



REPORT 2018

Gender and Water Alliance



Men's Group of CDP Women2030, Meherpur Bangladesh

The GWA Empowerment Approach

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ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
Akvo	Water in Esperanto
APWLB	Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAB	Consumer Association of Bangladesh
CB	Capacity Building
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDP	Centre for Development and Peace, Meherpur, Bangladesh
CEAFS	Centre of Excellence Agro Food Skills Foundation
CN	Concept Note
CNA	Capacity Needs Assessment
CIPCA	Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (Bolivia)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DD	Deputy Director
DORP	Development Organization of the Rural Poor (Bangladesh)
DPHE	Department of Public Health and Engineering (Bangladesh)
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
ED	Executive Director
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
EKNSP	Projects, supported by EKN
EU	European Union
FG	Farmers' Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAP	Gender Action Plan or Good Agricultural Practices
GDD	Gender Disaggregated Data
GFC	Global Forest Coalition
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
GWA-B	Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh
GWAPB	Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IWE	Institute for Water and Environment (Kenya)
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
L&A	Lobby and Advocacy
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department (in Bangladesh)
LT	Learning Trajectory
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MoU	Memory of Understanding
MPA	Marine-Protected Area
MUPAN	Mulheres em Acao no Pantanal (Brazil)
OIAT	Organisational Inclusion Assessment Tool
RSR	Real Simple Reporting
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIT	Social Inclusion Team
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timebound
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation

TG	Target Group
TMM	Training Master Manual
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TROSA	Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VoSB	Voice of South Bangladesh, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
WADA	Welfare Association for Development Alternative, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
WARPO	Water Resources Planning Organization (in Bangladesh)
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WECF	Women Engage for a Common Future
WEP	Women Environmental Programme (Africa)
WMCC	Water Management Citizens Committee
WP5	Work Package 5 (Bangladesh)

GENDER AND WATER ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

1. INTRODUCTION and SUMMARY

The Gender and Water Alliance is an international network of women and men working in water management and motivated to mainstream gender into their work. Expertise of members is at different levels, and about one third of them are organisational members. Gender is applied in the broad sense: women and men of different age, ethnicity, level of education, socio-economic situation, ability, etc. For water we use the IWRM concept, Integrated Water Resource Management, which includes water for people (drinking water, household water, sanitation), water for food (agriculture, food security and nutrition), and water for the environment (biodiversity, climate change, wetlands, etc.). As GWA we support technical water professionals and engineers with adapting their technology and management to the diversity of people by linking social aspects with their technical work. Since 2000 GWA has developed many methodologies, approaches, reports, tools, case studies, policy briefs, fact sheets, training manuals and modules, etc.

GWA applies an **empowerment approach**, which we explain in chapter 2.

Internationally, in 2018 the opportunities for GWA remain to focus on Bangladesh. Nevertheless, members from all parts of the world know to find GWA, and request for our services, materials and suggestions. Even as a small team we always try to comply.

In 2018 GWA has a new contract with Simavi for the Watershed Project Empowering Citizens in Bangladesh. Also the Women2030 project to implement and monitor SDGs continues into Year 3. A new project started together with SNV-Bangladesh, to assess the gender aspects of their project for safer consumption of tomato and mango processed foods. Also for a gender-planning workshop for the team a contract with SNV-Bangladesh is signed.

As in other years, we have written various proposals, witnessed changes in our teams, and were involved in some smaller activities. A highlight was the Policy Consultation Members' Meeting in Bangladesh, where about 70 members attended in an open and participatory way.

The financial situation continues to be unsustainable, and the Secretariat keeps trying to change that. At the end of this narrative report you find the transparent summary of the finances: capital, income and expenditure.

For any information or suggestions write secretariat@gwalliance.org.



Power Walk in SNV workshop

2. THE GWA EMPOWERMENT APPROACH

Four interacting elements for analysis and as an objective for development

I. What is empowerment?

Empowerment is a process of gaining self-confidence for individual development as well as to contribute towards development of others. It refers to increasing the economic, social, political and physical strength of any individual or entity. Examples of empowerment indicators are:

- Having decision making power of one's own and for others. Knowledge, education, skills, familial and social support make a person competent to contribute in decision making.
- Access to information and resources to make informed decisions.
- Mobility – freedom of movement, safe and secured movement, without fear.
- Skills for contribution to economic production and to social participation.
- Raising one's positive self-image and overcoming stigma of the category one belongs to.
- Ability to bargain for one's rights and for a better position.
- Strong level of confidence: "I can do this".

II. The persons whom we consider empowered in the family and in the society, what special strengths do they have?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Own income and money | • Confidence |
| • Decision making power | • Skills of communication and analysis |
| • Knowledge and | • Skills to negotiate and bargain |
| • Leadership qualities | • Skills to plan and implement |
| • Wealth, assets, land | • Participation in family decision-making |
| • Education | • Participation at the community development |
| • Mobility | • Fair and equal treatment. |
| • Access to information | |

III. Do women and men possess similar qualities and strength? If not, why not?

If we check the above points, we see that fewer women than men in our society possess those. Reasons are the patriarchal attitude, cultural and societal barriers, lack of political commitment, etc. The many qualities that women do possess very often are not recognized by the society. Women hardly have access to necessary resources to be empowered. As a result, sustainable development gets hampered, because qualities and work of women are not utilized and tapped.

IV. The 4 elements of Empowerment:

Grouping the points of paragraph I, we come to four elements of empowerment: Economic, Social, Political and Physical empowerment. Empowerment is not only of women, but also of men and of children and of minorities. All people need to empower themselves.

1. Economic empowerment: This is the right to decent work, the right to decide about one's own income, the right to choose one's education, the same income for same work for men and women, the right to water, and access to relevant resources as well as control over them. Often women have access to income but have no control over it, they have to hand over their salaries to

husband, son, brother or mother in law. It is also commonly known that women's savings often go towards the improvement of their family's situation, whereas this is not the case for men. Some positive examples are: In *char* areas women take decision on expenses as their husbands' migrate and send money for the livelihood of their families. Also some men feel comfortable handing over their salary to their wives for managing family expenditure. By this the wives are rather more empowered. Due to increased mobility, aspiration and access to income opportunities, situations are now changing. As for example, women garments workers are now financially more self-reliant, they have the ability to send money to families living in rural areas. However in microfinance though women are receiving the loans, they do not always possess control over the income, but still take full burden of debt repayment. Only economic empowerment does not mean everything. Economic empowerment is important but not enough. We need to think holistically about empowerment.

2. Social Empowerment: Social empowerment means a positive self-image, how do you see yourself? And your social status, how does the society see your category? The right to education. Can you speak out, is your voice heard, and does your opinion matter?

3. Political empowerment: The right to organize one selves, the right to take part in democratic processes: to be allowed to vote and to be voted for, to take active part in Water User Associations (WUA), Small Farmers Groups (SFG), to participate at the decision making levels (e.g. Executive Committee of the SFG), to be confident in getting extension services from the local level nation building departments like Directorate of Agricultural Extension office, to be a member of the Union Parishad and effectively participate in decision-making to influence development efforts. To participate in society and able to make one's voice heard.

4. Physical empowerment: The right to decide about one's sexuality, to decide about the number of children and spacing between them, the right to proper healthcare, to clean water, sanitation facilities and dignity, access to proper menstrual management. Very important is the ability to resist violence, the right to safety and security, and the power to get one's rights. The right to wear the clothes you like, to having rest - particularly during pregnancy and menstruation period, the right to physical mobility without fear and to recreation. The right to family planning methods and information to choose contraceptives.

All the four elements of empowerment are interrelated and together they indicate the degree of empowerment of an individual or group. Empowerment is a trend, and if the four elements are assessed in a village or region, this can be used for monitoring, if the same people are approached again after a year. The empowerment of one category of people should not be at the cost of the empowerment of others: equal rights will reduce the power differences and increase well-being of all.

Outsiders (like project staff) cannot empower others, but can be catalysts and create enabling opportunities for women and men from different cultures to empower themselves following their own needs, values and strategy. They can do this by raising their awareness on their rights, and building their capacity for change: through appropriate education, skills training, advocacy for improved laws, policies and regulations on access to resources.

3. THE NETWORK

Members

The number of members has increased with 16 in 2018 to a total of 2443 in 130 countries. See **ANNEX 1** for the Membership report and details.

Members' Meetings,

A small members' meeting was organised during the High Level Political Forum in New York.

Another small members' meeting was held during the World Water Forum in Brazil. This was organised by our Chairperson (2007-2009) Sara Ahmed, and she met a number of our earlier and present SC members, and active members of earlier years.

In November in Dhaka a large Members' Meeting for Bangladeshi members was organised as Policy Consultation Meeting for the Women2030 project. See in the next chapter.

List serve

Members who are enlisted in the Yahoo Groups still receive some relevant information. This year we sent 56 English messages, 1 French and 27 Spanish messages. We invite more people to share their interesting information.

Website

When time permits, GWA Secretariat uploads new products. These are the own GWA publications, those of members and also relevant documents of other organisations. A major publication is the Training Masters Manual in English, Bangla and Spanish. It consists of 5 modules.

Fund raising, see chapter 9.

Steering Committee

For Steering Committee members from all parts of the world to meet in person, an amount of about € 20.000 has to be budgeted. It is logical that projects do not accept this item in their budget. Core-funding is then essential. Since 2010 GWA did not receive core-funding, so it was hard to organise such meetings. In the past few years we have only had Skype meetings. These are not always technically very inclusive and clear. This way the SC cannot function well.

Also elections are costly, mostly in time. But after elections, the newly elected SC members expect to come for a meeting together, to get to know each other, to get to know the network better, and the projects. It is also needed to discuss a strategy. Thus elections were postponed for many years, and the same SC from 2009 is still in function.

Especially the Chairperson and Secretary have been active in 2018 to support a change of leadership, by encouraging the Deputy Director to take over from the ED. Regretfully this has not been successful yet.

4. WOMEN2030 (year 2: 10 May – 31 December 2018)

Women2030 is a European Union (EU) funded project. It is working in between 25 and 50 countries with women and gender NGOs or CSOs. The aim is to implement and monitor the activities of a selection of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which countries all over the world committed to in 2016. CSOs monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective and gender-responsiveness.

