasnur- Home maker 5. Yasnur- Home maker 6. Momotaz- Home maker 7. Julekha- Home maker 8. Yasmin- Home maker | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Nazma- Home maker 10. Rahima- Home maker 11. Ruma- Home maker 12. Rina- Home maker 13. Dipu- Home maker 14. Kohinur- Home maker 15. Shahnur - Home maker 16. Nazma - Home maker 17. Shirin - Home maker <p>And 7 more.</p> |
|---|---|

Because it is outside, various men come and listen, but they are politely asked to take distance.

Khadiza gave an introduction to the participants about the Watershed programme. From the FGD we got to know that women need more water. At the very beginning of the day they need water. Women think that the water logging situation in the area is actually contaminating tube well water.



Maybe for this reason some tube wells cannot provide them with clear and drinkable water. They are not really sure about the reason for which water of other tube wells is being contaminated. Women of the village participating in the FGD said they do not have to fetch water from a long distance. It takes them a maximum of 5 minutes to fetch water from the tube well. On the other hand, other women

who live in the cluster village, also participating, have to spend half an hour for fetching water. They fetch water 3-4 times a day. The water they collect from the tube well is good and tested. The particular tube well they use is 45 years old. When it gets damaged it is fixed by the owner. During the time the tube well is damaged, women have to fetch water from other tube wells which are not much further(except for the cluster village women who spend even more time fetching water). Everybody can fetch water and there is no obstacle in this river. The tube well water is used for drinking and cooking, and pond water is used for other domestic tasks. Sometimes, women in the cluster village use pond water to drink and cook also. During the dry season the pond water gets contaminated.

Most of them have a ring slab toilet. Very few have a sanitary toilet. In the cluster village the sanitation problem is very acute. There are two toilets for 20 families. These toilets are submerged most of the year, and are not clean. Yet the women in the cluster village use these toilets as they have no alternatives. Some women in the cluster village even require ten minutes to get to the toilet. For more than half the respondents it takes a maximum of five minutes to get to the toilet. However this still makes it difficult for them to use the toilet at night.

Generally women clean the toilet, but sometimes men do as well. Women find that men here are more responsible than in other places. Most women return home by evening. At night they may have to go to the toilet. So far there has not been any evidence of molestation or harassment of women

by men. Women think that men who are well-off sometimes do household work. However women are solely responsible for fetching water. Even women in the cluster village do this job alone. Men hardly fetch water. This is Dania union, ward number 4. Men here generally do business, fishing, agricultural work and rickshaw pulling. Women generally do household work only, however some work with their husbands in agriculture and aquaculture. They all agree that they hardly have decision making power over income expenditure. Some men migrate seasonally and when they do so, women generally manage the household. Surface water is always used for agricultural work of the area.

Women mention as a big problem that there is no employment for them at all, and for the children, when finishing school there also is no work. Another problem is that all of the women have debts with NGOs. They suffer mentally a lot from this situation.

Informal discussion with a religious minority group

Location: Baro Tarikh Village, Veduriya Union.

Facilitator: Joke Muylwijk

Translator: Swandipta Sadique

Reporter: Khadiza Akter



According to the participants of different sessions, ninety percent of the population in Bhola, is Muslim. Except Muslims, only some Hindu families are in Bhola, but there are no other religions. Therefore, the Hindu community is counted as a religious minority here. The main purpose of the informal discussion with some Hindu women and men was to

understand how, being a member of a religious minority, affects women and men's access to water and sanitation. Their responses made it clear that though they are a minority in number, they do not feel like a minority. Actually they have no problems because of being a religious minority in Dhanias Upazilla. They all have very good relationships with their Muslim neighbours, and face no problem to share ponds and tube-wells with them. In fact, compared to Muslim families, they are better off in many ways. A number of good deep tube-wells are available within their village. Therefore, no family needs to go far away to collect water. They also have ponds close to every house. There is no problem of arsenic, salinity or anything else with the water. Every house has a sanitary latrine. Some of them have sanitary latrine within their house for women, children and old people, with water services. Though mostly women clean the toilet, men also clean many times. They never

DORP: Shaakeel Hasan
Partha S.K.
Md. Amir Khasro
Abdul Mannan
Torun Kanti Dash

Reporter: Joke Muylwijk

After three days in the two unions in Bhola - Dhania and Bheduria, we organised a Debriefing session for DORP, especially for the local staff in Bhola, and invited the CSOs which came to the coaching sessions earlier. It was a Friday (weekend holiday), so the meeting was informal, nobody was obliged to attend.

Joke read her notes and Khadiza translated it, adding details for clarification. The second part of the debriefing was the open discussion, which was translated by Swandipta.

