



REPORT 2016

Gender and Water Alliance



Water, Sanitation and Climate Resilience

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council of Water
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CA	Cooperative Agreement
Cap-Net	International Network for Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management
CB	Capacity Building
CDP	Centre for Development and Peace, Meherpur, Bangladesh
CDSP IV	Char Development and Settlement Project
DD	Deputy Director
DGIS	Directoraat Generaal Internationale Samenwerking
DSC	Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad, NGO in Gujarat, partner in SUJAL Consortium
DU	Dhaka University, University of Dhaka
D-WASA	Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
DWGS	Department for Women and Gender Studies (in Dhaka University)
ED	Executive Director
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
EKNsPs	EKN supported projects
GA	General Assembly
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GDD	Gender disaggregated data
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
GWA-B	Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh
GWA-EA	Gender and Water Alliance – Eastern Africa
GWAPB	Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IDRC	International Development Research Centre (Canada)
IEW	Institute of the Environment and Water (Kenya)
IFC-PaCT	International Finance Corporation – Partnership for Cleaner Textile
IHE-UNESCO	Institute for Water Education (Delft)
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoU	Memory of Understanding
MFS	Medefinancierings Stelsel (Co-financing system)
NAPD	National Academy for Planning of Development
RAIN	Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network
RG	Resource Guide
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
RSPW	Regional Strategic Planning Workshop
RWH	Rainwater Harvesting
SAFAL	Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security & Linkages
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
STE	Short Term Expert
SuSanA	Sustainable Sanitation Alliance
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UDDP	Urban Dredging Demonstration Project

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VoSB	Voice of South Bangladesh, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
WAC	Water for African Cities
WADA	Welfare Association for Development Alternative, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
WA-NET	West Africa Capacity Building Network
WARPO	Water Resources Planning Organization (in Bangladesh)
WECF	Women in Europe for a Common Future
WIN	Water Integrity Network
WOP	Water Operators Partnership
WSP	Water and Sanitation Programme World Bank
WSP SA	Water and Sanitation Programme World Bank, South Asia
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WUNRN	WOMEN'S UN REPORT NETWORK
WUR	Wageningen University and Research
WWC	World Water Council
WWW	World Water Week in Stockholm

GENDER AND WATER ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

1. INTRODUCTION and SUMMARY

The first half of 2016 is the final part of the Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh, in which many activities are consolidated, completed, finalised and reported about. Whilst some of the Bangladesh GWA team are moving on to other occupations, the closing months from July to September are very busy. In that same time we conduct an extensive and qualitative Gender Analysis in remote coastal villages for World Vision Bangladesh, as baseline for their newly started project Nobo Jatra (*a new begin*).

Gender and Water Alliance, some facts:

- International Network, 2350 members worldwide
260 in Bangladesh
- Organisations, individuals, 55% women, 45% men
- Institutionalised in 2000 in The Hague, funding initiative by Government of the Netherlands
- International Steering Committee
- Past Donors: DGIS and DFID
- Current donor: EKN Dhaka till July 2016
- Secretariat in Dieren, the Netherlands
- Second office in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Various gender-and-water work for FAO, MRC, WSP, Worldbank, Cap-Net, GIZ, UN-Habitat, ILO, World Vision, Simavi, etc.

Important Gender and Water Subjects:

- **Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation**
 - Rain Water Harvesting
 - Salinity and Arsenic pollution
 - Water Utilities
 - Waste Management
- **Food Security**
 - Water for Agriculture
 - Women’s Right to Land and Water
 - Land and Water grabbing
 - Loss of crop-diversity
 - Feminisation of Agriculture
 - Fisheries and aquaculture
- **Environment and Climate Change**
 - Bio-diversity and Forestry
 - Wetlands
 - Disasters, Droughts and Floods
- **Overall**
 - Empowerment of all people
 - Good Governance
 - SDGs
 - Recognition of the work of women
 - Transboundary Water Management
 - Integrated Water Resource Management
 - Masculinity

New junior researchers are recruited from students that have recently completed their masters in Gender and Women Studies in Dhaka University. GWA and GWA-B have learnt a lot from the GWAPB project, we have acquired new understanding, have built a strong network and developed many tools, methodologies and documents, to be used in the future. Most of these documents are available in the website (genderandwater.org) and otherwise on request.

For GWAPB a final narrative report was written, covering the period of July 2013 – September 2016.

In the last quarter of 2016 GWA-B does certain work for WARPO, the organisation that coordinates all water-relevant departments and government institutions. Gender is mainstreamed in the draft Water policy, which is an operationalisation of the Water Act 2013 and the Policy for Water Management 1996. GWA-B ensured the

participation of all stakeholders in developing 15 prioritised recommendations for the practice of integrating gender. This was carried out in collaboration with Wageningen University.

During September and October, the very end of GWAPB an external Evaluation is implemented led by an organisation who is totally new to us: PEM Consult in Denmark. Their senior gender specialist together with a Bangladeshi counterpart have looked into our work, interviewed various of our contacts especially from the EKN-supported projects, we had worked for. Their report was all over very positive and their main conclusion was that to end GWAPB after three years is a serious loss of capital. Three years have been needed to build a network, strong contacts, to become a respected player in the water scene in Bangladesh, and to have trained a pool of experts to be tapped from for various activities.

The Netherlands Embassy (EKN) did not approve an extension of our project and also a newly developed concept note with different options for activities and budget, could not be approved by lack of human power in the Embassy¹. Instead of closing our office in Bangladesh with the completion of the GWAPB, we were encouraged by many stakeholders and members to attempt to find new funding for continuation of our work. Compared to other Dutch NGOs, working in Bangladesh, GWA has the advantage of local presence with many contacts at all levels of development actors. It is easy to close it all, but then impossible to rebuild the situation.

Climate change is studied and described in Bangladesh more than anywhere else, and development actors have come a long way with innovative solutions for mitigation and especially adaptation. GWA is one of the organisations who are co-discussants in the subject, encouraging all others to take the diversity of people into account. Women are far-out most impacted by floods and by droughts, by loss of biodiversity, by salinization of the groundwater and they are more than 80% of the lives lost during cyclones and other disasters in the past.

This report describes in short the activities carried out by GWA in 2016. Highlights are the research reports on Gender and Drought, Gender and Disasters, the Travelling Exhibit for Bangladesh, the final report of GWAPB and the Final Evaluation of GWAPB, the Gender Assessment of Coastal districts for World Vision, reports of a number of Training workshops, the initiation of the EU DEVCO-funded Women2030 project in 50 countries, for GWA in Brazil, Bolivia and Bangladesh. Further our field visit to Rampal in Bagerhat district and the GWA members' meeting in Dhaka are unforgettable events. The emphasis of the work has been on Bangladesh. We wrote the final report for the EU-funded project SUJAL in India and the NICHE project with PUSDIKLAT in Indonesia came also to an end in 2016. Other work was completion of the ILO assignment, changes in the team in Dieren, and lots of networking and proposal writing for new projects and financing for GWA.

Vision of GWA

Water is a basic right.
GWA aims at the empowerment of poor women and men and the equal involvement of both in sustainable Integrated Water Resource Management and development at all levels as a key strategy for poverty eradication.

Water is seen in the broadest sense
The Gender concept used is Gender + or Gender and Diversity or Gender and Inclusion

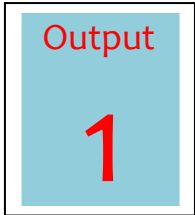
¹ Earlier, 3 water experts managed the funded projects, who all 3 left, leaving the work to one successor.

2 SEVEN OUTPUTS Five for worldwide GWA, one extra for Bangladesh and WOMEN2030 in three countries

From the beginning in 2000 GWA divides the activities in the following 5 components, with number 6 added for GWAPB.