For this project, the Gender and Water Alliance is working in 4 countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil and Kenya, and carrying out project activities in three countries. These are Brazil, Bolivia and Bangladesh. Halfway 2018 the Global Forest Coalition has taken over the work in Brazil and Bolivia from us, so GWA then focusses on Bangladesh for all activities, and Kenya for the Gender Assessment.

The purpose of this project is to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) worldwide. The governments have the challenging responsibility to achieve all the 17 goals before 2030. Monitoring the work of what is going on is very important, because even if a lot of work is done to these SDGs, it is not automatically done in a gender equal manner. The project is based on four main components: Capacity building, advocacy, strategic partnership, and outreach.

In Bangladesh, GWA selected 5 partners: Bhomisto, Centre for Development and Peace (CDP), Udayan, Voice of South Bangladesh (VoSB), and Welfare Association for Development Alternative (WADA). They are actively monitoring gender indicators of SDGs 5, 6 and 13, every 6 months. Furthermore they train grassroots CBOs in subjects related to the SDGs.

The collected data are combined with the global data from all the countries. Some activities which GWA-B has done in the framework of the Women2030 project in 2018 are described below in brief.

Capacity Needs Assessment of the Partner Organizations

The Women2030 project aims to build the capacity of civil society organizations in tiers or groups at regional, national and local level, and each group will train another group at the next level. Mainly this project has 4 tiers. Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), and Gender and Water Alliance (global) belong to the co-applicants. Country partners like Gender and Water Alliance (Bangladesh) belong to Tier 1. Local level partners like the partners of Gender and Water Alliance in Bangladesh belong to Tier 2. And, the CSOs with whom the local level partners are working at the grass roots' level belong to Tier 3. Therefore, it was very important to know the capacity needs of the partner organizations which GWA-B is going to train. All the project partners in Bangladesh were asked to fill in and send GWA-B a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) form. They presented an excellent indication of their interest to work with GWA in this project, and their need of capacity building training.

Women 2030 Training of Trainers

Even though in the programme plan for each country there was one one-day ToT planned and budgeted, the partners in Bangladesh could not agree with that, and two workshops were

already conducted in 2017, and then another two in 2018. The sessions were very interactive, to ensure that participants would be able to hand on the training to the next tier.

The third workshop (5-6 April 2018), was organized by the Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh (GWA-B) to discuss partners' progress and further plans in the work for the Women2030 project in Bangladesh. The objective of the workshop was to see how far the partner NGOs have come with the capacity building work, their experience so far, monitoring the SDGs, and what GWA-B can suggest to do as follow up. Also, to know how GWA-B is doing, to know capacity building activity of tier 3 etc. Since it was the third workshop for them, participants were asked to bring the monitoring data since August 2017, with April 2017 as baseline, as far as they relate to the selected indicators, bring the information about the training as far as they have done and share their opinion about the project's impact and necessary activities. In the workshop, everybody was encouraged to make the most out of this project.



The specific objectives of the fourth workshop (15-16 October 2018) were to recall the capacity building work of the Tier 3, the grassroots level CBOs, and to further monitor the selected SDGs. The work partners can do for the Gender Assessment of SDGs in Bangladesh and what else they can suggest to do as follow up were also in focus. So, the gender assessment questionnaire both in Bangla and English, including the excel format where the final data will be updated, have been shared and discussed in detail. In the workshop, there were mini-training presentations, to assess the capacity of the trainers who are conducting training for the tier 3 CSOs. It was found that all the participants did very well. At the end of the workshop, each participant received a certificate mentioning their expertise in conducting training on gender aspects of SDGs.

In all the ToTs, gender sensitivity has been practiced. Because GWA believes that gender is about equality on one hand, and equity on the other hand. This means that the ultimate goal is for all of us is to have equal rights, and equal opportunities. But it is true that to enable this we need some preferential measures for those who have been disadvantaged more than others. Equity is the path to reach equality; those who have less opportunities, need to be supported more to fulfill their rights. So, in the ToTs, participants who can't speak easily and don't have a lot of exposure and lot of experience, were encouraged and got extra chances to speak, to share their experiences and to learn from these ToTs.

The four ToT reports are available in GWA website:

<http://genderandwater.org/en/women2030/capacity-building/bangladesh>

Development of the Training Master Manual (English, Spanish and Bangla)

In the first year of the Women 2030 project, a number of tools have been developed, of which the most important are the Training Master Manual Modules. GWA developed these modules, co-applicants gave their suggestions, changes were made. In the first ToT, tools have been introduced to the participating organisations by GWA-B. Since the CSOs in Tier 3 are working at the grassroots level, it was felt that it would be easier for them to follow, if the modules are in their local language. So, all the 5 modules of the Training Master Manual have been translated into Bangla in 2018. It was much appreciated by the Tier 2 and Tier 3 partners.

The 5 modules of the Training Master Manual **in English** are available at:

<https://www.women2030.org/women2030-training-master-manual-building-capacity-for-change/> and <http://genderandwater.org/en/women2030/capacity-building/women2030-training-master-manual-the-english-version>

The 5 modules of the Training Master Manual in **Bangla** are available at:

<http://genderandwater.org/en/women2030/capacity-building/training-master-manual>

Or at: <https://www.women2030.org/training-master-manual-the-bangla-version/>

The 5 modules are available in **Spanish** at: <http://genderandwater.org/en/women2030/capacity-building/manual-maestro-de-capacitacion-para-capacitadores-women2030-reforzando-conocimientos-habilidades-y-capacidades-para-implementar-las-ods-responsables-a-genero>



Training of CBOs by WADA

Capacity Building of Tier 3 by Tier 2

Each of the five partners selected 10 of their groups (CBOs), with 25 members, for training about gender aspects of SDGs, relevant for their daily life. Most were women’s groups, some were men’s groups and a few were groups of transgenders (hijras). Participants enjoyed the discussions a lot, and did not understand why to have only one session in this project. So, GWA will try to see if some budget items can be used for a second session for the same groups, in 2019.



Training of CBOs by Voice of South Bangladesh

Training of CBOs by CDP, Meherpur



Policy Consultation on Gender and 17 SDGs and GWA Members' Meeting VII in Bangladesh

As a part of the Women 2030 project, on 3rd November 2018, Gender and Water Alliance organized a Policy Consultation meeting to discuss gender aspects of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. GWA invited its members (individuals and organisations) so that it would be possible to hear the opinion of many people who are working



in different sectors and different parts of the country. It was the 7th Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh Members' Meeting. A total of 77 members (30 women and 47 men) from different NGOs, CBOs, academic institutions and individuals participated in the meeting. Most of the participants came from outside of Dhaka, while more than 50% of the members came from the coastal belt areas such as Khulna, Barisal, Bagerhat, Meherpur, Faridpur, Barguna, Satkhira and



Jessore. The remaining participants came from Dhaka, Comilla, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Ghaibandah, Natore and Pabna. The number of women member's participation was appreciated.

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the gender aspects of all 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) with focus on SDG 5 (Gender equality and Women's empowerment), 6 (Water and Sanitation for all) and 13 (climate action); to know which work the members are doing to achieve the SDGs in Bangladesh; to discuss what and how GWA members do to achieve SDGs in a gender sensitive way, and what is their experience with this work; and to discuss in groups the continuity and sustainability of GWA in Bangladesh. The programme was fully participatory, and not difficult for all to follow. The opinions of the members counted with

high importance.

The report is available at GWA website: <http://genderandwater.org/en/women2030/policy-consultation-and-advocacy/report-of-policy-consultation-women2030-and-gwa-members-meeting-november-2018-in-dhaka-bangladesh/view>

ROM of the Women2030 project (Result Oriented Monitoring)

During mid-November of 2018, there was an international monitoring evaluation of the Women 2030 project worldwide. From the Secretariat and from Bangladesh GWA staff and partners were called with various questions. Of what we all told the facilitator, very little enters her report. In a



way, this is a pity because the work in Bangladesh is more than in other countries, and also quicker ready. GWA has now nearly finalised, whilst another one and a half year are due. During these years, GWA remains a partner, but does not implement any more activities, all being ready.

Brazil and Bolivia

In the first year we could include the work of Tier 2, much of which is not paid by the project, as co-financing, but for 2018 this was not allowed. Then we had to decide that based on the lack of funding, we cannot pay 25% of a high amount ourselves. The Women2030 work we did in Brazil and Bolivia with MUPAN and CIPCA is taken over by GFC (Global Forest Coalition), because for them it would be easier to find the 25% own contribution. Regretfully we had to write to CIPCA and MUPAN that we could not continue.

Gender Assessment Kenya

The Institute for Water and Environment in Kenya collects the information for the Gender Assessment and Country Report. Interviews are done, a total of 164



and Focus Group Discussions. Then the Secretariat writes the Gender Assessment document. It will be completed in 2019.

Gender Assessment Bangladesh

The five partners, collect the necessary number of interviews and conduct Focus Group Discussions with their groups. Apart from these, a number of the GWA members informed us during the Policy Consultation/ Members' Meeting, that they also want to be involved and will hand in interviews too. Thus the completion of the report gets delayed into 2019.

Strategy Meeting in Brussels

Juana and Joke participated in this meeting in Brussels, in which all the co-applicants presented their progress and also discussed what next to do. For such meetings GWA did not have a budget in this project, unlike the other co-applicants.

5. WATERSHED: Empowering Citizens, Leave No One Behind

Watershed is a strategic partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IRC, Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo, which is implemented in 6 countries including Bangladesh, as well as at the International level and in the Netherlands. The main aim of this 5-year programme (2016-2020) is to strengthen capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to advocate and lobby in the interrelated fields of IWRM and WASH to ensure equity and social inclusion, as well as sustainable usage of water resources. It will contribute to SDG 6 for universal access to water and sanitation services and water security by making the voices of citizens heard and strengthening governance and accountability.