We are happy to see you all here at this session in which we will briefly inform you about our findings of the two coaching sessions, the Focus Group Discussions (FGD), one for men and one for women, of some inquiries and interviews, as well as some observations.

The two days coaching sessions were both interesting and gave different perceptions on the local situation in water and sanitation. ***In general, influential people are more optimistic*** when asked about the coverage by drinking water points and the distance to walk. Also about access to improved sanitation.

The information got from the two Focus Group Discussions, one for men, and one for women⁴ was also quite different. One interesting point was that ***all men said that they cleaned the toilets, whilst the group of women reported that in the whole village maybe 2 or 3 men would perhaps sometimes clean a toilet.***

Here follow the findings following the subjects:

Drinking water:

Overall villagers and respondents were of the opinion that the quality of drinking water of the deep tube-wells is fine: no arsenic, no salinity, no iron, and there are also no dry tube-wells. This is very positive, but there is a problem for very poor women that the tube-wells are too far away. Some of the poor categories are not allowed to tap water more than one time a day, one pitcher or one bottle. This is used only for drinking. For all other purposes, such as cooking, cleaning, bathing, they have to use surface or pond-water.

Sanitation:

⁴ All participants were selected by DORP to include different occupations

The sanitation situation is poor everywhere in the two unions: the latrines are *katcha*⁵, and with the rains and waterlogging during monsoon, they overflow and spread the faecal sludge everywhere. Many people have no toilets. Due to lack of privacy women often wait to go out in the night. Some say that they have to walk 10 minutes, during which time they are scared of falling, insect and snake bites, and physical and sexual harassment by men.

Agriculture and landownership:

Most irrigation is applied during three dry months a year, and the water for this is pumped from the rivers and/ or ponds (no groundwater). Many people have no land. Women have no land titles, but many try to grow vegetables close to the house, in their backyards. Those who lost their land to the rivers are many, not just to the Meghna, all rivers are eroding and moving. These people are often resettled in a cluster village where they have a very small patch of land, just for their house.

Protection from floods, erosion:

The team was alarmed to see very low, weak and vulnerable embankments as protection against massive and mighty rivers.

Issues of Men:

1. River Erosion and poor quality embankments: all have been replaced a number of time.
2. Every 15 days, with high water tidal surge (spring tide), everything gets flooded. Together with the rain this results in waterlogging, fish flowing away, ponds spoiled. There is an urgent need for a proper drainage system.
3. Bad sanitation facilities which are not adapted to the water situation, from which women suffer most. A good latrine can be built, but it is difficult to manage the overflowing sludge..
4. The poorest face the biggest problems: These are the elderly and widows which constitute about 500 of 20,000 people.
5. Some tube-wells have smelly water, but it is not understood why. When they stop using them, they become unusable and get blocked.

Issues of Women:

1. River erosion, weak embankments: The women explain how scared they are that they may break and a large area will be swallowed up.
2. Poor Sanitation: very faraway toilets to go to in the night, it is scary. When the toilets overflow there are many diseases.
3. Not to have an own bari (house), but to have to live on somebody else's land.
4. Debts: All are indebted by loans borrowed from NGOs in their name which are, however, handed over to their husbands.
5. Unemployment of Youth, and also of women.
6. For drinking water the poor, elderly and widows often have to walk far.

As positive they mentioned: fresh air, no pollution, fruits and trees, good healthcare, and hilsa.

⁵ Temporary and unstable structures made of clay, mud, plastic etc., and with no sanitary waste disposal system

Diversity: Leave no-one behind:

Muslims:

The majority of the people are Muslim, some are poor, but most are able to care for themselves, even though they are all indebted.

Hindus:

The number is small. The Hindu people we spoke to were happy, relatively well-off, well-educated, had proper access to water, toilets close by and were not scared of the flood.

Disabled people:

Most disabled people are begging in and around their own villages. They have no adapted toilets anywhere. We saw a relatively large number of young children that are disabled, mainly mentally. Some children are lucky if they get a place in the “Bangla Children”, a home and school for disabled children in Bhola. The NGO that runs it is one of the members of NGO Network.

Elderly:

The old people are often very poor, unless taken care of by their children. Fetching drinking water is a major problem for them: water points are far away and the work is heavy for people who have a problem to walk. Most would like to use a high commode, but they are were told not to be available.

Youth:

Many young people are unemployed. In general there is a serious lack of employment opportunities. This is a dangerous situation. Few try to get away, but need a loan to do so, which indebts their mothers even more. It is also not easy to find work in Dhaka when coming from a village in the South.