Division of GWA's Strategic Plan into 5 outputs, continuing since 2006 + output 6 for Bangladesh	
Output 1	Network of GWA members managed, strengthened and operating effectively
Output 2	Knowledge and information on gender mainstreaming policies, practice, experience and tools collected, recorded and shared by GWA members and other key stakeholders
Output 3	Capacity to mainstream gender in IWRM amongst targeted groups significantly increased
Output 4	Significant progress in the incorporation of gender issues in the development and implementation of <i>national water-related policies</i> in targeted countries
Output 5	Profile of gender equality issues at <i>international water-related conferences</i> and events and in international policy reinforced and promoted
Output 6	Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh
Output 7	WOMEN2030 project in Brazil, Bolivia and Bangladesh

2.1 Output 1: GWA network



The network (1.1 – 1.4)

62 water and/or gender specialists have joined the GWA ranks in 2016. The total number of members is 2404 at the end of 2016 in 130 countries. See the detailed membership report in [Annex 1](#). Of the members 54% are women and 46% are men, which is unchanged.

Our work as international deliverers of services related to gender and water still continues. We are asked for various types of advice, and often to comment upon international texts. In the current situation with a small team and no international core funding, the time we can spend on this crucial task is not enough.

Communication between GWA members and the Secretariat continues as before. Many of the Bangladeshi members were met in person during members' meetings. Some members visit the Dieren and/or Dhaka office when in the Netherlands, or in Dhaka.



Bagerhat Members' Meeting December 2016

GWA Website (1.15 – 1.16)

As much as possible new information is uploaded, lately more on the part of the website which is reserved for Bangladesh, particularly now that the GWAPB is completed. Before we upload our own products, we find it important to make sure that the quality is good, which is time-consuming.

GWA List-serve (Yahoo-group) (1.17)

In the following table the number of messages sent through the yahoo-group are reflected:

	Jan	Feb	Mrch	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	total
English	12	11	28	10	17	8	7	3	11	21	12	11	151
French	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Spanish	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	3	4	0	0	11
	12	11	28	11	17	10	7	5	15	25	12	11	164

Currently there is not a team member who masters French fluently. The information sent is appreciated by the members. Examples of such response are:

- The information is essential for our society.
- I recognize that all you send in the listserv is interrelated and interconnected to one another along the lines of sustainable development.
- The UN-Women report on SDGs, which you sent, will be very informative and helpful as we are working with Women and Children’s following the UN Conventions CRC and CEDAW.
- I am being highly benefited by going through your article and documents.
- Thanks. Yes, I can use this in my classes.
- I am really pleased to be with Gender and Water Alliance. Your all of information is helping me to enrich my knowledge.
- This is wonderful. I love it and kindly extend it to Uganda too.

Management Team and training and coaching GWA Secretariat team (1.21-134)



In December 2015 an advertisement for the position of Executive Director was placed, which resulted in a long process of recruiting, selecting, a probation period, training and coaching of the new and sitting staff. Regretfully, all efforts did not lead to a suitable successor of the ED. At the end of 2016 a new effort is initiated.

Team meeting in Dieren

Fundraising, applications, proposals and tendering (1.36 – 1.42)

The Women2030 project, led by WECF, for which a proposal was written in 2015, was approved, and started on 9 May 2016. See Output 7.

The Secretariat utilises every opportunity of funding, both for core funding (very scarce) and for projects. Various tenders and proposals were written for funding for GWA globally, for a number of countries, or specifically for Bangladesh:

- Proposal for Winrock International for a bid on a global USAID-funded project called the Sustainable Water Partnership Leader with Associates (SWP LWA) Program.
- Proposal for IKI-GIZ, ‘Gender-responsive wetland management’, together with LAC partners: MUPAN (Brazil), Puente entre Culturas (Bolivia), CENDER (Paraguay), CINARA and RETO (Colombia)
- Proposal for the Nordic Trust Fund, for the World Bank
- Proposal for NICHE with EUManage in Zwolle and Dhaka University
- Tender for African Development Bank for Uganda for WSSPII
- **Proposal for Review of the National Water Management Policy, WARPO in Bangladesh, for WUR**
- Asia Foundation, DFID funded, Transboundary Water Management, to make sure feedback of the ground comes to the level of international decision making. With CDHI India, NRD, WDF Bangladesh, Teesta River.
- **World Vision, Gender Assessment of 2 districts in Bangladesh**

Despite a low level of success, two of the eight proposals, which is the regular situation for all fund-seeking NGOs these days, we will continue to submit proposals as new opportunities arise. The development of suitable subjects for the different calls, and to choose the GWA member organisations to form a consortium with, as such is rewarding work. Each concept note or proposal is again written from scratch.

Apart from the proposals, we also approached some of our earlier partners, requesting for further collaboration.

During 2016 GWA signed **16 contracts** with STEs (short term experts) to implement projects, all related to the work of GWAPB and for World Vision. Examples are: management support, translation, evaluation, research and training.

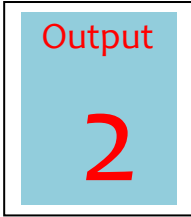
GWA material and documents (1.38 a.o.)

Especially towards the end of the GWAPB project, a lot of work is consolidated in Brochures, Exhibition and other posters, fact sheets, manuals and booklets. All of them are printed to be handed out. In Bangladesh many members are fond of hard copies, especially what has been translated into Bangla, because not everywhere the internet is reliable.

The Ziraldo booklets in Bangla are of course very popular.



2.2. Output 2: Knowledge and Information



Case Studies (2.4)

In GWAPB documents, and in the report of the World Vision Gender Assessment, there are large numbers of cases, described by GWA staff.

Partnership Development (2.8)

Meetings were held, and events participated in, to keep contact with earlier partners and develop new ones. Some examples are DGIS, NWP (Netherlands Water Partnership) and its NGO Platform, WECF and UNEA in Nairobi, Women for Water, WASH Alliance, Partos, One World.

For World Vision: Gender Assessment of two districts in South-Western Bangladesh (2.28)

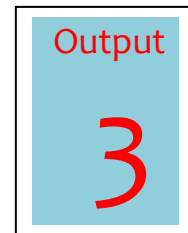
Right at the end of the GWAPB, our proposal to implement the Gender Assessment for the new project of World Vision, called Nobo Jatra (the new road), was approved. We formed a team of senior and junior researchers, and notwithstanding heat and thunderstorms, we chose very remote villages to do our inquiries, and find out situation of different categories of women, men and children in two districts of the coastal belt: Khulna and Sathkira. The findings were unique and revealing. Mostly research reports are result from copy-paste work, which is



is absolutely taboo in GWA. Thus we found interesting information, and the report is likewise fascinating, and verified by many case studies. The Executive Summary is attached as **ANNEX 2**.



2.3 Output 3: Capacity Building



Capacity Building is the core business of GWA and the key strategy to improved water management. During 2016 much capacity building was carried out, mainly in the framework of the Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh, which is described in Chapter 3, output 6.

Other Capacity Building were workshops for World Vision, for the NICHE project, with WARPO and the Cap Net E-course.

GWA organises events for WARPO, with WUR to mainstream gender in Bangladesh Water Policy

“Let’s Talk Water” briefings are a series of seminars, arranged through a collaborative support between Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing (DABW), coordinated by Institute of Water Modeling (IWM). This activity is a part of the dissemination strategy of the ongoing project Nuffic 155 on scenario development in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Bangladesh. The purpose of this seminar is to bring awareness and create an informed group who would play a role or influence in decision making in water sector one way or others. For the 2nd seminar the plan was to discuss the issues of Gender in connection with National Water Resources Planning. Therefore, the topic of the 2nd seminar was ‘Gender issues in National Water Resources Planning’, and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) is invited to organize and facilitate the session because they are working on gender relating to water in Bangladesh. GWA organized the list of priority gender issues, to be included in the Implementation Plan for the Water Policy. Many stakeholders were involved to participate in it. Oct. 2016.

Cap-Net Online course Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM

From September – November this course was ongoing with 40 participants from countries worldwide. The content of the 6 modules of this course was all facilitated by GWA staff and members. The contact between the participants and facilitators was quite intensive. Every lesson had exercises, and at the end there was a quiz too. We received enthusiastic feedback. The renewed Tutorial “Why Gender Matters” was the basic for the course.