In Bangladesh, the Watershed project is working on five interactive components (i.e. WASH, IWRM, Lobby & Advocacy, Budget Tracking, and Gender & Social Inclusion). The implementing partners are WaterAid Bangladesh, DORP, and GWA-B. In this project, GWA-B is responsible for the crosscutting Gender and Social Inclusion component. The project is implemented in Bhola, an island in the south, where DORP has formed two CSOs namely Water Management Citizens Committee involving different groups of men and women and NGO Network, in which a number of local NGOs working in the water sectors, are combined. GWA-B works at the grassroots' level with CSOs in Bhola, and at the national level with WaterAid and DORP, as the Watershed project in 2018 are described below.

Two Capacity Building Workshops on Gender and Inclusion for Watershed Partners (WP5)

Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh (GWA-B) has organized a two-day long workshop for Watershed project Work Package 5 at GWA-B's office in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2-3 January 2018. The title of the workshop was "Capacity Building Workshop on Gender and Inclusion for



Watershed partners in Bangladesh”. Representatives from WaterAid and DORP participated there. This workshop was inclusive, participatory and successful. The main outcome of the workshop was the development of a draft Gender Action Plan for Watershed WP5 for 2018. As the follow-up, a one day Capacity Building workshop on Gender and Inclusion was organised in September at DORP's office. Apart from Watershed, DORP the staff that work on other projects was also participating, which made the workshop interesting and full of variety. The number of participants was 17 (7 men, 10 women), and 3 facilitators of GWA (3 women).

The overall objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of Watershed Partner Development Organization of the Rural Poor (DORP) so that the coaching by the Watershed CSOs will be totally inclusive and gender sensitive.

The direct objectives of the workshop were: 1) The understanding of gender and inclusion, related to SDGs, to Resettlement, to Advocacy, and to Reproductive Hygiene is strengthened. 2) The capacity to recognize the different categories of people, their different needs and knowledge, and to realize who are missing out or excluded, is strengthened. 3. The capacity of DORP staff to include all different people in their work is improved.



In the workshop, there was presentations and interactive discussion on: Gender concept; Inclusion versus exclusion; Key Gender Terms and Gender Mindset (or gender ideology); Empowerment of women, children and men (4 elements for analysis and as an objective and process); Gender Strategy of DORP (current status and renewal process); Group work in 3 groups about Gender, Inclusion and Empowerment in main subjects of DORP's current work; Gender and Inclusion aspects of SDGs that DORP works on and how can our work for SDGs be empowering for the disempowered; and Future plans for collaboration DORP and GWA-B.

The reports of the Capacity Building Workshops on Gender and Inclusion by GWA-B for Watershed partners are both to be found in the GWA website in :

<http://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh/watershed-empowering-citizens/report-capacity-building-gender-and-inclusion-2018/view> and

<http://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh/watershed-empowering-citizens/report-of-workshop-gender-and-inclusion-ii-with-dorp-2018/view>

Reports for the Watershed project

It is the requirement of the Watershed project that every partner will submit their quarterly reports to the lead partner and the donor. In Bangladesh, WaterAid is the lead partner and Simavi is the donor. So, GWA-B has to submit its quarterly reports to the representatives of WaterAid and Simavi. In 2018, GWA-B submitted 4 quarterly reports, one 6-monthly report, one narrative report and two financial reports.

Further reports of our activities are uploaded on the Akvo RSR (Really Simple Reporting) site. This also includes short description and pictures of different activities, whenever mentionable.

Watershed Learning Trajectory

In 2018, Watershed initiated a Learning Trajectory (LT) where representatives from different organizations of different work packages participated and shared their learning regarding WASH and IWRM from their own country context. Representatives of GWA-B shared their learning and different perspective of gender and social inclusion issues related to WASH in Bhola in the learning trajectory. They tried to present the situation of poor and marginalized people regarding WASH facilities. At the same time, they tried to say how WASH services can be inclusive for all.

Various and regular meetings with Watershed International and Country Partners

A number of meetings were conducted with Wateraid and DORP to establish a good collaboration and to know each other's plans and activities, GWA-B regularly met with WaterAid and DORP. Other meetings are the Watershed Monthly Skype Call Meeting with Simavi, IRC, Wetlands and Akvo to inform each other about the progress made and plans.

Various workshops during the year

Simavi, the lead of the Watershed Work Package 5 organized a **workshop on Gender and Social Inclusion in Bangladesh** in April, in which the GWA participants played an active role.

For the purpose of documenting different learning contents of Watershed - Empowering Citizen's programme, for different purposes and audiences, a **Writing and Innovation meeting** has been organized in Ede, Netherlands in April. The GWA-B participant did not get a visa for the Netherlands, so she wrote her paper with digital contacts only. It is titled "Gender Responsive and Socially Inclusive WASH in Bangladesh". This paper will help the targeted audience to know how gender and diversity is ignored in WASH and IWRM, and will influence the policies and



practices on WASH and IWRM. The briefing paper is available in GWA website:

<http://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh/gender-sensitive-and-socially-inclusive-wash-in-bangladesh/view>.

To monitor the Watershed activities, work package 5 lead WaterAid organize review meetings, **the Annual Plan Review Meeting** and the **Mid-term Review Meeting**, in both of which GWA-B participated.

Together with the other Watershed WP partners, the GWA-B representative participated in the 2018 **Annual Partners' Meeting in Uganda** from 1st October to 8th October, hosted by IRC Uganda. GWA-B had the special task in the international Social Inclusion Team (SIT) to make sure Gender and Inclusion was paid attention to all parts of the workshop. At the Watershed Annual partners' meeting, GWA-B representative also participated in different side-meetings with the representatives of consortium member organizations like, IRC, Simavi, Akvo.

The **Outcome Harvesting Workshop** of 2018 was held in December. GWA-B, WaterAid and DORP were the participants, and AKVO the facilitator. This two-day workshop was designed to help partners reflect on key highlights, activities, etc. which will be followed by collecting evidence of what has been achieved and determine whether and how the project activities have contributed to change. GWA-B shared a good number of outcomes out of the activities of GWA-B to promote gender and social inclusion in WASH and IWRM.

On request of Simavi, GWA-B is annually helping DORP to monitor its gender and inclusion related activities and status, by updating the **Organizational Inclusion Assessment Tool (OIAT)**. This time, a big group of DORP staff was present. GWA-B representatives discussed about the OIAT first and then presented and updated the OIAT. A lot of progress has been noticed in the level of inclusion and activities done to achieve the targeted level.

WaterAid organized the **Watershed Advocacy Strategy Development Workshop** and GWA-B representatives participated there and contributed to develop the advocacy strategy for the WP5.



Gender and Social Inclusion Coaching and Field work in Bhola

The GWA-team visited Bhola in September, for coaching and training of CSOs, meeting the government duty bearers, do Focus Group Discussions, did transect walk, conducted interviews and visit the achievements of DORP in the field in Veduria and Dhania Union of Bhola Sadar Upazila. The purpose to visit Bhola and conduct all these activities is to ensure gender and social inclusion in all project activities. This was the third Gender and Social Inclusion mission to Bhola. We met with the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the

chairpersons of Veduria and Dhania Union Parishad (UP) under Bhola Sadar Upazila with their teams.

There was a debriefing session at the end of the visit to explain the activities, findings and initial analysis where DORP personnel and a good number of CSO members were present. Participants also gave some feedbacks in the debriefing session. See **ANNEX 2**, for the debriefing note with all the findings about gender and diversity of people, summarised.



Coaching sessions, this time included group work to develop Gender and Inclusion Plans, to make sure that all know how to include the diversity of people and the needs of poor women and men, in the advocacy they have to do with the government office bearers.



The report on the visit to Bhola is available at GWA website:

<http://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh/watershed-empowering-citizens/report-of-field-visit-to-bhola-gwa-2018/view>

Further activities in the Watershed project:

DORP organized a Photo Exhibition titled JOL O JIBON (Water and Life), with 100 beautiful photographs on WASH and IWRM. We joined the inauguration session.

6. SNV EU - Switch Asia Project: Improving consumer awareness and access to certified safe tomato and mango products in Bangladesh

SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation) invited GWA to conduct a Gender Assessment Study of the EU funded regional SWITCH-Asia programme which SNV is implementing in Bangladesh. The programme focuses on improving consumer awareness and access to certified safe tomato and mango products. In 2017 we wrote the proposal, and in September – December, the project was implemented. The project is located in Rajshahi, Natore and Dhaka districts. The project targets 10,000 farmers, who will learn how to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to produce safe fruit, and 12 million consumers in Dhaka district, who will be made aware of safe food products. It is expected that, by the end of the programme, at least 50% of the domestically processed tomato and mango products that are marketed and consumed in Bangladesh will be certified and safe for consumption by the local population.

The programme has five result areas: Consumer Awareness, Food Safety Standards, Capacity Building, Monitoring, and Coordination. All these areas have gender aspects which need to be considered in project planning, implementation and evaluation to ensure that the consumer awareness-raising, capacity building and monitoring activities in the programme are gender responsive. Therefore, a Gender Assessment was commissioned to be carried out by the Gender and Water Alliance.

Gender Assessment Study

For the Gender assessment of the SWITCH-Asia project, GWA implemented a field study in September in 5 villages and 2 factories in Rajshahi and Natore in north-west Bangladesh. The study engaged women and men tomato and mango farmers in focus group discussions (FGD) and individual interviews. GWA-B also visited mango and tomato processing factories who are involved with the project. The objectives of the Gender Assessment were:

- to identify the gender aspects of the project activities, including selection of farmers, and their training;
- to collect information from various stakeholders such as farmers, key informants (women and men);
- to learn the impact of the project on empowerment of different categories of women and men; and
- to learn and write about the processed food-related choices of consumers of different gender and background.

The main topics that the study addressed include gender and land rights, gendered division of agricultural work, intra-household decision making, consumption preferences and behaviour of different women and men, and gender and empowerment; and the subsequent consequences of these for project actions.