Women:

Women are mostly unemployed, but bear the major burden of domestic tasks as mothers and housewives, which leaves them little time for income earning activities. They spend quite some time fetching water, and walking to toilets.

Fisher people:

Most of them are living below the embankment, on either side - areas most at risk of flooding and eroding. They have access to very few tube-wells and hardly any toilets, which are all *katcha*.

River-nomads:

Bede (the nomadic people) are also fisher people, but they live on their boats, having no access to land at all. Some may have a reasonable income during monsoon when there is enough fish. They have no access to schools, and they are not allowed to take more than one pitcher of water from tube wells. They are only allowed to use the hanging toilets. On the boats especially the women suffer most from lack of adequate and safe water and sanitation facilities.



Recommendations:

- The Water Management Citizen’s Committee face a huge challenge to function as a unit. One of the reasons for this is the variety of different categories of its members, which vary from influential to extremely poor and marginalized – all with different needs and interests. Another reason is the hierarchical and patriarchal culture (all over Bangladesh) which on one hand makes it difficult for the influential members to listen to the women and the poor and to take them seriously, and on the other hand, constrains disadvantaged groups from speaking up and/or freely.
We found that the poorer or less influential categories have important information and also good ideas. So the WMCC members who play a role in in advocacy need to learn to listen better to them.
- Two unions is not a large area, so it is suggested to include one more union with different and perhaps bigger water-problems.
- Training or coaching in the subject of Gender and Inclusion is needed for the Government agencies in Bhola.
- Awareness raising, coaching and training is required on different subjects for different groups of participants:
 - SDGs, gender and water
 - WASH in schools, including Menstrual Hygiene Management
 - Collecting, using and processing GDDs (Gender disaggregated data)
 - Rights of all citizens in Bangladesh, government rules, policies and inclusion
 - Follow-up Inclusion and Gender: practical approaches and recommendations.
 - Sanitation Technology in the context of waterlogging, and adapted to different users. The toilets that will be approved following the definition of the SDGs.
- Some other issues that need to be given due attention:
 - Strengthening of the embankments
 - Women and men who lose land need proper and equal compensation
 - River nomads and other fisher people need tube-wells and toilets around the shore on the embankments.

Discussion:

Because we are late for the launch, the discussion was short.

Points that were raised (in brief):

- There is need for training in sanitation technology adapted to the situation and the users.
- A major problem in Bhola is the high amount demanded in dowries. There are many women who were married, but the husbands demanded more dowry, so they are now at their parental home, hidden and ostracized by their community.
- Can we give more attention to menstruation management?
- It is difficult to get information from the grassroots level.

GWA is thanked by DORP for the learning experience and by Mr. Abu Taher, the president of the WMCC.

We thank DORP for enabling us to do the work, so much in only three days, and all participants for their time, cooperation, contribution and attention.

Annex-1: Programme schedule

Day 0 Tuesday 15 August National Mourning Day			
Time	Activity	location	Who organises it?
Evening 7.00	Sadarghat Board on Launch to Bhola (arrive well in time!)		Shakil/ Swandipta
Day 1 Wednesday 16 August			
7.00 morning	Arrive in Bhola and go to the hotel Crystal Inn		Shakil/ Swandipta
9.00	Meet with the team of DORP, who has arranged the venue for the coaching event, and for the CSOs to be present.		
9.30 – 12.30	Coaching Group 1 of CSOs <u>Summarised the crucial themes for the coaching are:</u> Scarcity of water: different uses Division of work related to water Different interests of women and men, of vulnerable groups GoB water policy Leave no one behind Time use of women and men on average days Key issues you need to know for advocacy, to convince politicians and decision-makers		
12.30 – 1.00	Some individual talks		
1.00-2.00	Lunch		
2.30 – 5.00	Transect walk through rural village, asking some people if they are willing to sit with us for some time for inquiries to talk about their access to safe water and improved sanitation, their position and need for other water (agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, cattle keeping, small enterprise, etc.) See Checklist		
5.00-6.30	If time allows, drive around the area with a car or on a van, to get an impression of the landscape, the infrastructure, the available water sources, the erosion of the riverbank, the economic activities, the crops they grow, the sweet or saline ghers, etc.		
6.30 or 7.00 pm	Back in Hotel Reviewing the day, Making notes and reports Planning for tomorrow		
Day 2 Thursday 17 August			