Gender Workshops for Partners of WASH Alliance, Simavi

The WASH Alliance International aims for sustainable acceleration of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programme through following an empowerment, accountability and inclusion approach and organisational principles, reaching full coverage by leaving no one behind. With this aim and objectives, the WASH Alliance decided to implement a Capacity Building Programme for Gender and Social Inclusion with the support of the Gender and Water Alliance. The WASH Alliance and partners would be supported with systematically integrating Inclusion in organisational tools to help the organisational structure in assessing such inclusions. The brief programme for capacity strengthening comes towards the end of the first phase of the WASH Alliance project. The programme consists of **four workshops and three Review Meetings with total 4 partners.**

The number and sex of participants are listed in the next table.

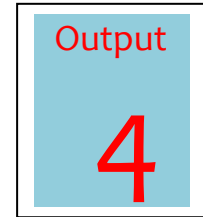
Workshop	Women participants	Men participants	Women facilitators	Men facilitators	Total
WASH Alliance and all partners, Koitta, Manikganj	5	11	4	1	21
DORP, Dhaka	5	10	3	1	19
UTTARAN, Tala, Satkhira	5	10	1	1	17
SLOPB, Patuakhali	10	10	2	0	22
Total	25	41	4	1	71²

All three partners were supported in the development of their Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plans. Furthermore GWA facilitated their Organisational Inclusion Self-Assessment Tool. See: **REPORT of Programme for Capacity Strengthening of Partners of WASH Alliance Bangladesh on Gender and Incl Social Inclusion.**



² Not to count the facilitators double.

2.4 Output 4: National Water-related policies and advocacy



National governments have been influenced by GWA's work adapting the international declarations and statements, as well as back ground papers. Otherwise, in the GWAPB a lot of work was done to influence and inform the Government policies and departments in Bangladesh. One major effort is the Contribution to the Water Chapter of the Seventh Five Year plan of Bangladesh. See chapter 3.

The new Women2030 project has substantial ambition to influence governments in 50 countries to implement the SDGs in a gender-inclusive manner. See Chapter 4, output 7.

Members' activities influencing their governments' policies (4.3)

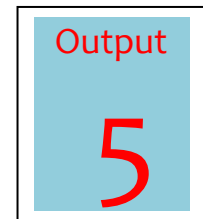
In 2016 GWA members were again actively involved, usually in the name of their own organisations, in assisting and advising their governments in developing policies related to water and sanitation, agriculture, environment, climate change, etc. and with integrating gender therein.

Netherlands Water Sector Support (4.10)

- The DD participated in the DGIS WASH Strategy Consultation in January.
- She also attended the Strategy Days for NGOs of the NWP.
- More NWP NGO-Platform meetings were attended throughout the year.
- In a visit by the Board of Women for Water Partnership, options for collaboration were discussed.
- The director of Partos, Bart Romijn, visits GWA Secretariat.
- On 26 January the DD attended a gathering organised by One World: The power of progress. Professor Hans Rosling gave a presentation on the progress made in the last 100 years by developing and developed countries, showing that a lot of progress has been made. After that two start-ups were asked to present themselves and Bill Gates was asked to set them a challenge. Subsequently the "World's Best News campaign" was launched, asking attention for the achievements of development cooperation. Afterwards there was a networking opportunity where I met with a representative of Partin, with Joke LePoole of Max Foundation and Thomas Vaassen of Landmapp.
-



2.5. Output 5: International events



Steering Committee international activities (5.1)

The SC still consists of five members, which is the minimum number as written in the Internal Guidelines. Meetings are done by Skype.

Staff Secretariat international travel (5.2)

1. ED Joke Muylwijk

- She spent nearly half of her time in Bangladesh for the GWAPB. In Bangladesh she participated in a number of international events. See Chapter 3.
- It is always preferred to give colleagues the opportunity to travel to international events.
- Visit to Dr. Mishra of CDHI Centre for Development and Human Initiative, Jalpaiguri, India.
- GWA is now also accredited by Green Climate Fund, as formal Observer.

2. DD Esther de Jong

- Esther attends the Workshop at the King's College in London of the Wilton Park, sharing Innovations and addressing water challenges in the Levant.
- Esther participates in the UNEA 2 in Nairobi, and in the Starting Meeting of Women2030, afterwards.

3. SPO Juana Vera

- Juana participated in the Global Network Starting meeting of the Women2030 project, which was organised back-to-back with the UNEA conference: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda.
- Regional meeting in Cancun, Mexico for Women2030: Presentation of the Training Master Manual and the SDG13, and framework for gender analysis at field level.
- Juana represents GWA in the newly to be organised network on Water Scarcity in Agriculture of FAO, in Rome.



3. OUTPUT 6: GWAPB GENDER AND WATER PROGRAMME BANGLADESH

Output
6

OVERVIEW OF GWAPB

The GWAPB ends by end September 2016. A report is written that covers the 3 years. Part of the text of that report is included here.

Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh (GWAPB) was developed at the request of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN). Officially it started in July 2013 with a Commitment Letter (August 2013). This programme has been a unique opportunity to ensure that the voice of the poor women and men in Bangladesh is heard in more decision-making forums of the water sector in Bangladesh. It was also a great opportunity for GWA and for the GWA members in Bangladesh. Furthermore it proved to be a positive chance for the technical water and food security projects in Bangladesh, amongst them many who had too low or no budgets for gender, and/or lack of sufficient expertise. The lion share of the work and the resources of GWAPB are applied for gender mainstreaming support for the water related projects financed by the EKN (EKNsPs).

As can be expected, during the start of the project it took time to find and establish an office, recruit a team and start to develop good working relations and trust with staff of EKNsPs. An important factor of slowing down the start-up process, were travel bans and political turmoil during the last three months of 2013 and the first months of 2014. Thus it took till 2014 for the project to reach full speed.

After the Progress Report 2013 followed the Inception Report which also included the Report of Year 1.



GWAPB team with Evaluation Team

That is from July 2013 – June 2014. Then followed the reports of Year 2 July 2014 – June 2015 and Year 3 July 2015 – June 2016. This current report covers the whole project period, the three years and the Closing Period of 3 months, July 2013 – September 2016. These reports, as well as the audited Financial Report 2013-2016 can be referred to for details, including many annexes, which are not repeated in this Final report.

Political trouble, *hartals* (strikes) and travel bans covered totalling 12 months out of the 3 years. During such times the team took risks to come to the office nevertheless. These 12 months were still used to implement various activities, but few that included travel outside Dhaka. GWA was registered formally by the NGO Affairs' Bureau (NGO AB) in October 2014, well within the timespan that is scheduled for it.

The focus of GWAPB's work is on the EKNsPs (EKN-supported Projects). In the first year strong and positive relations were built with most of them, necessary to assess their need for support with gender mainstreaming, and then to provide that support. Trust is an important aspect of the relations between GWAPB staff and the projects. This has been created through meetings but also through the

Capacity Building Workshops for Gender and IWRM, in which staff of different projects and some GWA members come together and develop their IGAPs (Individual Gender Action Plans). The workshops are intensive, and most of GWAPB staff is present, to contribute and also to learn themselves how to make gender mainstreaming effective, and know about the particular needs of the EKNsPs. GWAPB staff all signed their contract including the clause to be absolutely confidential about information they have of the programmes that are financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Most EKNsPs are working in the coastal belt, in Satkhira, Khulna, Narail, Bagerhat, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali and some in Dhaka. GWAPB does not focus at a particular area, but follows the EKNsPs. The policy of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands did not really change over the three years of the project. Since 1975 the Netherlands and Bangladesh have an intensive bilateral co-operation programme in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) sector, and till now it remains a priority theme of Dutch development collaboration in the country. Several projects (co-) financed by the Netherlands are aiming to create positive impact in the sectors of Water, Food security, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Women’s rights and gender equality, and Trade and economic development. Despite years of pro-poor and pro-gender interventions, wide gender gaps still exist in many sectors. The EKN recognizes this and is aiming for a more comprehensive and coordinated effort in addressing gender concerns throughout their portfolio of projects in Bangladesh. For this reason the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) was approached by EKN, in 2012, to submit a proposal for a 3 year programme to build capacity to mainstream gender in a host of projects currently being (co-)financed by them.