The study found that lack of land ownership by women is a key reason for their low participation in the Farmers' Groups (FGs) initiated by the project, and the related capacity building activities

for safe mango and tomato cultivation. Land rights and ownership is an important criteria to be involved in the EU-SWITCH-Asia project. Most of the members and trainees were medium landowners (men), others were sharecroppers or leased land. Very few women own land independently, in their own name. In a few cases, where women inherited from their fathers after their death, they are usually too old to start farming themselves. However, some women have been found who successfully cultivated mangoes on their own small area of land. Quite exceptionally, one woman belonging to the Oraon minority, managed to buy some land from savings accumulated from her work as agricultural labourer.



o learn from the farmers' groups about the gendered division of tasks in mango and tomato cultivation, during the FGDs the male farmers were asked about the work their women folk do and the women farmers asked about the work of the men and the labourers. The study found that especially in the first and the last phases of the production process of mango and tomato, women do the major share of the agricultural work. Men farmers prepare the land, do part of the work in the field, take care of selling the product, either at the farm itself, or in the market. Spraying the crops with pesticides is mostly done by male labourers, while cleaning of spraying equipment is done by women at home or by the labourers. Farmers often hire male labourers (and some Santal women labourers) to help with land preparation and harvesting during peak work periods for mango and tomato. Women's work includes managing the tomato nursery,



preparing food for the farm labourers, sorting, grading, cleaning the harvested fruit, and packaging it for the market. Next to their agricultural work women are also responsible for all the household work, fetching water, cleaning, cooking, etc.

The study identified a major factor that undermines the effectiveness of the capacity building interventions of the project: that by excluding wives of farmers and landless labourers from the Farmers' Groups, training is not reaching those persons who do the actual work at farm level. For example, if pesticide spraying is mostly done by labourers, they need to be involved in trainings on the subject. Equally, if management of plant nurseries and grading is nearly always done by women, then they need to be present in the training about these subjects. Conversely, it is of little use to impart training to men land owners who are not actually involved in farming and have a full-time job outside agriculture. All the agricultural work is then done by their wives and labourers.



The GWA team also visited two agro-processing factories as part of the gender assessment study. It has been found that the factories are very hygienic, modern and well-managed. From a gender perspective, two major topics have been noticed. One is that lots of women in the region have work in these factories, where otherwise there are not many employment

opportunities, and nearly all of the work is what International Labour Organisation (ILO) denotes as decent work. Conditions are also quite good. The other point is related to low transparency in labelling of products from the factories, from which consumers are not able to make informed choices about the products they buy. The factories follow the government rules for labelling, but percentages of ingredients are apparently not obligatory, because these are not printed on the packages. Consumers are thus not in a position to know how much of natural fruit content and chemical preservatives are present in the processed mango and tomato products they buy for household use by their families. This poses a big obstacle to the objective of the project to make consumers aware of their consumption and also trust the local Bangladeshi products.



While most of the findings from the individual interviews with consumers tally with the results of the Baseline Survey, some extra information was revealed through the qualitative methodology. Many respondents appeared to be rather unaware of food safety of processed tomato and mango products, and how to assess the quality of products. Those who do read product labelling mainly do so to read the expiry date and know if the product is halal.

The gender assessment followed the empowerment framework for analysis to sum up the findings on the project's influence on the level of empowerment of different categories of stakeholders. The findings clearly showed that the male farmers group members empower themselves most through the project activities, the women members somewhat less, whilst the non-member farmers and labourers are least empowered, and even disempowered by project activities. The impact of the project on the consumers is rather indirect, and not visible. GWA made some recommendations to make the project more gender-responsive at different levels, from project management strategy to staff recruitment and skills development, selection of farmers, capacity building activities of the project, and finally, suggestions from respondents on how to make the project more beneficial for all stakeholders, women, ethnic minorities and

landless labourers. See **ANNEX 3** for the Summary of the Gender Assessment.



The full report of the field study, which was edited by Anamika, was permitted by SNV to be uploaded on the GWA website: is available at the GWA website:

<http://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh/snv-eu-switich-asia-gender-assessment/report-of-gender-assessment-snv-gwa/view>

Capacity Building workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture and Food Safety for staff of SNV-SWITCH and Partner Organizations

After conducting the Gender Assessment study of the SWITCH-Asia project in Rajshahi and Natore, Gender and Water Alliance – Bangladesh (GWA-B) conducted a three-day long (6-8 November 2018) Capacity Building Workshop for the SNV team and project partners. The workshop was on 'Gender Mainstreaming by Gender Action Plans for SNV projects, focus on Agriculture'. In the workshop, the gender assessment study findings were shared. The total number of participants was 24, and all of them were men.

The presentation of the findings of the Gender Assessment created interesting and intensive discussions, because not all agreed. The issues on which there were disagree were for example: in division of work, one or two tasks are not done by women only, but also by labourers; about factories, it was said that the salaries are not particularly low, though it was heard from workers; and about capacity building, it was said that some of the grass-root level sub-assistant agricultural officers are women, which the team had not come across.

An important subject that was discussed was the opinions of consumers, which were quite different from those in the Consumers' Survey, done by Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University for SNV. At the time of the workshop the GWA team had not yet seen the report of the Survey. The interviews by the GWA team are very different from a survey, in which the respondent can choose between four or five pre-formulated answers. In the inquiries, the respondents have to formulate their own opinion. This is a sufficient explanation of the differences between the two. The participants of the workshop found the number of interviews few, but of course interviews are not to be compared with questionnaires.

Another important subject of discussion is the safety of the processed foods because the main objective of the project is that consumers trust the products and will buy them because they trust them. The choice to buy a certain product has to be based on information, for example by reading the ingredients on the package, and knowing about these ingredients, and trusting the factories for what they have printed. The participants of the companies quite agreed with these issues, but the participants of CAB (Consumer Association of Bangladesh) and Centre of Excellence Agro Food Skills Foundation (CEAFS) stressed that it is important to follow the government rules, and consumers do not need to know more details than those that are obligatory.

Subsequently, there was discussion on gender and diversity, gender and empowerment, gender methodology of mainstreaming gender in agriculture programmes, gender and food security, gender and monitoring, and some other issues with field experience.

On the second day of the workshop, the Gender Action Plans (GAPs) have been developed by the participants for the project. These help to integrate gender in the organization effectively. It ensures that gender work is not ad hoc, but in a more systematic manner. To prioritize important gender issues and problems, to know what is needed to integrate gender and to solve the gender problems, a GAP is needed.

The description of the elements was as follows:

Gender problem: the issues, related to gender in an organization or project, or individual work, and the causes of these which need to address are the gender problems.

Objective(s): the activities which will guide to work to achieve the ultimate goal in the area of gender relations and gender equality in our project or with our work. For developing a gender action plan, to set the objective(s) of the plan is very much needed.

Specific activities: the concrete acts or initiatives that can help to solve the gender problem and reach the target. In a GAP, particular activities help the gender action planner to be in track.

Target: the desired change(s) in the area of gender relations and gender equality. In a gender action plan, target can be quantitative and qualitative both.



Time frame: the targeted time to finish the activities and reach the goal. In a gender action plan, the time frame of the activities is usually one year or a longer period. Sometimes it is divided with the quarters to be in track.

Resources/what is needed: the tentative budget, time, human-power, information, and other supports which are also needed to implement the activities and to reach the aims of the GAP.

Empowerment indicators: the incorporation of empowerment (4 elements of empowerment) indicators for monitoring the progress of the activities. It is also very much needed for a GAP.

Expected result: the effects or outcomes of the activities related to the target. It is also needed to identify the target group or beneficiaries for whom the GAP is.

Responsible: the person(s) who will take care of everything time to time and will take the lead to implement the GAP within the targeted time frame.

All the GAPs were impressive, and the groups did good jobs. Nevertheless, the groups were asked to adapt the GAPs to make them more realistic and doable, because it is not a good idea to make it large, with many activities, which will not be possible to be implemented, and all will feel dissatisfied after one year. On the next day, all the groups presented their finalized GAPs.



The 2nd day of the workshop ended with a power walk. The purpose of the game was to sensitize participants on how power relations, different policy and programme interventions, and social positions affect people's lives and could lead to the marginalization of different members of society. And, at the end, there was a recommendation sharing session by GWA-B team for the project and project partners based on the gender assessment study.

On the 3rd day of the workshop, in the morning session, participants analysed their own organization and project with the Empowerment Approach (4 integrated elements A matrix was designed with on one side the 4 elements of empowerment, and on the other side the categories of people. In the cells the level of empowerment was to be written as pluses and minuses. The main aim was not to fill in the matrix, but to discuss in the groups to be aware of such differences. Groups were supposed to answering the question: **who is empowered by the project and who is not?** The sub-questions were on the four elements: social, economic, political and physical. Subsequently, representatives from SNV, Agro processing companies, CAB, and CEAFS revised their GAPs addressing the comments of day 2 and making the GAP more SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timebound).

Synthesis of participants' responses from the written evaluation forms

The evaluation questionnaire consisted of 'multiple choice' as well as open questions and aimed to get feedback from the participants on the performance of the workshop, and their suggestions for further scope of improvement.

In 'multiple choice' questions, the responses were largely similar on a majority of questions: more than two-thirds of the participants thought that the workshop programme and objectives were very clear, that the logistical arrangements for the workshop were very satisfactory with one or two complaints about the transport facilities, while the majority of the participants strongly agreed that the facilitators were skilled and responsive to participants' needs. Half of the participants strongly agreed that there was enough opportunity for interaction and discussion, while the other half agreed that they lacked of it during the workshop as a whole. This response was confirmed in the question regarding the length of the workshop, where most of the participants thought they would have benefitted from adequate time slots for this workshop except 2/3 participants the length of the workshop was too short. This also corresponds with a higher percentage of the participants thinking that the training was directly relevant for them. Among the topics covered in the workshop rated most useful by participants, all the participants mentioned gender concepts, tools, and methodology empowerment elements and Gender Action Plan. All the participants were unanimous in their opinion that the training had increased their interest to learn more about gender issues in development.



7. UN Environment Gender in Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Reacting to GWA's proposal to UNEnvironment, we were invited to collect case-studies and write the report about gender in the management of marine and coastal ecosystems. The secretariat wrote to the members of some networks, those of UNEnvironment, GEF and of GWA. Response only came from GWA members (18), and we had to select those that were feasible to be processed into case studies of the required format. Originally the idea was that the examples would be relevant for ROPME countries, (Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment, covering the countries Bahrain, I.R.Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). These countries asked for examples of effective gender mainstreaming in other countries, to learn from, so we preferred to include cases with similar contexts, but the choice of cases was small. Cases which had earlier been published on the internet were not eligible. Eventually, the paper consists of an introduction, three cases from India (Odisha), Mexico, Philippines, and an example of good practice of gender-inclusive ocean management and research.