9.00	Reach the venue for the coaching event to get things ready, meet with the DORP team to arrange anything necessary at this point in time.		
9.30 – 12.30	Coaching Group 2 of CSOs See list of key subjects		
12.30 -1.00	Some individual talks		
1.00-2.00	Lunch		
2.30 – 3.30	Focus Group Discussion (FGD) of men (different categories) About 12 – 17 men See Checklist		
3.30 5.30	Inquiries with 4-6 people of different categories		
5.30	Back to Hotel Reviewing the day, Making notes and reports Planning for tomorrow		
Day 3 Friday 18 August			
9.00	Make sure the women are ready for the FGD		
9.30 – 11.00	FGD of women of different categories See checklist		
11.00– 12.30	Some more individual Inquiries		
12.30-2 pm	Lunch and prayer		
2.30-4.00	Some inquiries with minorities, fisher-people, disabled, etc.		
4.00	Prepare for debriefing		
5-6	Debriefing with DORP and those of CBO Network and WMCC who are interested. They are all invited.		
7.00 pm	Board on the Launch to Dhaka		
Day 4 Saturday 19 August			
7.00 am	Expected to arrive in Old Dhaka, Sadarghat.		

Annex-2: List of participants

Watershed, Bhola DORP

Coaching on Inclusion & Gender to CSO

Venue-Star Garden Chinese Hotel & Restaurant, Bhola.

Date-August 16, 2017.

Sl #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
01.	শ্রী. লজ্জা হোসেন	সহকারী	পাটাই জেলা	০১৭৫৪৪২৩	Jewel
02.	সুপ্রভা কান্তার লেখা	সহায়	সহকারী. চি. অনার্স/সে	০১৭১১৫১৫৫	S. S. S.
03.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা আরাফাত	সহায়	বিমান	০১৭১৬-২৭৩৩৭৭	S. S. S.
04.	শ্রী. এম. সুলতানা	সহায়	১৩০/১৩০	০১৭১৬০০৩৩৫৭	S. S. S.
05.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	সহকারী. চি. অনার্স/সে	০১৭১১১৭৪৩৩৪	S. S. S.
06.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহকারী (সহকারী)	DORP	০১৭১২০৭৫৭	S. S. S.
07.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	সহকারী	০১৭১৮২১৭৭	S. S. S.
08.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	সহকারী. চি. অনার্স/সে	০১৭১১১২৬৫১	S. S. S.
09.	শ্রী. সুলতানা	"	BCS 13	০১৭১২২৮৭৪৭	S. S. S.
10.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	"	"	০১৭১৩০২৭৫৫৫	S. S. S.

Watershed, Bhola DORP

Coaching on Inclusion & Gender to CSO

Venue-Star Garden Chinese Hotel & Restaurant, Bhola.

Date-August 16, 2017.

Sl #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
11.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	BASA	০১৭১৭-৪৫০০১৪	Niranku
12.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	D. BKS	০১৭১৮৩৫২৪৭০	S. S. S.
13.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহায়	DNSKS	০১৭২৪০২০৪০১	Haban
14.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহকারী	বিভাগ	০১৭১৫৫৪৬৩৩৬	S. S. S.
15.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	Advisor	GNA	০১৭৪ ৩৪০০৭৬৩	S. S. S.
16.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহকারী	GWA	০১৬৪১৫৩২২৯৬	Khadija
17.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহকারী	DORP	০১৭৫২৬৪৭২২৪	S. S. S.
18.	Pathan SK	P.C. (M)	DORP	০১৭১১২৪৪১১৬	S. S. S.
19.	Amitabha Aree	সহকারী	Jugalok PTV Bhola	০১৭১১৬২৬৭২	S. S. S.
20.	Hosina Begum	সহকারী	সহকারী	০১৭২৭২০১১৪৪	S. S. S.

Sl #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
21.	Dilki's JAHAN	সহকারী	EDAMS	০১৭০২৭২২৫৪৬	S. S. S.
22.	Joke Mumukshik	সহকারী	Dhaka	০১৭৭৭৪৪১৩৬৪	S. S. S.
23.	Swardipta Sadique	GWA	Jugalok PTV Dhaka	০১৭১২৪২১৪০	S. S. S.
24.	Khadija Tarun Kanti Das.	UC	DORP-Bhola	০১৭১১-২৬৩৭৩৪	S. S. S.
25.	শ্রীমতী সুলতানা	সহকারী	সহকারী	০১৭১৬-৪১৫৬৪৭	S. S. S.

**Watershed, Bhola
DORP**

Coaching on Inclusion & Gender to CSO

Venue-Star Garden Chinese Hotel & Restaurant, Bhola.

Date-August 17, 2017.