Hanging Toilet, not to be seen any longer in 2030

GWAPB is not just meant to help the EKNsPs with gender mainstreaming, but also to strengthen the Bangladesh water sector as a whole from a gender perspective. To do so, we utilise the contacts we, GWA and GWAPB staff, have with academic institutions, including universities and research institutes, government organisations, International organisations and other NGOs. The approach is to utilise good relations and connections, to effectively build new relations. This

approach proved fruitful, in the sense that right from the start we were involved in giving lectures on Gender and IWRM, or Gender and WASH, etc., to technical students, researchers, and government officers, all by invitation.

The work of GWAPB was divided in five components:

Component 1: Collaboration, Networking and Coordination

Component 2: Capacity Building, Training and Coaching

Component 3: Knowledge Development

Component 4: Communication: Dissemination, Sharing, and Advocacy

Component 5: Monitoring

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been included in all the Capacity Building work from 2015 onwards, when they were accepted in September.

In the beginning of 2015 we were informed about a Mid Term Review (MTR). The process and the results were not helpful, even though the findings were mostly positive: most EKNsPs appreciate the work of GWAPB, and like to continue to make use of the services; a lot of work has been done by GWAPB, many activities and the spending was low. Some negative points were: it is not always clear who the contact person between the EKNsPs and the GWAPB team is; and it is difficult to assess the progress of the project’s work. GWAPB was advised to diminish the number of EKNsPs, which were supported. A management response was written, nevertheless the EKN followed the recommendations of the MTR indiscriminately. This meant that we had to cut the budget with 36%, and the number of EKNsPs to only six, leaving out all other organisations and cutting many of the planned activities. At the time of the MTR the reasons for all this were not clear to us, and much later we realised and heard that the endeavour was related to the need for funds for refugees in the Netherlands. If we had known, we would have understood and acted ourselves as required.



Women's Group in CDSP IV to learn Women's Legal Rights

At the end of the project period a Final Evaluation took place, with largely the same Terms of Reference (ToR), informants and available time as the MTR. Then also the EKNsPs were mostly positive and interested in more support in mainstreaming gender, by GWAPB.

CONCLUSIONS of the Final Evaluation Report ³

Conclusion 1. Within the timeframe, the frequent political unrest, mainly at the beginning of the Project and the modality set-up provided for the Project together with activities carried out, the Evaluation Team (ET) has assessed the Project to be highly relevant and successfully carried out, and outcomes are considered adequate. However, the ET has some observations and recommendations, which imply focussing on substantial adjustments to the set-up of the triangle between the EKN, the EKNsPs and GWAPB – the modality of the Project.

Conclusion 2. The ways to achieving gender results and gender mainstreaming are complex and depend on a variety of institutional and contextual factors. The evaluation learned that demonstrating a direct correlation between GWAPBs facilitating efforts and actual measurable development results was challenging for a number of reasons as the missing mandate of the EKN, short timing to measure outcomes based on the initiated gender approach, etc. However, assessing the project by looking at its strengths and weaknesses, successes and failures, considering the Bangladesh context of the past three years, and the work which can only indirectly be in the benefit of poor women and men, the ET assessed the work of GWAPB to be carried out successfully and with great engagement.

³ The Final Evaluation was conducted by PME Consult, a Danish Consultancy firm, not known to us before.

But another important factor was the complexity of gender programming. Complexity is intrinsic to such programming, which addresses issues that are deeply rooted in cultural norms, values and belief systems at both the individual and societal levels, and where much of the achievement of results is dependent on factors outside the control of GWAPB. Moving to gender-transformative change and gender mainstreaming will require a longer lead time, and EKN will need to make a sustained commitment and ensure adequate funding for a second phase. Phasing out of GWAPB in such a critical and important time-frame would be a real missing opportunity for the sectors and hinder the process of achieving gender equality in the water sector. It is evident that the water sector in Bangladesh still requires visible and strategic outcome in terms of gender and IWRM as in all phases of water management there are very few women leadership, not adequate funding for gender in the water sector, lack in gender sensitive M&E and very few focused projects on gender mainstreaming in IWRM, factors that are hindering the overall achievement in the sector.

Conclusion 3. The ET assessed the trends in EKNSPs’ practice in gender mainstreaming over the three years to have developed in the right direction because of the continued support and guiding from GWAPB.

Most of the EKNSPs had even employed or had considered to employ gender facilitators, not because GWAPB did not fulfil their task - on the contrary. GWAPB had through their sustained efforts managed to change the mind-set of the EKNSPs regarding the importance of gender equity and gender mainstreaming to receive better results and to respect individuals as an important resource. But as many of the EKNSPs explained to the ET, the GWAPB will be indispensable as a facilitation unit to continue to support this process and to be a link between the projects - and the ET assessed, ultimately, with great potential to develop into a true resource centre for gender equity and gender mainstreaming in the water sector in Bangladesh.

The Evaluation Team recommends a second phase for GWAPB, not to lose the valuable learnings and inputs of the first phase, as well as the team and office. They have many more recommendations, for the EKN, for GWA and for the EKNSPs. See the Final Evaluation Report GWAPB.

This Final Narrative Report does not repeat the details about many activities, projects, partners, etc. This report is an overall reflection at the end of 39 months of unusual and important work in

Bangladesh, with its opportunities and obstacles, and how these were utilised, taken advantage of, and dealt with.

For the GWA Approach and Sustainability see [ANNEX 3](#).



Victims of SIDR in Sorankhola Cyclone Shelter, to discuss their experience from 10 years ago

Components and Achievements of GWAPB

In the table with highlights you see some of the activities GWA has implemented together with partners and in the framework of the GWAPB project. In the narrative reports that were written per project-year, there are many details, and of each activity a separate report has been written. This current report is more of an overview and reflection of GWAPB, and details are repeated here, only if necessary for understanding the project and the process. In this chapter we follow the five main components with activities, and two further components for logistics, management and personnel.

Some Highlights of GWAPB work, 2014-2016	
Number of training workshops	34
Number of participants of training workshops	421 women and 695 men
Number of result dissemination sessions nationally and internationally	20 sessions with 2154 participants
Number of reports produced	112
Number of sector studies	11
Number of Stakeholders and members' meetings (whole day)	4
Number of Individual Gender Action Plans (IGAPs) developed	81 (by 66 men and 15 women)
Number of field visits to EKNsPs, including exchange visits	29

Component 1: Collaboration, Networking and Coordination

Expected outcome:

Increased and effective collaboration, networking and coordination for mutual learning and insight in the need for gender mainstreaming in the water sector.

Decision-making is based on participatory feedback and more relevant to poor women, children and men.

Over the project period there have been many different forms of contact between the GWAPB team and the many water-sector-stakeholders. Especially the EKNsPs have been visited regularly and often, both in their offices as well as in the field. Even though formal Gender Action Plans (GAPs) were not part of the GWAPB Proposal, on demand together with 5 of the EKNsPs their GAPs were developed. In some cases it took a workshop of a few days to formulate and plan the gender work for the future. The GWA approach, not to force but to encourage and convince, has been successful, because all GAPs (and IGAPs) were based on what the project staff, after capacity building on gender mainstreaming, found important, realistic and doable themselves. Other EKNsPs, who had to be dropped after the MTR, expressed their need and interest also to want our support with developing a GAP with their team, which regretfully could not be realized in GWAPB-I.

Also other stakeholders in the water sector have benefitted of the work of GWAPB: academia, government officers, including departments' gender focal points and climate focal points, NGOs, some of them members of GWA. They took part in training, but also some capacity building workshops were

organized for them specially, on request. Together with them we have organized seminars and lectures too.

All members could participate in annual Stakeholders and Members' Meetings, but only about 50 of the 250 members could take part in training workshops and other activities. The membership of GWA in Bangladesh increased from 110 (40 women, 70 men) in 2012 to 250 (94 women and 156 men) at the end of 2016, which is more than in any other country, and clearly a result of the interest in taking part in the work of GWA. The members not only benefitted, they also contributed from their massive experience at the grassroots level.