The compilation gives various relevant recommendations for gender-related marine management. It has been positively received.

The full title and the citation text is: UNEP, GWA (2018). Steering toward a Better Future for People and Planet: Learning from global experiences of mainstreaming gender in coastal and marine ecosystems management. The Summary is included in this report as **ANNEX 4**.

It is to be found in the UNEP and GWA websites: <http://genderandwater.org/en/water-sectors/fisheries/un-environment-gender-in-marine-and-coastal-ecosystems/steering-toward-a-better-future-for-people-and-planet-learning-from-global-experiences-of-mainstreaming-gender-in-coastal-and-marine-ecosystems-management/view>



8. PROPOSALS and DONOR contacts

- ◆ UNICEF Proposal to build capacity of organisations of refugee-workers Bangladesh
- ◆ SNV proposal for Capacity Building workshop of their team in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Natore, Bangladesh, involved with the EU SWITCH Asia project for safe tomato and mango production.
- ◆ After writing a concept note for the EKN Bangladesh for capacity building of NGOs, international organisations and government officers to help Rohingya refugees in a gender sensitive manner, we were told that we have to address Emergency Aid of the Netherlands Government instead. From this institution we received a negative response.
- ◆ To Wetlands International, in the Netherlands, GWA again wrote a brief setup of a proposal for various options of collaboration.
- ◆ In Bangladesh, regular visits were made to the EKN to keep contact about need for the work of GWA-B to support the technical water projects that are funded by the EKN.
- ◆ Simavi: proposal for GWA's function in the Watershed Empowering Citizens project in Bangladesh for 2019.
- ◆ Proposal (full-fledged) for Handicap International for a Gender Assessment of their Paradigm Project in Bangladesh.

This year the SNV proposal and that of Simavi for Watershed, were approved.

9. Other Activities BANGLADESH

Khadiza Akter, programme officer GWA-Bangladesh, wrote an article about MHM, which was published in the Daily Star on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28 May. The title is “Breaking the silence on menstruation, *Empowering women and girls through proper menstrual hygiene management.*” It is to be found in:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/perspective/breaking-the-silence-menstruation-1582318>.

Khadiza also participated in the workshop of OXFAM Bangladesh on Transboundary Water Management, of their TROSA project.

Further, various events in Bangladesh, for which GWA-B is invited are usually attended by one of the team, if time permits.

10. Other Activities Elsewhere

Here follows a selection of other activities:

Chairperson Eva Rathgeber represents GWA in the Biodiversity conference of the Global Forest Coalition, a co-applicant in the Women2030 project. The conference is held in Montreal, Canada.

On request, members are being linked to each other, depending on the subjects and countries or regions, for example members of Central Asia.

Hebe Barber, GWA member in Argentine, sends film on Women Plumbers in Argentine, translated into English. They trained more than 10,000 women in cold water installation. You can see it in the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txuzfGNZSjg&feature=youtu.be>



The Ziraldo booklets are translated into Armenian in their beautiful script. It is difficult to keep track about the number of languages the booklets have been translated into.

For various members and earlier employees we write reference letters, on request.

11. GWA TEAM and offices

In 2018 the GWA Secretariat had to be more minimised, but nevertheless a lot of work was done, as can be read in the chapters before this one.

In the GWA-Bangladesh office, we appoint Daina Chakma as financial assistant, to do the bookkeeping and necessary administration. Whilst one Junior Programme Officer is leaving us, she is replaced by another woman who has also studied in the Department for Gender and Women Studies in the Dhaka University. All appreciate the opportunities they get to learn in their own speed, the various sides of a small team in which task are not divided into every-day-the-same work.

The ED spends about 5 months per year in Bangladesh, and the rest of the time in the Secretariat in the Netherlands.



12. FINANCES

As will be clear from the text of this report, in 2018, finances are not promising: expenditure is € 36.164 higher than the income. Without core-funding there is no source of money which allows audits. For organisations with small turnover, it is difficult to find an auditor at all, in the Netherlands. So after 2016, only the project Financial Reports are audited: Women2030 and Watershed.

GWA Financial Report 2018 summary

Women2030 Year 3, Watershed Year 2 and GWA Cash expenditure in Bangladesh have been audited for 2018.

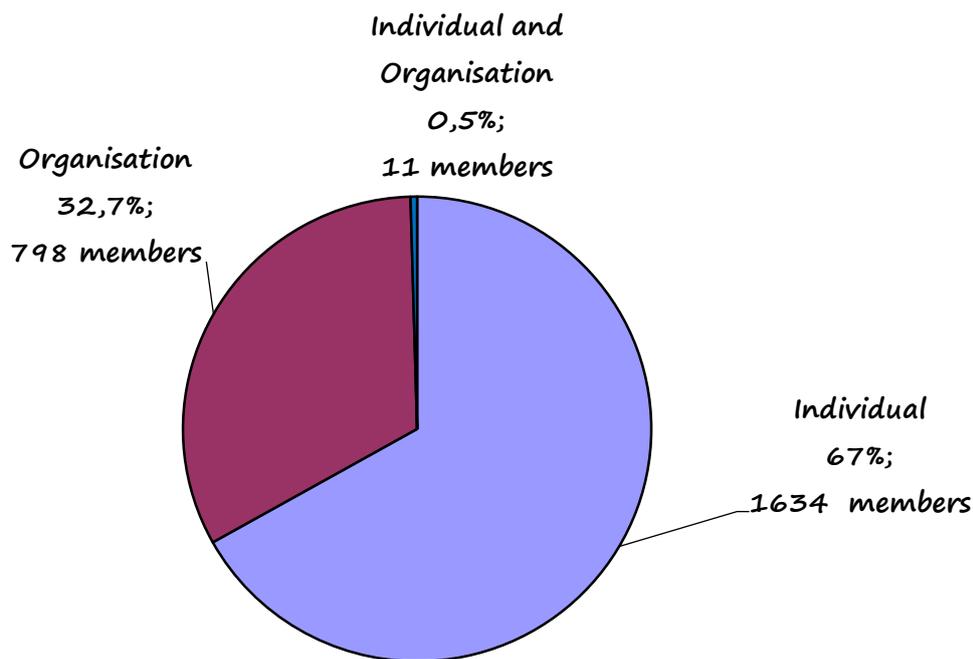
	2018	Euro	BDT in €€	hours	31-dec-18	31-dec-17
Solvability						
Total of all bank accounts					22146	58310
Income per project	2018					
1 Simavi Watershed	17493					
2 WECF - DEVCO Women2030	57834					
3 SNV-BD	27125					
4 UNEnvironment Gender and Marine Development	8050					
5 Interest	104					
6 Other	2677					
Total income in 2018	113283					
Expenditure per project	Euro Bank NL	BDT in Euro	Costs of hours	C+D+E		
A Salaries minus hours worked for projects	30	8029	352	8411		
B Office costs, rent, facilities, audits, etc.	3885	6000	1290	11175		
1 Simavi Watershed	5815	1500	20685	28001		
2 WECF - DEVCO Women2030	28893	2900	30541	62334		
3 SNV-BD	7745	250	14202	22197		
4 UNEnvironment Gender and Marine Development	4151		1075	5226		
5 Various other Cap.Building	0		108	108		
6 Various other Knowledge Devt	100			100		
7 Various advocacy	0		185	185		
8 Network	529		11008	11537		
9 Other			173	173		
Total expenditure in 2018	51149	18679	79619	149447		
Balance 31-12-2018 = Solvability 1/1/18 + Income – Expenditure = € 22146.						