SI #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
01.	নামসরিন আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	01754131326	<i>Amir</i>
02.	স্মিতা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	01766974484	<i>Shim</i>
03.	স্মিতা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	01733978368	<i>Shim</i>
04.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	"	01707642674	<i>Sumona</i>
05.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	কামাই নগর	01955130378	<i>Sumona</i>
06.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	01955130378	01955130378	<i>Sumona</i>
07.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	কামাই নগর	01768778313	<i>Sumona</i>
08.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	01711400284	<i>Sumona</i>
09.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
10.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
11.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
12.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
13.	Joke Myelwih	ED - GWA	Dhaka	01777441364	<i>Joke</i>

**Watershed, Bhola
DORP**

Coaching on Inclusion & Gender to CSO

Venue-Star Garden Chinese Hotel & Restaurant, Bhola.

Date-August 17, 2017.

SI #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
14.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	0167502526	<i>Sumona</i>
15.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
	স্মিতা আক্তার	"	কামাই নগর	01733978368	<i>Shim</i>
	স্মিতা আক্তার	"	কামাই নগর	01766974484	<i>Shim</i>
16.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	কামাই নগর	"	<i>Sumona</i>
17.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	Gewa, Dhaka	01717232180	<i>Sumona</i>
18.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	GWA, Dhaka	0168532298	<i>Sumona</i>
19.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	"	<i>Sumona</i>
20.	সুমনা আক্তার	"	"	"	<i>Sumona</i>
21.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	01752449248	<i>Sumona</i>
22.	সুমনা আক্তার	সদস্য	কামাই নগর	01716415684	<i>Sumona</i>

Watershed, Bhola

DORP

Coaching on Inclusion & Gender to CSO

Venue-Star Garden Chinese Hotel & Restaurant, Bhola.

17. 2017

Date-August 16, 2017.

Sl #	Name of attend Members	Designation	Address	Mobile #	Signature
23.	বদিরুল হাফিজ	সহকারী	-	01716623678	বদিরুল হাফিজ
24.	মোঃ জোহাৰা	-	-	-	মোঃ জোহাৰা
25.	মাঃ মো. কামিল	সহকারী	ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদ তীরে নতুনগাঁও (জামালপুর)	01748996717	বহালা
26.	মোঃ মোঃ হুমায়ুন	সহকারী	-	01721195333	মোঃ হুমায়ুন
27.	মোঃ মোঃ মাসুদ	সহকারী	খালিয়াজুড়িয়া	01986367946	মোঃ মাসুদ
28.	মোঃ মোঃ সিরাজুল হক	সহকারী	//	0202499296	মোঃ সিরাজুল হক
29.	মোঃ মোঃ 27372	সহকারী	Teacher in GWA	01743800963	মোঃ মোঃ 27372
30.	Amirul Karim	P.C.	DORP	01711244116	Amirul Karim
31.	Amirul Karim	Program Coordinator	DORP	017129757	Amirul Karim
32.	মোঃ মোঃ	সহকারী BTB	- BTB	01631192259	মোঃ মোঃ
33.	মোঃ মোঃ	সহকারী	DORP	01711-263934	মোঃ মোঃ

Annex 3: Newspaper report of the CSO meeting, 17th - 18th August



ডরপ পানি ব্যবস্থাপনার আয়োজনে ভোলায় ওয়াটারশেডের কর্মশালা

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার ৷
ভোলায় খাবার পানি নিশ্চিতকরণ ও স্যানিটেশন বিষয় নিয়ে বুধবার ১৬

আগস্ট ডরপ আয়োজিত এক কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। ওয়াটারশেড প্রকল্পের অধীন পানি ব্যবস্থাপনা নাগরিক কমিটির সভাপতি আবু তাহের ওই সময় প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মশালা পরিচালনা করেন, জেডার এন্ড ওয়াটার এলাইন্সের প্রোগ্রাম কো-অর্ডিনেটর ইয়োকামায়উলবাইক, (৪র্থ পাতায় দেখুন)

রি, স্বাদে অতুলনীয়

আজকের ভোলা

The Daily Ajker bhola

ভোলা ৷ শুক্রবার ১৮-আগস্ট ২০১৭খ্রি: ৷ ০৩ ভাদ্র ১৪২৪ বাংলা ৷ ২৩ জিলকুদ ১৪৩৮ হিজরী ৷