With the exception of activities that were planned but cancelled on suggestion of the MTR-Team and EKN, all planned outputs in this component were reached and completed, some more than planned. In general stakeholders in the water sector have been satisfied with the work of GWAPB, with very few exceptions, mostly based on unrealistic expectations.



GWA Bangladesh Members' Meeting

Component 2: Capacity Building, Training and Coaching

Expected outcome:

Increased capacities of local, regional and national stakeholders and institutions to facilitate gender mainstreaming in water resources development and management.

This is the core of the work of GWAPB, supporting the building of capacity of stakeholders, the staff of EKNsPs, other water sector officials and NGOs, GWA member organisations, and our own team. There is no end to the request for Capacity Building workshops and other CB activities, such as exchange visits. Most projects have a high turnover of staff, and many organisations have a lot to learn. Some projects have gender specialists, but they especially seem to leave soon after they joined. The approach of GWA, with the four interacting elements of empowerment, which is so much easier to

learn and apply than other methods that are in use, has received a warm welcome in Bangladesh, and is getting a wider use.

In GWAPB the team has learnt to listen to the participants, to think how in their particular work gender will best be mainstreamed, not two people have the same work to do. For gender experts it is important to have some knowledge about and interest in the technical parts of development, and to be able to consider the different impact of such technology on the categories of people, different by gender, age, background, education, ability, ethnicity, religion, economic class, etc. To learn to think multidisciplinary as well as critically, is for participants and for the team quite new and inspiring.

Two of the planned activities that were cancelled by the MTR and EKN are: the capacity building in i) Gender, Water, Good Governance and Integrity, and ii) in Gender, Water and Advocacy. Further planned work is all done and the outcome and impact is seen as beyond all expectation. Comparing the documents of the EKNsPs before the start of GWAPB, with the current awareness and application of gender in these projects, is amazing. This includes the impact of the gender mainstreaming in the field with the actual beneficiaries at the grassroots' level. This change happened, notwithstanding the turnover in staff.



– Powerwalk during ToT: at the start, all are equal.

The training workshops for staff of EKNsPs in Gender and IWRM, in which the participants develop individual gender action plans (IGAPs), of which the implementation is coached during one year, after which in a follow-up workshop the same participants get together to present their work, have been exceptionally successful and popular. The response mostly is that such gender workshops are totally unknown in Bangladesh, and to have a follow-up workshop is also new.

The IGAP methodology is recommended for copying and wider use. The various forms of workshops are described in the annual reports, and most workshop reports are available in the GWA website, or still coming one by one, after editing and screening for publicity.

The Training Manual for GWAPB has been developed in four modules of total 128 pages.

In total this component has been implemented successfully, with reliable evidence of substantial impact. For the team one problem was the writing and then editing of the many reports, which consumed much time that was not planned and budgeted. In the future reporting of capacity building workshops has to be limited to a semi-fixed format.



Monitoring Workshop: checking the project's monitoring framework and gender indicators

Component 3: Knowledge Development

Expected outcome:

Increased accessibility to and use of existing and newly developed knowledge and expertise on gender mainstreaming in the water and sanitation sectors.

During the meetings with EKNsPs staff and during the field work various gender questions arose about which nobody agreed or knew a realistic reply, nor was literature to be found. About such subjects research plans were developed and mostly not implemented by the team of GWAPB, but by STEs (Short Term Experts) or GWA member organisations. After the reports were received, still a lot of work of the team was needed. The studies in this component 3, have yielded very important information. Subjects about which were not yet known in detail, such as gender and salinity, gender and drought, gender in wet units in garment factories, women in vocational training and technical employment, gender and aquaculture, agricultural technologies for women in a context of climate change, and various open inquiries in the framework of the EKNsPs work.

The new knowledge and information is directly used by GWAPB in the CB workshops and for giving feedback to the decision-making bodies in Dhaka, such as government departments and WARPO (Water Resources Planning Organisation) the coordinating IWRM government organization. GWAPB developed the Gender and Water Inventory, which is on the website, and open for use by anyone who needs to read a lot of material, to find comments from a gender perspective.

Interesting methodologies were developed about Empowerment, Inquiries, Individual Gender Action Plans (IGAPs) and Gender-disaggregated Data (GDD).

A planned activity was blocked by the MTR: a study into the gender-related learnings from the Dutch funded water projects over the years. These projects have been the first in Bangladesh to take social issues of poor farmers and



The wives, mothers and sisters in Rampal of the fisherboys we met in Dublar Char

rural women into account, and a lot can be learnt from their successes and failures, from what used to be positive, but was perhaps not sustainable, etc. Like other activities which were cancelled, this also still could be done in future. Part of it can be what GWAPB has done in the past three years with such projects, and why the success was substantial in some, and much less in others. This asks for a comparative analysis.

Allover GWAPB is quite proud of what was achieved in this component over the three years, considering the limited time, and the time that is needed to build trust to be allowed to know details of projects, including the challenges they face. The GWAPB team has proved to be skilled, enthusiastic, and open to contradict myths and stereotypes, when doing research in the field.

In the Monitoring Report (June 2016) is written:

“In a country like Bangladesh, which is very conservative but at the same time needs to make optimal use of its labour force in order to accelerate its economic development, the studies produced by GWAPB may help to convince policymakers of the need to provide opportunities for both men and women and to ensure that all workers have equal wages and safe environments.”

Component 4: Communication: Dissemination, Sharing, and Advocacy

Expected outcome:

Gender and water knowledge, information and data, are disseminated and shared, by networking and various means of communication.

The development of material to be disseminated takes time. For example during field visits a subject or research is identified. Then the research plan has to be developed, the project has to be convinced of the use of it, and that it is not a threat. When the study and fieldwork is complete the analysis and the writing of the report is cumbersome work, which has to be commented upon by various parties. So in the end for material to be ready for dissemination, the three years are about over. Some material needed translation into Bangla, which again takes a lot of time. It sounds easy, but to find the right gender wordings in Bangla is not so obvious, and there is a lot of disagreement about sensitive texts. This is the sequence of developing material, for which there is no shortcut.

The website of GWA has one section for Bangladesh (<https://genderandwater.org/en/bangladesh>), where ever more interesting material is available. A small survey amongst Bangladesh GWA members showed that those members who responded use the material and download materila from the website.

Towards the end of the project, the Traveling Exhibit in Bangla and English, with 13 panels all especially about Bangladesh with a focus at the coastal belt, is ready. Paper posters are also printed and handed out. The cartoon booklets by Ziraldo the famous Brazilian cartoonist, have been translated in Bangla and printed, very beautiful. Many brochures, notebooks, policy briefs and leaflets have been handed out, few were ready in Year 1, some in Year 2, and many more in Year 3. At the end of the project packages with posters and brochures and with the Bangla Tutorial for Water Managers: Why Gender Matters, all have been sent to the EKNsPs, and to GWA members, all over the country.

Many sessions (20) were organised to disseminate the knowledge of GWAPB, both internationally and within Bangladesh. Some sessions were entirely organised by GWAPB, and in some sessions, seminars or conferences, we were invited to speak. Our own final seminar which we organised for August 2016, with the speakers already invited, could not happen because of the terrorist attack on foreigners, which resulted in most foreigners forbidden to leave their offices. The presence of one foreigner in an event could risk the safety of all participants.

Internationally GWAPBs work was presented in USA, Germany, Morocco, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Kenya, Thailand, India, South Africa and Nepal. Most of the occasions we were invited, and costs were not born by the GWAPB project. For this component it can also be stated that GWAPB has been successful, but the time to yield the not so low hanging fruits comes after the three years, and would be an opportunity for which the inputs are already prepared.

Component 5: Monitoring

Expected outcome:

The various EKN supported water related programmes monitored and reviewed for gender impact.