ANNEX 1 GWA Membership Report 2018

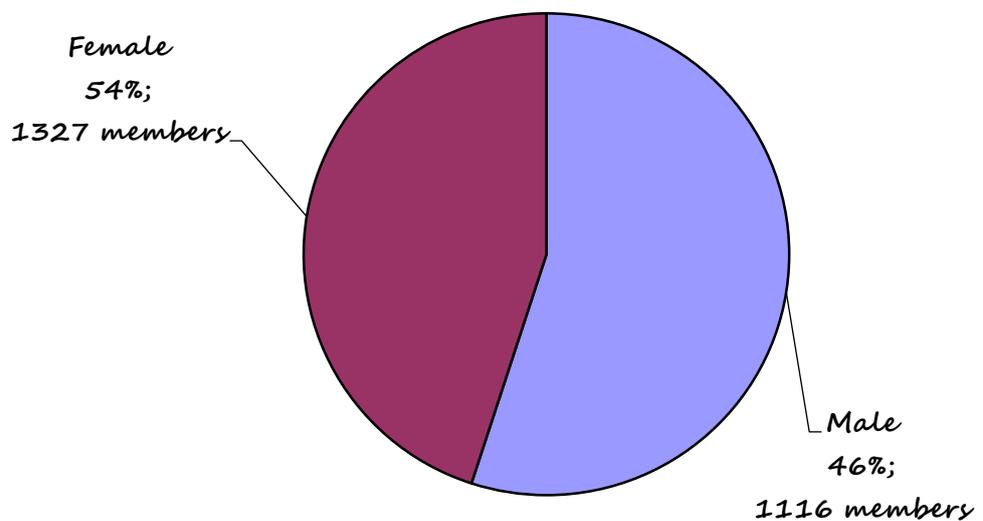
GWA Membership report 2018

At the End of 2018 GWA has reached 2443 Members from 130 Countries

➤ Membership Type



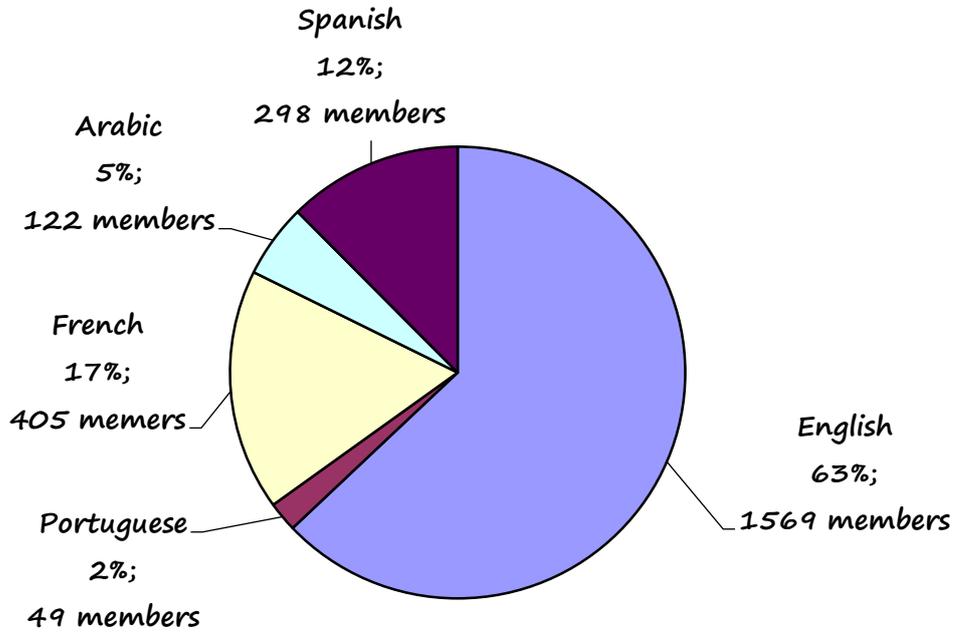
➤ Sex



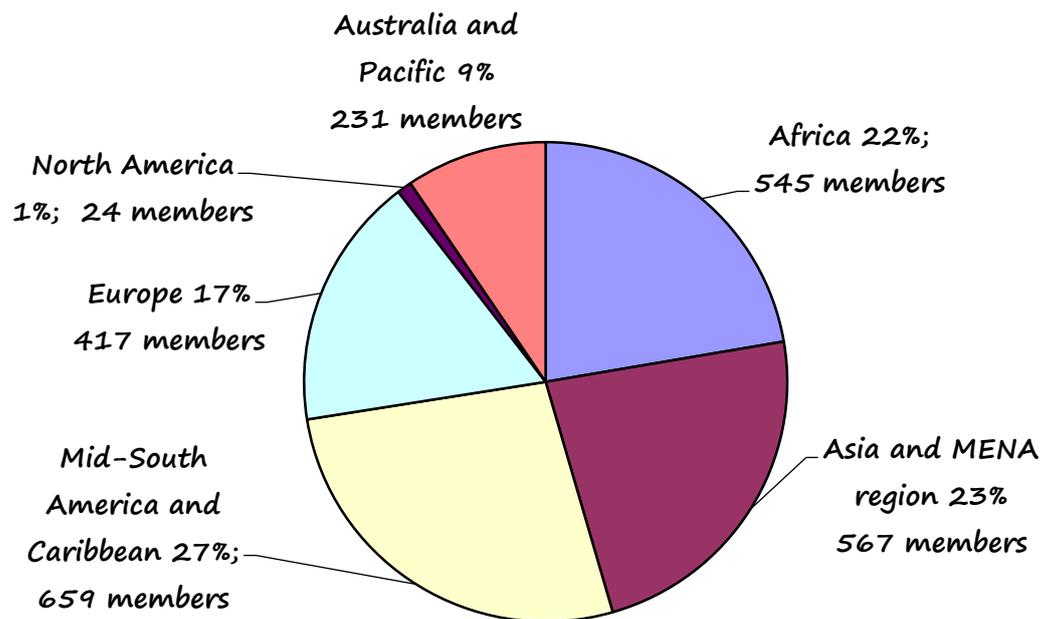


GWA Membership report 2018

➤ Language



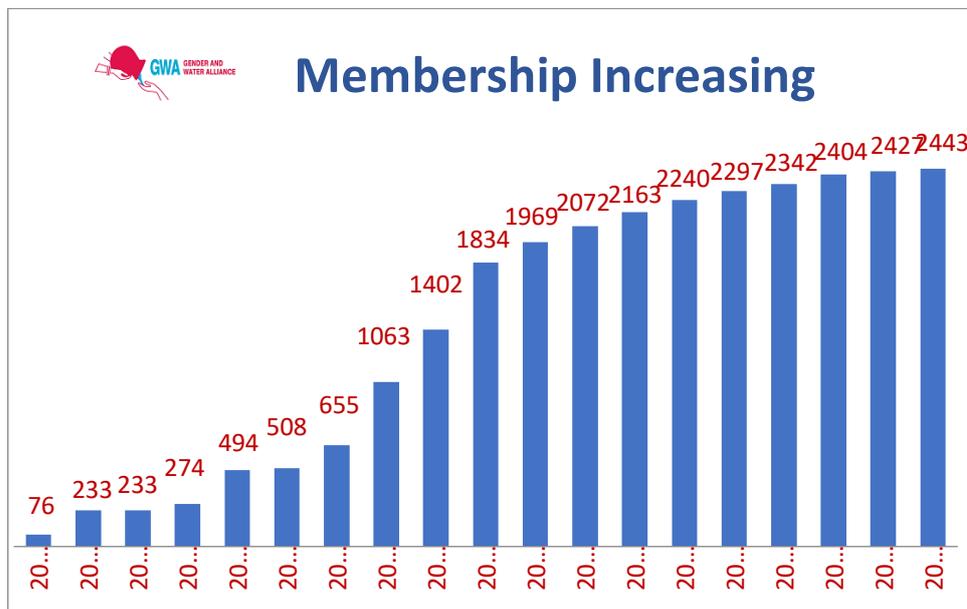
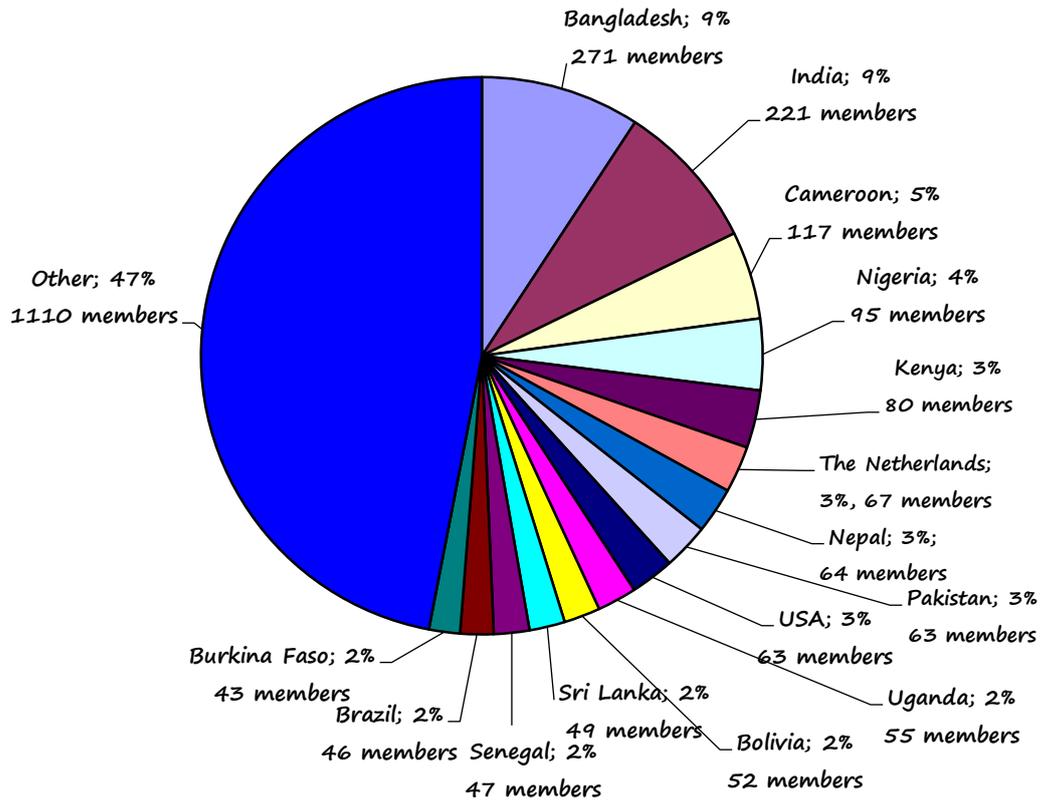
➤ Geographic region





GWA Membership report 2018

➤ Countries Top 15 31-12-2018



ANNEX 2



Debriefing Note

Visit to Bhola by team of GWA-B, 9-12 September 2018, four days

Participants:	GWA:	Joke Muylwijk Khadiza Akter
	DORP Dhaka:	Partha S.K. Dr. Sylvana
	DORP Bhola:	Md. Abdul Mannan Tarun Kanti Das

The GWA-B team spent four days in Bhola Sadar, mostly in the two unions selected for the Watershed project: Dhania and Veduria. On the last afternoon we organised a Debriefing session for DORP staff and for the CSOs which came to the coaching sessions earlier.

Joke read her notes, and Khadiza translated it, and added details for clarification. The second part: the discussion was also translated by Khadiza.

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 various visits to villages, Focus Group Discussions, meetings with service providers, interviews, and our observations.

The two days coaching sessions were both interesting and different. This time the Water Management Citizens Committee was headed by Mr. Ruhul Jahangir, as Deputy Secretary. He accompanied us to most of the visits.

The meetings with the Government Agencies, service providers and the two Union Parishads, were also interesting, and we found much interest in the work of the Watershed Project, even though it was also mentioned that they would deal with the WASH committee of the Upazilla Parishad, a standing committee. But these committees are sometimes dormant. Yesterday we looked at the DTW of the Bede, the sand-bag pre-embankment and the Budgets on the walls, which are to be seen as resulting from the project, so something to be proud of.

Here follow the subjects:

Drinking water:

Like last time we found overall the drinking water of the deep tube-wells to be fine: no arsenic, no salinity, no iron, and also no dry tube-wells. One exception is the cluster village (Guchagram) which we visited, where the water was saline and with iron, not suitable to drink, whilst other, safe tubewells were 1,5 km away.