মাদকাসক্ত সন্দেহে আটকের পর মুচলেকায় ছাড়া পেলেন রাবির ১৬ শিক্ষার্থী

এফএনএস ৷
মাদকাসক্ত সন্দেহে রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ১৬ শিক্ষার্থীকে আটকের পর জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ শেষে ছেড়ে দিয়েছে পুলিশ। প্রস্টর লুৎফর রহমান জানান, প্রস্টরিয়াস বড়ির উপস্থিতিতে গত বুধবার সন্ধ্যায় ইসলামদিপ হোসেন সিরাজী ভবনের ছাদ থেকে ১২ ছাত্র ও চার ছাত্রীকে আটক করে প্রস্টরের দপ্তরে আনা হয়। তবে তাদের নাম-পরিচয় বলেননি প্রস্টর। তিনি বলেন, ক্যান্টিনের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা বাস্তবিক রাখার জন্য প্রস্টরিয়াস বড়ির সদস্যরা নিয়মিত টহল দেন। ১৬ জনকে আটকের পর কয়েকজনের কাছে মাদক গ্রহণের পাইপ ও গাঁজাভর্তি স্টিক পাওয়া গেছে। কয়েকজন মাদক গ্রহণের কথা স্বীকারও করেছে। পরে তাদের অভিভাবকদের সঙ্গে কথা বলে মুচশেকা নিয়ে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয় বলে জানান প্রস্টর। তিনি বলেন, তারা এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষার্থী

ভোলায় 'ডরপ'র সহযোগিতায় জেডার এন্ড ওয়াটার এলাইন্সের আয়োজনে সম্পূর্ণকরণ ও জেডার ভিত্তিক কোচিং অনুষ্ঠিত

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ৷
বৃহসপতিবার ভোলায় ডরপ এর সহযোগিতায় মাগিডায় জেডার এন্ড ওয়াটার এলাইন্সের আয়োজনে সম্পূর্ণকরণ ও জেডার ভিত্তিক পানি ব্যবস্থাপনা নাগরিক কমিটির সদস্য কহিনুর বেগম এর সভাপতিত্বে স্টার পার্টেন হলরুমে কোচিং অনুষ্ঠিত।
এতে ওয়াটার এলাইন্সের প্রোগ্রাম কো-অর্ডিনেটর ইয়োকামায়উলবাইক ও টিম। পানি সম্পদ ব্যবস্থাপনা নাগরিক কমিটির সভাপতি ও বিটিবির জেলা প্রতিনিধি এমএ তাহের ডরপ এর প্রকল্প সমন্বয়কারী (এডভোকেসি এন্ড ক্যান্সেলিং) আমির রসুল, প্রকল্প সমন্বয়কারী, ওয়াটার শেড।
অন্যান্যের মধ্যে উপস্থিত ছিলেন পানি সম্পদ (২য় পাতায় দেখুন)

Annex 4: Map of Bhola Sadar



ANNEX 5

Subjects for coaching:

1. Water scarcity in this world, in Bangladesh, in Bhola: certain parts of the year or all the time?
2. Who suffers from water scarcity?
3. What are different water uses?
4. Which categories of people are most interested in these different water uses?
5. Which is the most important use of water?
6. Do you know the National Water Resources Plan? And the Water Act 2013?
7. List of priorities in water use by GoB.
8. Who is responsible for drinking and domestic water in the house?
9. Who uses water for agriculture?
10. Who needs water for aquaculture?
11. And for fisheries?
12. And for livestock, cattle, poultry?
13. Who are the polluters?
14. Who suffers from pollution?
15. This Watershed project has as subtitle: Leave no one behind, safe water for all.
16. We have now discussed the safe water, and who are “all”?
17. People are not all the same: Mention different categories of people.
18. Who of these people have easy access to safe drinking water? And who of them have to do a lot of effort, or spend a lot of money, to get safe drinking water?
19. Same question for improved sanitation, and hygiene in the house.
20. Time use: the work of women compared to the work of men on an average day. See the 24 hours-circle of our Aquaculture Study. ⁶
21. What is empowerment: for people to improve their situation, especially individual.
22. These are some easy points which you need for advocacy and for asking attention of decision-makers for the needs of all: women, men, boys and girls, elderly, rich and poor, fisher people, farmers, minorities, those with disabilities, Muslims, Hindus, those in cities, and those in villages, , etc.

Summarised the crucial themes for the coaching are:

1. Scarcity of water: different uses
2. Division of work related to water
3. Different interests of women and men, of vulnerable groups
4. GoB water policy
5. Leave no one behind
6. Time use of women and men on average days
7. Key issues you need to know for advocacy, to convince politicians and decision-makers

⁶ We should bring a few of the TE posters. For example the one on time use.

Checklist for FGD Men

Introduction: Watershed project, to learn more about IWRM, and explain to decision-makers and politicians why it is important to manage water carefully, taking into account the needs of all people and of the environment.