GWAPB is a complicated project to monitor. There are two parts of monitoring that are interacting, but also separate. On the one hand there is the monitoring of the EKNsPs of the way they have mainstreamed gender, and how this impacts their results at grassroots level. On the other hand there is the monitoring of the work of GWAPB itself, which includes the results of the EKNsPs, but is wider by also being directed at the water sector as a whole.

To manage this difficult cascading monitoring, an experienced and senior international expert (Eva Rathgeber) was involved, who developed frameworks for the EKNsPs, with indicators based on their own project documents, had a number of meetings with each of the directors of the EKNsPs, wrote various reports in which response to surveys were processed, and the GWAPB work was analysed. These reports are included as annex in previous annual reports.

A quote from the Final Monitoring Report of GWAPB by Eva Rathgeber, STE:

“A second⁴ important area of success was in the identification of gender indicators. GWAPB staff worked one-on-one with the EKNsPs to ensure that each had a manageable, highly targeted set of gender indicators that they could use to measure the success of their project towards achieving its gender goals and objectives. By ensuring that the EKNsPs had gender indicators that could be measured on a regular basis, it became possible for the project to make adjustments if they found, through regular monitoring, that women (or men) were not benefitting sufficiently. In all cases, the gender indicators were based on documentation provided by the EKNsP (e.g. inception reports, project proposals, etc.) and narrowed down after one-on-one meetings with staff in each EKNsP. As already discussed some EKNsPs made changes during their projects in response to gender monitoring feedback.”

Towards the end of the GWAPB project a two-day workshop was organised about monitoring gender in the EKNsPs, for management and M&E-specialists of the projects, which became a success,

⁴ The first one in the mentioned report was about the IGAP and Training approach of GWAPB.

considering the enthusiasm about the prospect to learn not to spend too much time in monitoring, and limit oneself to a few indicators, to understand that monitoring should not become a purpose on its own, but it should serve the process of the project in making sure that poor women and men benefit from the inputs. It was a satisfactory experience to hear and see the participators present the gender monitoring in their projects, all developed over the past 3 years.

Even though at the beginning of the project the EKN was worried about the quality of our monitoring, from Year 2 onwards it became clear what was needed, and all the projects cooperated in it, especially after individual coaching. The quality of the GWAPB monitoring reports is very high, and they make interesting reading.



– *Training of Trainers, plenary*

Component 6: Logistics, Evaluation and Audits

GWA has a fully functioning office in Dhaka, which has been very useful and necessary for the team to do its work. From the budget of this component the computers, rent, utilities, services, internet, stationary, etc. are paid. The office has a view at the Banani Lake and the slums of Korail. In Bangladesh very few taxis are available, so own transport is needed, for which we rent one car. With all the traffic jams, our staff, like everybody in Dhaka, has wasted huge time when visiting the EKNsPs and other offices, often two hours to go and two hours back, or more.



Runia, Facilitator for Gender, Water and Agriculture

The auditors are budgeted in this component. GWA could till now not get a bank account in Bangladesh, hence larger expenditure is transferred from the bank in the Netherlands, and small amounts are paid in cash. The expenditure in the Netherlands (90%) is audited there, annually together with the financial report of GWA. The cash (10%) is audited in Bangladesh every 6 months. At the end of the project one large audit for the whole project period of GWAPB (39 months) was carried out by the Dutch auditor, including the cash bookkeeping of Dhaka.

The registration of GWA as International NGO in the NGO Affairs Bureau was managed by ourselves without consultant, and within the nine months that are said to be needed. To have many copies of 19 documents verified, notarised and certified, by ministries, courts, local courts, notaries, etc., is a huge and costly effort already in the Netherlands and Canada. Then the work still begins in Bangladesh with

the many agencies that have to check all the papers, the people, staff, their pasts, project plans, expected finances, etc. In October 2014 we received our registration.

At the end of the project, in September 2016, the final Evaluation was organised, a few months later than originally planned. We managed to find a Danish consultant who we had never heard of and for her GWA was also new. This to avoid conflict of interest. The Conclusions are briefly described in section 2: the Overview. To understand GWAPB from an external perspective, it is recommended reading.

Component 7: Personnel

The team as planned originally would have been ideal for the work of GWAPB. To match the job requirements, it was not possible to find exactly the right people. Nevertheless, overall, the staff has been qualified and eager to learn new approaches. Recruitment itself took more time than expected, and the Bangladesh ways of writing CVs, applying for any job, qualified or not, giving interviews, and changing from one job to the next, had to be learnt by the recruitment committee, and all along the project period when vacancies had to be filled.

As mentioned above, after the MTR we lost some key staff, whilst newcomers first have to learn the GWA approach and be familiarised with the details of the project and of the EKNsPs. Notwithstanding all such obstacles, by working hard the team managed to do most of the work themselves, without involving many STEs, as was originally planned. The Programme Coordinator had expected to be less needed in Bangladesh as time would go by, but her presence was required till the end. She did spend 40% of her days in Bangladesh, and spent more than the approved 160 hours per month on the project. More than one year there was no Team Leader, which also made her presence more needed.

For the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist position we never found a suitable candidate. Many



quantitative candidates applied, and a selection appeared, but none with understanding or practice with qualitative monitoring, which is more important for GWAPB. Towards the end of the project two young gender specialists, who recently left university (Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka (DU)) joined, taking the places of more experienced staff who

moved on to new opportunities.

Further in the Final report, all the EKNsPs are described and the work GWAPB did to support them, which is not included in this GWA report.

The future of GWAPB

Remembering the first request by EKN, in September 2012, to GWA is we could develop a gender programme for the water sector in Bangladesh, the happenings since then, our work and the problems to solve, which were not in our power, the obstructions as well as the wide enthusiasm, all these would better fit in 10 years than in four. The MTR may have been right in deciding that our work was too much and needed to be limited, but suggesting a no-cost-extension would have been a more obvious solution and less destructive.

This project has been a great opportunity for Bangladesh: for the water sector, but also for the overall objective of development cooperation: poverty reduction. Poor women, children and men benefit more from the various projects because of the inputs by GWAPB: the large amounts for infrastructure development are many times more effective in reaching the people who need it. This is why we are grateful to the EKN and the Dutch taxpayer, who have made this work possible by financing.

Strong points of GWAPB, GWA-B and for GWAPB-II

A few points are mentioned here, not to go into much detail.

Experience:

Much has been learnt over the project period, which, as the Evaluation Report mentions, would be capital destruction if not continued to be used.

Local presence:

Also the local presence with a full-fledged office and team in Dhaka, makes it much easier to know and be known amongst the stakeholders in the water sector, than when an INGO only has an office far away. Various donors express this point of view.

Continuation:

Since the end of GWAPB in September 2016, the GWA-B team has continued its work without the EKN funding, so directed at those who pay for our time, and not necessarily to those who need it most. But also activities are done without any payments, if found important. This includes work with WARPO and some Gender an IWRM workshops.

Motivated team:

The remaining team shows motivation to make the organisation in Bangladesh continue to work for the cause of giving water users a voice.

Reputation:

GWA-B and GWAPB are now known to many more people and organisations than when we started in 2013, which will make collaboration easier and quicker to agree about.

Good connections and contacts:

Our team members have their connections, but also built many new and good connections over the project period, all ready to be used, when needed.

Gender-and-water material available:

Only towards the end of the project most material got completed, because the source material had to come from our studies and field visits, etc. This is now available, and can be utilised right from the start of a next phase of GWAPB. This is material for capacity building at all levels, from posters and booklets for children to training modules to policy briefs for decision-makers. Even though all hard copies are handed out to EKNsPs and GWA members, and soft copies are mostly available on the GWA website, guidance is needed for most technical professionals to use the materials and tools.

And most of all: The need and demand for the work of GWAPB:

Even though in the framework of GWAPB during 3 years and 3 months, a lot of work was done, more than could realistically have been expected under the circumstances, there remains a massive need for our work, which is the most important reason to follow up GWAPB-I with GWAPB-II.