The Bede (river nomads) were lacking a tubewell last time, but now DPHE has, thanks to the project and advocacy work of the WMCC, installed one deep tube well and hand pump for them, close to the place where they usually stay with their boats. They are very happy with this high-quality water.

Sanitation:

The sanitation situation is still poor everywhere in the two unions: The latrines are katcha, and with the rains and waterlogging during monsoon, they overflow and spread the sludge everywhere. DPHE informed us that 89 or 93 % of the people have good toilets, but we visited people with unhygienic toilets, which they also had to share with some villagers.

In the cluster village there are ten toilets, but they were constructed very low, and are now, after only 9 years, totally unusable and a threat for the public health. Now women have to find some place in the night or walk far, all risky.

Agriculture and landownership:

Irrigation is only done with river water, and vegetable gardens with buckets. No groundwater is used. This is a very good point because even though the groundwater level is not at risk, the more water is used, the higher the chance that the groundwater becomes saline.

Because of river erosion the group of people who lost their land and have to continue to live landless, actually increases.

Even though women have no land titles, we were informed by the Union Chairman of Veduria that after losing land, women-headed-households get priority in being resettled.

The cluster village which was built in 2009, looks already ancient, and the houses are very small, less than 3 meters wide, are built on very low land. There are no functioning facilities any more, and none of the inhabitants have a card of some sort.

Employment:

There is hardly any employment for women or for adolescent girls. For boys the situation is nearly as bad. Institutions tell that women are not allowed and willing to go out for work, but those we asked all wanted to do jobs, for example in a garment factory, if it was in Bhola, and also in earth work.

Protection:

Embankments are planned to be heightened, somewhere in the future. In the meantime, a stretch of about one kilometre along the Meghna is strengthened by a row of sandbags, which BWDB had put in place with the help of contracted workers, and after lobbying by the WMCC. This row of sandbags will hopefully take the strength away from the heaviest waves of the Meghna.

DPHE

The engineers have bimonthly meetings with the standing WASH committee at Upazilla level, following the Upazilla Act. In fact all activities are based on the government rules. Related to selection of who will receive the very few toilets for public places, the Union Parishad decides. He cannot yet construct a toilet for the Bede in Dhania Union, because there is no free land available.

BWDB

BWDB agrees to involve more women labourers in labourers societies, if these groups can be organised by NGOs. They see CDSP in Noakhali as an example.

LGED

LGED already involves women's labour societies, even 1000 women workers to maintain roads, etc. Women also construct rural markets, and there is even one women's bazar. (in Monpura).

Union Parishad Dhania

We are informed that many toilets are sanctioned. The Upazilla and Union chairmen go together to find the most densely populated areas to select these for tubewells. The Chairmen offers to take care of land, if others have an initiative for a toilet, f.e. for the Bede.

Union Parishad Veduria

This Union Chairman is already working with the WMCC.

This year 40 families lost their land, and 2 are women headed households who will get priority with getting khasland.

Union Parishad Alinagar

Alinagar is not included in the Watershed programme, but by their interest they have also published the budget, and with a separate amount for WASH on the walls of the Union Parishad Building. Dhanai and Veduria were examples.

Ukil Para Government Primary school

DPHE has constructed a block of 3 toilets for girls in 2014, two toilets are locked continuously and one toilet is not too bad, apart from the rusted door and the basin does not work.

DPHE constructed a block of 3 toilets and 2 urinals and one handbasin in 2017. This block is for boys and is in good condition. These 5 facilities are for 170 boys.

Ukil Para Secondary Girls' School

This is not a government school, and anyway, DPHE is not responsible for the toilets of higher level schools. This school has two toilets, both unreachable by dirt and mud, and one is closed, the other is very primitive. The girls use the toilet of the primary school. In total that one toilet is for 670+ girls.

FGD in Dhania Union, mixed

Tasks of women were listed by men, and then supplemented by women.

Tasks of men were also listed. The number of hours of women's work is between 15 and 18.

Men work 8 hours (when employed) and 12 hours (when self-employed).

Issues raised are:

- River bank erosion, leading to many homeless people
- Lack of fish in the river
- All are indebted (paying the one NGO with the loan of another)
- No employment for adolescents
- No fuel for cooking (riverside plants are dried for the purpose)
- No clinique and the cost to go to the hospital is Tk 100.
- Education is too costly.

Positive points are: good electricity, good roads, tubewell with good water, lots of culverts, schools and mosks.

FGD in Gucchagram (Dhania Union), mixed

At one time all the inhabitants of the 20 houses in this so called cluster village were owning land and their own houses. By river erosion and cyclones they lost it all into one of the many rivers.

Now they live in a small low shed, without facilities, without cards, and with hardly any employment. Some of them are quite old, and will not find work any more. Only boys attend the secondary school, by lack of money for schoolfees. A miserable situation.

Diversity: Leave no-one behind:

Last time we had a lot of information about the different categories of people. We now found no evidence that that information was incorrect. So we stay with these statements.

Muslims:

The majority of the people are Muslim, some are poor, but many are able to look after 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 CSO Network.

Elderly:

The old people are often very poor, unless taken care of by their children. With fetching water they have a problem: it is far and heavy and they have a problem walking. Everybody knows that elderly like to use a high commode, but they are not 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 also mostly unemployed: mothers and housewives, which is not less work, but a loss of economic capacity. They spend quite some time fetching water, and walking to toilets.

Fisher people:

Most of them are living below the embankment, on either side, much 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 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 more fish. They have no access to schools, and they are not allowed to take more than one pitcher water. They are only allowed to use the hanging toilets. On the boats especially the women suffer.

Recommendations:

- Compared to last year the Water Management Citizen’s Committee is now more functioning as one group, with less contradictory feelings. The variety of different categories of people from vary influential to extremely poor and marginalised, is an enormous achievement to get together. On the other hand, the hierarchical culture (all over Bangladesh) makes it difficult

for the influential members to listen to the women and the poor, and to take them seriously. To see much improvement is a great achievement.

- We recommend the well-off members to continue the effort to listen more to the poorer or less influential categories because they have a lot of experience about the water and sanitation situation, and are as such valuable members to learn from.
- Groups of women to be organised as Women Labourers Societies.
- Other forms of employment to be stimulated, for women, girls, men and boys to earn an income, so that they don't need subsidies and ration-cards.
- Invite NGOs that provide hardware for sanitation for the most marginalised.
- Last year we suggested to include more unions, and now the process has started with Alinagar and 3 others. It would be good to see unions included that have quite different water problems.
- Training or coaching of Government Agencies in Bhola regarding Gender and Inclusion would be helpful for them in their work.
- Awareness raising, coaching and training is required on different subjects for different groups of participants, mostly by DORP:
 - 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
 - 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 to given due attention:
 - Strengthening of the embankments and more sluice-gates to help against water logging
 - Those who lose land need proper compensation, women and men
 - River nomads and other fisher people need tube-wells and toilets around the shore on the embankments.



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ANNEX 3 Summary of Gender Assessment of SNV SWITCH Asia project for safer consumption of tomato and mango processed foods.

Summary

Background and rationale for the study

Gender equity is crucial to the sustainable development of all sectors of the economy. Agriculture is a core sector in the economy of Bangladesh, contributing almost 20 percent to the national GDP and employing more than 60 percent of the population¹, a large proportion of whom are women. However, women's contribution to agriculture in Bangladesh remains largely unreported and under reported in official statistics and they are persistently left out of many agricultural interventions to improve farmers' livelihoods and increase productivity. To be effective, efficient and sustainable, all agriculture-related projects need to take gender relations into account, and how these influence women and men's access to resources for production, inputs, skill training and markets.

The regional SWITCH-Asia programme, funded by the European Commission, promotes the adoption of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Asia and Europe. In Bangladesh, the programme focuses on improving consumer awareness and access to certified safe tomato and mango products.

Media reports broadcasting results of tests showing unacceptably high level of pesticides residues and chemicals in locally produced fruit and vegetable products have served to undermine the trust of many Bangladeshi consumers in the safety of these products.

Since 2016 SNV- Bangladesh (Netherlands Development Organisation) has been implementing the four year EU SWITCH-Asia project in Rajshahi, Natore and Dhaka districts of Bangladesh. The project targets 10000 farmers, who will learn how to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to produce safe fruit, and 12 million consumers in Dhaka district, who will be made aware of safe food products. It is expected that, by the end of the programme, at least 50% of the domestically processed tomato and mango products that are marketed and consumed in Bangladesh will be certified and safe for consumption by the local population.

The programme has five result areas: Consumer Awareness; Food Safety Standards; Capacity Building; Monitoring and; Coordination. All these areas have gender aspects which need to be considered in project planning, implementation and evaluation to ensure that the consumer awareness-raising, capacity building and monitoring activities in the programme are gender responsive.

At the end of 2017, halfway through the project, an internal project review noted that gender is not mainstreamed in the project, and that the project beneficiaries are mostly men. A Gender Assessment was commissioned to be carried out by the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) to find out the reasons behind this. The EU programme manager further found gaps in the project staff's understanding of gender equality issues, and it was suggested that a Gender workshop be conducted by GWA, for the staff and field team.

¹ <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Asia-and-the-Pacific/Bangladesh-AGRICULTURE.html>

For the Gender assessment, GWA² implemented a field study from 16-20 September 2018, engaging women tomato and mango farmers in focus group discussions (FGD) and individual interviews, to shed light on the reasons why so few of them are involved in the project.

The objectives of the Gender Assessment were:

- to identify the gender aspects of the project activities, including selection of farmers, and their training;
 - to collect information from various stakeholders such as farmers, key informants (women and men);
 - to learn the impact of the project on empowerment of different categories of women and men;
 - to learn and write about the processed food-related choices of consumers of different gender and background;
- by open inquiries, interviews, Focus Group Discussions and observations.

The main topics that the study addresses include gender and land rights, gendered division of agricultural work, intra-household decision making, consumption preferences and behaviour of different women and men, and gender and empowerment; and the subsequent consequences of these for project actions.

Methodology

For the field research of this Gender Assessment the focus is on qualitative methods of information gathering. This includes a particular style of in-depth interview called **Inquiry**, which entails an open discussion in which the interviewees are encouraged to speak about what is important for them. The researchers use a checklist instead of a questionnaire to ensure that relevant topics are covered during the interview. The checklists can be viewed in Annex 3. Case studies from the inquiries with women and men farmers and agricultural labourers can be found in Annex 4.