1. Who needs water every day?
2. Water now becomes scarce, compared to long ago: now more people and less fresh water. Need for very deep tube wells.
3. What is the source of drinking water? And the quality? Is that the same the whole year?
4. Who brings the water in your house? And do you sometimes carry water?
5. What type of toilet do you use?
6. Who takes care of hygiene and cleanliness in and around your house? Do you also sometimes clean a floor, the plates, or the toilet? With which activities do you help in the house? And how often?
7. Which different categories of people are in Bhola Sadr?
8. Do all the people in Bhola Sadr have easy access to clean and safe water? No differences?
9. And who of you uses water for irrigation, for agriculture?
10. Which crops do you grow? How often to irrigate?
11. In Bangladesh 96 % of fresh water is used for agriculture, only 2 for drinking, domestic water and sanitation. So, we have to be careful that we don't lose more water to irrigation.
12. What are the water issues in your villages? Other important issues?
13. How many hours do you work per day on average?
14. And how many hours do the women work on average?
15. Time chart poster.
16. Thank you very much for giving your time, information, experience and knowledge.
17. We will also talk with a group of women, and see if they agree with what you said.

Checklist for FGD women

Introduction: Watershed project, to learn more about IWRM, and explain to decision-makers and politicians why it is important to manage water carefully, taking into account the needs of all people and of the environment.

1. Who needs water every day?
2. Water now becomes scarce, compared to long ago: now more people and less fresh water. Need for very deep tube wells.
3. What is the source of drinking water? And the quality? Is that good quality of the water the same the whole year?
4. Who brings the water in your house? And does your husband sometimes carry water? Or your son or daughter?
5. What type of toilet do you use?
6. Who takes care of hygiene and cleanliness in and around your house? Does your husband also sometimes clean a floor, the plates, or the toilet? With which activities does he help in the house? And how often?
7. Which different categories of people are in Bhola Sadr?
8. Do all the people in Bhola Sadr have easy access to clean and safe water? No differences?
9. And who of you uses water for irrigation, for agriculture?
10. Which crops do you or your husband grow? How often to irrigate?
11. In Bangladesh 96 % of fresh water is used for agriculture, only 2 for drinking, domestic water and sanitation. So, we have to be careful that we don't lose more water to irrigation.
12. What are the water issues in your villages? Other important issues?
13. How many hours do you work per day on average?
14. And how many hours do the men work on average?
15. Time chart poster.
16. Thank you very much for giving your time, information, experience and knowledge.
17. We have also talked with a group of men, and they told us.....

Checklist for Inquiries

Name,
m/w sex,
age (about),
village,
profession, daily work,
Minority? Ability?
Education?

Livelihood:

1. Do you consider yourself rich or poor?
2. Do you have food, the whole year around? How many meals per day?
3. Land size and tenure (do women own land/ponds), land owned by women?
4. Land for agriculture, for aquaculture, for livestock, for vegetables?
5. Women's engagement in income earning activities (what type of work?) Does your family allow you to work out of the homestead? If no, why not?
6. Wage disparity between women, children, and men (for farm labour, construction).
7. Can you decide about spending of the money that you earned yourself?

About water:

1. Where is your source for drinking water and for household water?
2. Is it a DTW? How deep, do you know?
3. How is the quality? Give a mark. 1-10.
4. Arsenic? Salinity?
5. Is the water safe and sweet and available the whole year? If not, how many months available?
6. Who gets the water to the house? Who helps you/her? How often?
7. Do you need water for irrigation, crops in the field, or for a vegetable garden?

Pollution:

1. Do certain economic activities in your area influence the water by polluting it?
2. For example agriculture, industry, aquaculture, livestock?
3. What can you do about it?
4. Have you told the member of the Union, or somebody in the UP? And what happened?

Agriculture:

1. Is in your area a lot of water pumped up for agriculture?
2. Does that influence the water that is available for your household and drinking of the family?

3. Do you also use water for irrigation yourself? How often do you need to irrigate? You know how much (mm or inches).

Aquaculture:

1. Do you own a pond, gher? Is it sweet or saline?
2. Do you work in somebody else's gher?
3. Equal payment, how many hours per day and days per year?
4. Is the water polluted? Do you have to stand in it? Are there problems for you?

Livestock:

1. Which animals do you keep?
2. How much water do you need for the animals?
3. How do you get it, and from where? Who carries it?
4. How much water do you need to keep the place clean? Which water you use for that?
5. Are they giving you some income? In products? In money?
6. Who sells the products?
7. Can/do you go to the market yourself?