1. The Dutch Government foreign policy is in favour of increased expenditure for development cooperation, with some financial advantages, positive results of the national elections and a much improved economic situation, leaving the crisis-years behind us.
Also the policy evaluation of the water sector in development cooperation was outspoken about the need for continuous and more attention for gender in the sector, worldwide.
2. To reach the SDGs by 2030, GWA-B has taken responsibility for monitoring a geographical part of some of the indicators of SDG 5 (Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation for all), and SDG 13 (Action to combat Climate Change), by involving member CSOs who already have been active in collecting the relevant and needed gender-disaggregated data.
Because all SDGs have gender aspects, and the professionals working in each of the themes rarely have sufficient and relevant gender expertise, many more activities to strengthen capacity are needed to reach the goals by 2030. 2030 is close by.
3. Whilst in western countries (the Global North) mitigation is a major problem, and massive money is spent on high tech solutions to stop emissions of greenhouse gasses, in developing countries (the Global South), and especially in Bangladesh, the adaptation to climate change of which the speed is beyond its power, is the only suitable action. The impact of climate change in Bangladesh is already making many victims annually, and gender aspects are many, whilst not understood by decision-makers in this subject. GWAPB has gained a lot of experience and is in a position to share relevant knowledge to those who need this.
4. There are certain activities, which originally were planned and later deleted from the plan, which remain to be important and useful, such as the CB workshop for Gender, Water and Advocacy, and the one for Gender, Water and Good Governance. It also was planned to analyse the reports of earlier Dutch-funded projects, to find lessons learnt and good or promising practices for mainstreaming gender and diversity. One more activity that needed to be cancelled because of political insecurity: our final seminar or conference that would disseminate much of the new knowledge, involving most of the EKNsPs.
5. Most of the EKNsPs have expressed their interest in and need for support by the GWAPB team. With the experience so far gained, we are in a position to develop focused plans for and with each of the EKNsPs, including those for Food Security and even SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) and the UN projects.
6. Another issue is the opinion of the gender specialists of the EKNsPs, who have expressed their need for special training by GWAPB for them instead of together with the technical staff, discussing and solving their problems together.
7. It has become clear that work focused at GWA members, is directly impacting poor women at grassroots level. The members are 260, of them about 160 local NGOs, are very keen to learn and can apply their knowledge immediately. Their feedback from the ground can be channelled effectively to decision-making powers in Dhaka. In GWAPB-I they received the crumbs falling from the table, but most of them deserve serious input and support from GWA-B.

Problems that will remain to be dealt with

Recruitment:

To find Gender experts with technical background will remain difficult. The training in and of the team is crucial for a project like GWAPB. This fact linked to the brief span of a project, which makes all staff look at bdjobs.com regularly, is a continuous threat. Unemployed people do not receive allowances from the government, their expenditure for expensive schools and healthcare for children and other family members continue, so they will always search for a job with the furthest endpoint in time. Somehow in all the projects, at least in the EKNsPs the gender specialists have a rapid turnover.

Political and security-related uncertainties:

For all development organisations and others, working and living in Bangladesh, most of all the Bangladeshi themselves, the future is uncertain, and risks are everywhere. The type of terrorism but also the risk for cyclones and floods are threats nobody can prevent or reckon with. The work cannot be stopped because of such threats, but sometimes it has to be paused, delayed or adapted.

Fundraising Capacity of GWA-B

Even though GWA is registered with the NGO Affairs' Bureau locally, GWA-B is often not eligible for available funding for projects. Such funds are often small and all Bangladeshi NGOs apply, which makes it difficult for donors to respond to the applications in time, and the chance to be selected very small. The quality of the proposal is not the only criterion. Cases are known that all NGOs have applied, and nobody was selected. The time spent on fundraising is not effective. Since the closing of GWAPB the team has been active in five projects, all with interesting work, like in GWAPB, but for low payments. This is not a sustainable way of continuity for an organisation.

Reports of GWAPB

To know details of the many activities over the whole project period the following reports are available and recommended. Some are available on the website, and all on request.

- GWAPB Proposal Januari 2013
- Progress Report GWAPB 2013
- GWAPB Inception Report and Project Document, including ToC, and Year 1
- GWAPB Progress Report July 2014 – June 2015 (Year 2)
- GWAPB Financial Report 2013-2014
- GWAPB Progress Report Year 3 July 2015-September 2016
- GWAPB Mid-Term Monitoring Report (Eva Rathgeber)
- GWAPB Monitoring M&E Final Report incl EKNsPs (Eva Rathgeber)
- GWAPB Audited Financial Report 2013-2016
- Final Report Evaluation GWAPB (Vibeke Munk-Petersen and Kazi Rozana Akhter)

And various others.

FINANCES GWAPB, 3 YEARS, AUDITED

Component	Total amount in €€
1. Coordination	101.460
2. Capacity Building	139.327
3. Knowledge Development	72.973
4. Communication	78.181
5. Monitoring	62.140
6. Management, logistics	206.413
7. Personnel	834.747
Administrative support and bank costs	112.874
Total	1.608.115



**4. Output 7: Women 2030:
Women CSOs networking to realize the Sustainable Development Goals - Post-2015**

In December 2015 GWA received confirmation that the funding for proposal “Women CSOs networking to realize the Sustainable Development Goals Post-2015” was granted by the European Union. The programme will run for 4,5 years and is implemented in cooperation with Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and the Women Environmental Programme (WEP). A preparatory meeting between the partners was held in Brussels, Belgium on 17th and 18th March and attended by Esther de Jong, the Deputy Director.

The project started on 10 May, so Year 1 is from 10 May 2016 – 9 May 2017. A consortium is formed by WECF, together with GFC, WEP, GWA and APWLD, working in 50 countries, to build capacity of CSOs, for monitoring and implementing SDGs. The five international NGOs are called co-applicants. The CSOs are divided in 3 levels: The first level is Target Group 1 (TG1) is one experienced NGO per country, then TG2 are 4 NGOs per country (in Bangladesh 5), and TG 3 are 10 grassroots’ groups of each of the TG2 partners. Each of TG3 has at least 10 members.

So per country: 1 experienced NGO, TG1
 4 partners NGOs, TG2
 4 x 10 CBOs, TG3
 At least 4 x 10 x 10 = 400 beneficiaries per country.

In this first year of the project, it is a challenge to understand what actually GWA is supposed to do. GWA is responsible for 3 countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia and Brazil.

Country	TG1	TG2	TG3
Bangladesh	GWA-B	Voice of South Bangladesh Udayan WADA CDP Bhomisto AKK	Not yet in Year 1
Bolivia	CIPCA	PBFCC CCIMCAT SOPE	
Brazil	MUPAN		

In year 1 the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) contributed to building institutional and organisational capacity of the co-applicants, and Target Group (TG) 1 and 2. This was accomplished through development of a Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual on Gender and SDGs/2030 Agenda; facilitating gender ToTs for TG1 CSOs in Latin America and Asia-pacific regional workshops, and for TG2 in Bangladesh and Bolivia; and ensuring gender-responsiveness of tools for monitoring and advocacy, and media and outreach developed by other partners.

- GWA staff and TG1 CSO partner from Bangladesh participated through the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) of the UNFCCC, and Women’s Major Group (WMG) during UNEA 2, COP-22 and COP-13, strengthening advocacy skills for gender responsive SDGs monitoring.