GWA applies an empowerment approach to analyse the qualitative data, with attention for the four interrelating elements of economic, political, socio-cultural, and physical empowerment, in the context of mango and tomato cultivation. A more detailed description of this approach can be found in Annex 1.

Next to individual inquiries, Focus Group Discussions were held with 5 of the project's farmers' groups, the descriptions of which can be found in annex 5. Further inquiries and interviews were held with key informants, factory staff and workers and consumers, the reports of which can be found in annexes 6, 7, and 8, respectively.

The initially planned methodology was adapted to the field situation and to the plans made by SNV staff. While the original intention was to have Focus Group Discussions with general groups

² Gender and Water Alliance. The Gender and Water Alliance Bangladesh is the country chapter of the INGO GWA, which is an international network of women and men, working in water development and/or gender. GWA applies a broad meaning of gender, the differences and relations between women and men, as they interact with age, ethnicity, socio-economic position, living environment, etc. We call this Gender and Diversity, or Gender Plus. GWA has about 260 members in Bangladesh. GWA has a small team and works in various projects involving local members in its work.

of member and non-member villagers, selection of these groups by SNV staff meant that we had the discussions with the Farmers Groups initiated by the project. The numbers of women and men in the FGDs thus depended on the membership of the Mango and Tomato Producer Groups. To have the FGDs with group members instead of randomly selected villagers (women or men) had advantages, because all knew a lot about the project and about the questions we asked. However, a random selection of FGD participants would have been better for objectivity. Instead for control purposes, it was made sure to include in the sample of Inquiries, individual interviews with women and men who are not members of the project's farmer groups. An added advantage of including the Farmers Groups in our sample was that it increased the number of total respondents in the FGDs as well as individual interviews, so opinions of more people are included in the findings. About 106 men and 57 women participated in the FGDs, instead of the 48 men and 48 women from the original plan, the number of individual interviews was 75 instead of the planned 56, and we interviewed 14 Key Informants instead of 4.

Findings

The study finds that lack of land ownership by women is a key reason for their low participation in the Farmer Groups initiated by the project, and the related capacity building activities for safe mango and tomato cultivation. Land rights and ownership is an important criterium to be involved in the EU-SWITCH-Asia project. Most of the members and trainees were medium landowners (men), others were sharecroppers or leased land. Very few women own land independently, in their own name. In the few cases where women inherit from their fathers after their death, they are usually too old to start farming themselves. In our sample, however, we did find some women who successfully cultivated mangoes on their own small area of land. Quite exceptionally, one woman belonging to the Oraon minority, managed to buy some land from savings accumulated from her work as agricultural labourer.

To learn from the farmers' groups about the gendered division of tasks in mango and tomato cultivation, the male farmers were asked about the work their women folk do and the women farmers asked about the work of the men and the labourers. The study found that especially in the first and the last phases of the production process of mango and tomato, women do the major share of the agricultural work. Men farmers prepare the land, do part of the work in the field, take care of selling the product, either at the farm itself, or in the market. Spraying the crops with pesticides is mostly done by male labourers, while cleaning of spraying equipment is done by women at home or by the labourers. Farmers often hire male labourers (and some Santhal women labourers) to help with land preparation and harvesting during peak work periods for mango and tomato. Women's work includes managing the tomato nursery, preparing food for the farm labourers, sorting, grading, cleaning the harvested fruit, and packaging it for the market. Next to their agricultural work women are also responsible for all the household work, fetching water, cleaning, cooking, etc.

The study identified a major factor that undermines the effectiveness of the capacity building interventions of the project: that by excluding wives of farmers and landless labourers from the Farmer Groups, training is not reaching those persons who do the actual work at farm level. For example, if pesticide spraying is mostly done by labourers, they need to be involved in trainings on the subject. Equally, if management of plant nurseries and grading is nearly always done by

women, then they need to be present in the training about these subjects. Conversely, it is of little use to impart training to men land owners who are not actually involved in farming and have a full-time job outside agriculture. All the agricultural work is then done by their wives and labourers.

The two agro-processing factories visited as part of the Gender assessment were found to be very hygienic, modern and well-managed. From a gender perspective we noticed two major topics. One is that lots of women in the region have work in these factories, where otherwise there are not many employment opportunities, and nearly all of the work is what ILO denotes as decent work. Conditions are quite good. The other point is related to low transparency in labelling of products from the factories, from which consumers are not able to make informed choices about the products they buy. The factories follow the government rules for labelling, but percentages of ingredients are apparently not obligatory, because these are not printed on the packages. Consumers are thus not in a position to know how much of natural fruit content and chemical preservatives are present in the processed mango and tomato products they buy for household use by their families. This poses a big obstacle to the objective of the project to make consumers aware of their consumption and also trust the local Bangladeshi products. While most of the findings from the individual interviews with consumers tally with the results of the Baseline Survey, some extra information was revealed through the qualitative methodology. Many respondents appeared to be rather unaware of food safety of processed tomato and mango products, and how to assess the quality of products. Those who do read product labelling mainly do so to read the expiry date and know if the product is halal.

The report uses the empowerment framework for analysis to sum up the findings on the project's influence on the level of empowerment of different categories of stakeholders. These findings are summarised in a table, which clearly shows that the male farmers group members empower themselves most through the project activities, the women members somewhat less, whilst the non-member farmers and labourers are least empowered, and even disempowered by project activities. The impact of the project on the consumers is rather indirect, and not yet visible.

The report ends with recommendations to make the project more gender-responsive at different levels, from project management strategy to staff recruitment and skills development, selection of farmers, capacity building activities of the project, and finally, suggestions from respondents on how to make the project more beneficial for all stakeholders, women, ethnic minorities and landless labourers.

The first concrete follow-up activity to this Gender Assessment will be a Capacity Building Workshop for the project staff, and staff of partner organisations, to be conducted in November 2018.

ANNEX 4:

Executive Summary

Steering toward a Better Future for People and Planet: Learning from global experiences of mainstreaming gender in coastal and marine ecosystems management. UNEP, GWA (2018).

Women and men use and manage marine and coastal ecosystems differently, have specific knowledge, capabilities and needs related to this and are differently impacted by changes in their environment due to climate change, pollution, and globalization.

Historically, the contributions of women in onshore fisheries, aquaculture, processing and trading of marine products, in managing plastic and other waste from urban and tourist growth, and their important role in conservation and disaster-risk reduction initiatives in marine and coastal areas have been routinely ignored or underestimated in research, management and policy.

There is now increasing recognition that sustainable and integrated marine and coastal ecosystem management requires gender sensitive and gender responsive planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at project, policy and grassroots level. This recognition is evident in the Call for Action³ issued by Member states at the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (UN Ocean Conference) held in June 2017, which highlighted the crucial role of women in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.



SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The sustainable development goal SDG 5, to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls, is to be linked to SDG 14, for two purposes: if women and vulnerable groups are involved in marine development, both the marine environment and the women are benefitting. An **empowerment approach** is suitable to analyse situations as well as to ensure SDG 5 and 14.

Empowerment has four interacting elements, each of them are crucial for women, children, men to be able to empower themselves⁴: political, economic, socio-cultural and physical empowerment.

A critical challenge faced by policy makers, environmental managers and development practitioners in mainstreaming gender in the integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems is the lack

³ A/RES/71/312 - Our ocean, our future: call for action

⁴ <http://genderandwater.org/en/gwa-products/capacity-building/empowerment-for-gender-equality/empowerment-four-interacting-elements-for-analysis-and-as-an-objective-for-development/view?searchterm=empowerment>

of practical examples to guide the implementation of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive actions from an empowerment approach. Consequently, this report aims to share practical experiences, key lessons and recommendations from a sample of projects and initiatives from across the world that have successfully integrated a gendered perspective in a variety of relevant contexts such as **integrated fisheries and coastal zone management, marine and coastal plastic waste management, coastal disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, coastal development planning and advocacy for gender-inclusive ocean management and research.**

Where the information is available, elements of empowerment will be given focus. Very few examples are available on the internet, some about the marine environment, many about fisheries, but all together hardly any who describe the gender aspects.

The case studies in this report show that while there is no ‘standard formula’ for gender-equitable marine and coastal management, there are certainly some good practices to recommend:

- Designing an effective **gender mainstreaming strategy** for policies and projects needs **context-specific** preparation and valid **gender-disaggregated data**. This can be obtained from gender-sensitive **baseline studies, stakeholder mapping** and **participatory grassroots-level consultation** that include the four elements of empowerment of women, youth and marginalized groups.
- Apply an **empowerment approach** for situational analysis, which is easy for technical staff to do.
- **Multi-stakeholder consultations** during formulation and inception phase of projects can make shared interests and priorities clear, link the CBOs with NGOs and local authorities and **encourage collaboration** between them. This is crucial for sustaining coastal ecosystem management practices after project phase-out, and it makes efficient use of **local action, knowledge and resources**.
- Making a country or region-specific **inventory of past gender interventions** and resources, tools and knowledge networks of the donor and national agencies can add value to the gender results achieved by previous projects, while creating awareness of the main obstacles to overcome.
- **Building inclusive processes** and demonstrated results for those who may be strongly affected by measures but have limited means to engage in participatory processes is crucial for boosting local ownership in community-based integrated coastal management projects.
- Finally, **grassroots women’s groups** can be an important channel for introducing the concepts of integrated coastal management and sustainable development in a way that is meaningful to all members of their community. International and national development agencies can help boost their capacities through building their leadership and networking skills and **recognizing their contributions** in dissemination and advocacy events.

Crime

At the interface of land and sea, various criminal activities are to be expected, such as drug trade, trafficking of women, girls, boys and men, illegal travel of refugees, piracy, shipbreaking, dumping of toxic waste, slave-trade, prostitution, etc. All are not documented, difficult to find quantitative and qualitative information about, and people’s lips are of course sealed about their function in these. In all these sectors, women and men have different functions and power positions. In this report we do not include them, apart from the fact that such crimes are part of the context in which development work is taking place.