Sanitation:

1. Access to safe and adequate sanitation (OD? Hanging toilet? private sanitary latrine, bathing chamber?)
2. Is it shared with others?
3. Who keeps the toilet clean? And who when you are ill?
4. How is the hygiene in your house? Have you learned about hand washing?
5. Are diarrhea and other digestive problems regular in your household? Are many days of school and work missed because of such diseases? And do you have to spend a lot of money for medical care and doctors?
6. Do you have healthcare nearby?

General

1. Do you have particular problems, issues in your daily life related to water? Or other issues which are perhaps not related to water?
2. In your particular situation (as minority, as disabled, as very poor woman, as elderly men, as widow, or other) do you have particular needs which so far nobody seems to care about?
3. Do you have suggestions for improving your life and livelihood and also of your family and community?

Observations about living conditions and house and yard:

Checklist about Climate Change, Disasters and Vulnerability

1. Access of women/men to early warning systems and post-emergency measures (radio, newspaper, public meetings, mobile phones, smart phones)
2. Presence of cyclone shelters and adequacy of this for women and children (privacy, dignity in WASH facilities, separate sleeping arrangements, physical or mental harassment by men), risk of being trafficked
3. Women's access to disaster relief (cash, food, paid work) and their control over how to spend it
4. Women's involvement in food/cash for work schemes that are part of DRR strategies (LCS, road and embankment construction)
5. Coping strategies of household members and how this impacts men's and women's work, responsibilities, and vulnerability (for e.g. migration)
6. Local capacity at ward, union, UZ level for DRR (strategies, committees, funds, access to information, power)
7. Risk of women, adolescents, children to be trafficked during and after disasters
8. Migration – has this increased as a result of disasters? (who migrates, where, for how long?)

Checklist about empowerment

Empowerment and its four elements (economic, social, political, and physical)

a) Economic empowerment

- i) Right to choose one's education (priority of education of male children over female?)
- ii) Same income for same work,
- iii) Women's control over own/HH income vs men (to spend, to save, to invest)
- iv) Right to work that one enjoys (time spent in drudgery work)
- v) Right to water (ease of access, reliability, safety, sufficient amounts)
- vi) Access to relevant resources of production (land, ponds, livestock, equipment, credit, farm inputs, improved technology)
- vii) Do women, men have their own bank accounts, mobile phones, smart phones, farmer card, food ration card?
- viii) Mobility of women (to sell in markets, to move freely outside the homestead)

b) Social Empowerment:

- i) Self-image of women/ men (of different age, class, ethnic group). How do you see yourself? How do others see you?
- ii) Social status (are they member of a CBO, savings group, TUG, WMG? Are they working as health volunteer? Is he/she an entrepreneur?)

- iii) Is your voice heard? And does your opinion matter? (for e.g. as group member? Or to discuss decisions about schooling, marriage, or work of yourself/others?)
 - iv) Education and School drop-out rate of girls and boys (is there a difference in how long girls/boys stay in schooling? Why do boys/girls drop out of school? Do they study after marriage?)
- c) Political Empowerment
- i) The right to organize one self,
 - ii) the right to vote and to be voted, to take active part in CBO and other groups
 - iii) Participation in ward-level, union-level, and UZ level politics and institutions
 - iv) Ability to effectively participate in decision-making to influence development efforts (be member in institutions set up as part of project)
- d) Physical Empowerment
- i) Underage/child marriage (What is the average age of first marriage for men and women? Is there a difference, if so, why? To what extent are girls, boys, able to choose or influence the timing and circumstances of their marriages?)
 - ii) Practice of giving and taking dowry (how are women and men able to influence this?)
 - iii) Polygamy and remarriage (men have more than one wife at one time? Do men and women who have lost their spouses remarry? Is this more common for men or women? Why?)
 - iv) Decision making on family planning (age of first birth, number of children and birth spacing)
 - v) Access to safe and proper sanitation (OD? Hanging toilet? private sanitary latrine, bathing chamber?)
 - vi) Access to proper healthcare (satisfaction of women and men with these services)
 - vii) Access to proper menstrual management (information, what they use –readymade pads, or home-made cloth pads?)
 - viii) Ability to resist domestic violence (ask indirectly on this at the start, for e.g. ‘Does domestic violence happen in your neighbourhood? And what do you do when this happens – is it settled by a group (who?) or left to be managed personally by the husband-wife?’)
 - ix) Situation of physical harassment of women in public areas or at work
 - x) Specific problems faced by widows, WHH, old women, disabled, adolescents (safety, security, harassment, mobility)

Annex 6 : A few pictures of the field visits

1. Asking questions related to agriculture to a farmer we meet during the transect walks
2. High water accompanied by a lot of wind: go back to the higher land right now.
3. The GWA team
4. Rescuing some plant residues, before the tide is at its highest, the mighty Meghna.