- GWA: 2 TG1 and 9 TG2 Women & Gender CSOs in Bangladesh and Bolivia have got initial training on gender in SDGs, gender-responsive advocacy, and gender-responsive monitoring of SDGs.
- 4 GWA staff and 2 TG1 CSOs have participated in Media ToTs, where they learned about use of social media for advocacy. They also received the Women2030 Media Training Toolkit for their use.
- GWA has written an introduction on Gender dimensions of media in the Women2030 Media Toolkit.
- GWA has spent most of Year 1 working in the result area of preparing for collecting data and monitoring SDGs, principally through leading the development of a Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual on Gender and SDGs/2030 Agenda; and by building institutional capacity of Target Group (TG) 1 and 2 for gender-focused monitoring and gender assessment at local level. This was accomplished through facilitating gender ToTs for TG1 CSOs in Latin America and Asia-pacific regional workshops, and for TG2 in Bangladesh and Bolivia. For more details see below.
- The TG1 partners of Bolivia and Brazil participated in the Women2030 Regional start-up for Latin American partners in Cancun Mexico in Dec 2016, where they were introduced to the programme. Furthermore GWA involved the TG1 partners in Bangladesh, Bolivia and Brazil in a participatory consultation to select SDG targets and define indicators to generate gender disaggregated data on the progress in these targets.
- In Year 1 GWA also organised a national ToT for TG1 and 2 partners in Bangladesh and Bolivia respectively to strengthen their knowledge on gender aspects of the 2030 Agenda and to introduce them to some tools that have been developed for Women2030 (ToT Manual on Gender and SDGs, Media Toolkit, and the Monitoring and Accountability App).
- In Bangladesh 6 TG2 partners participated in the national ToT, namely Amra Kaj Kory (AKK), Bhomisto, Centre for Development and Peace (CDP), Udayan, Voice of South Bangladesh (VoSB) and Welfare Association for Development Alternative (WADA).
- In Bolivia 3 TG2 partners participated in a country-level ToT, namely PBFCC (Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático), CCIMCAT (Centro de Capacitación e Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija) and SOPE (Sociedad Potosina de Ecología).
- GWA: In year 1 GWA led a working group (1-2 members from each of the 5 co-applicants) in a participatory consultation process to develop a 175 page Training of Trainers Manual to equip trainers from TG1 for mainstreaming gender in the 2030 Agenda, training and coaching skills, organisation building skills and advocacy skills. A first draft of the Manual (in English) is ready and consists of 5 modules on Gender and related concepts, and mainstreaming gender in the 2030 Agenda; Mainstreaming gender in 5 core SDGs (SDG 5, 6, 8, 13 and 15); Training and Coaching Skills; Organisational skills; and Advocacy skills.
- Each module consists of thematic sessions, interactive exercises and links to current and relevant resources and websites.
- Some modules have already been tested in regional ToTs in Africa, Latin America, and Asia for feedback from Trainers of TG1, and the feedback integrated in the completed first draft of the manual.
- GWA: The outline and concept of the Training of Trainers Manual on Gender and SDGs and some of its draft sessions and modules (Gender and Universal access to Water and Sanitation, Gender and Forests and biodiversity, and Gender-sensitive Training and Coaching Skills) were shared by GWA facilitators at the Regional ToTs in Marrakech, Cancun, and Bangkok to introduce partner CSOs to the resource/tool and to get their feedback on it. The feedback was integrated in the further development of the manual.

- At the end of Year 1 the first draft of the complete ToT Manual in English is ready, and it is expected that the final version will be online by June 2017, ready for use by the TG1 and 2 partners of the co-applicants. See Indicator 1.1.4 below for more details on the contents of this manual.
- Working drafts and final revised drafts of the ToT Manual's 5 modules and their respective sessions have been continuously shared for the co-applicants to view and give their comments through a shared folder on the Women2030 Google Drive location.
- GWA: A two-day workshop on 'Gender monitoring of the SDGs' was facilitated in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 3-4 April 2017, for 16 participants from TG1 and 2 CSOs. The workshop included specific sessions on gender equality, equity and empowerment; and the gender dimensions of all the SDGs. It introduced the participants to specific activities and capacity building tools of the #Women2030 project. Building on earlier work by the participants prior to the workshop, one full day was dedicated to selection of relevant SDG targets and indicators for gender-sensitive monitoring at local level. The partners worked in interactive sessions to identify monitoring indicators that were relevant to their organisations' current activities and expertise related to the #Agenda2030. There was ample opportunity for participants to share their experiences and learn from each other's challenges and successes. By the end of the workshop all 6 Tier 2 CSOs participating in the workshop had made a monitoring framework with specific targets and indicators, for their organisation. This will form the basis of a concrete monitoring plan with methods for gathering and processing data, and budget and timeline for the activities. In a separate session with TG1 CSO staff, the trial version of the Women2030 Monitoring and Accountability Tool was tested and feedback given to the developer.
- A three day workshop was held in La Paz in Bolivia from May 10-12, with 4 CSOs (10 participants) from the TG1 and 2. Several interactive sessions were dedicated to finalise SDG targets and indicators, relevant for the TG2 organisations' work for generating gender disaggregated data. The ToT also included 'gender analysis' at community level, and an introduction to the trial version of the Women2030 online monitoring and accountability tool, which is currently in the process of being finalised.
- GWA: During the UNEA2 meeting in Kenya in 2016, GWA made a presentation on cases of women water warriors in the High Level Ministerial Panel 'Gender and Environment in the SDGs: Enabling empowerment of Grassroots' Women and other vulnerable groups for a Healthy planet'. In addition, GWA actively participated in the Major Groups meetings, leading focus group discussion and giving feedback to circulated documents, as part of WMG.
- In COP 22 (Morocco 2016), the GWA TG1 partner from Bangladesh participated as part of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) to advocate for gender responsive climate policy and climate financing.
- In COP13 (Cancun 2016) GWA actively participated in High level Plenary meetings (reading out a statement on behalf of the Women's Major Group/WMG), Women Caucus meetings, and side panel discussions.
- During COP 13 in Cancun, Mexico, GWA Senior Programme Officer Juana Vera Delgado, gave a radio interview to 'Cimacnoticias' (in Spanish) on 'mining' impacts on gender relations and rural livelihoods in Peru. This interview was also published on an online news channel: Bajo Palabra and can be viewed on the following link: <http://bajopalabra.com.mx/empresa-contamina-80-por-ciento-de-agua-de-indigenas-en-peru#.WTaaNvs2zIV>

5. FINANCES GWA

The actual income in 2016 was a total of € 229.729 These amounts are different from those in the audited Financial Reports , because here the exact amounts are written as they are to be found in the bank statements, whilst for the Financial Report we have to split the income over the years depending on the percentage of work that has already been done (under receivables), and that which is still to be done (under liabilities).

Expenditure was divided over outputs as follows:

Expenditure GWA	2016
A. Staffing ⁵	178.266
B. Office costs and Evaluation	42.933
1. Network management and communication	1.458
2. Knowledge development and sharing	3.608
3. Capacity Building	0
4. Advocacy and influencing national policies	0
5. International advocacy and sessions in conferences	3.197
6. Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh (incl.AKV) ⁶	526.178
7. Women 2030	5.954
Worldvision	20.782
Total Expenditure in €	787.622

GWAPB finances have been audited.

Team Day in Nijmegen



⁵ This is the actual amount paid for salaries. In the Financial report the salaries for hours worked for the particular outputs are included in those outputs. Here they are not.

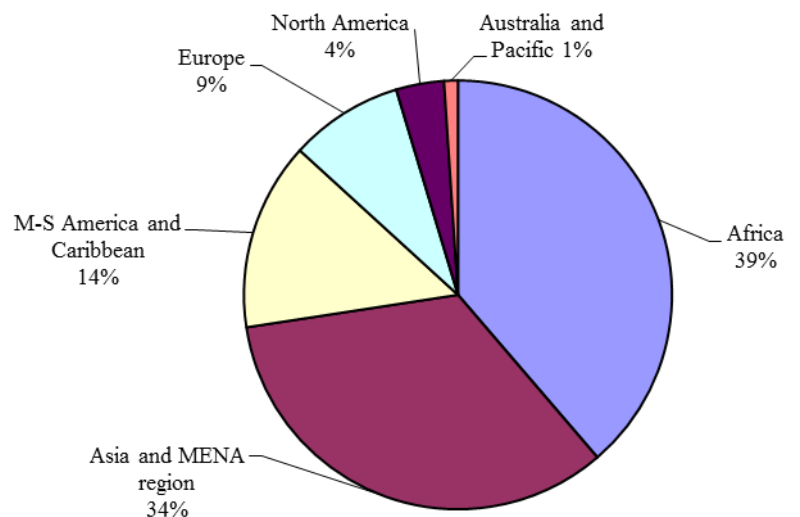
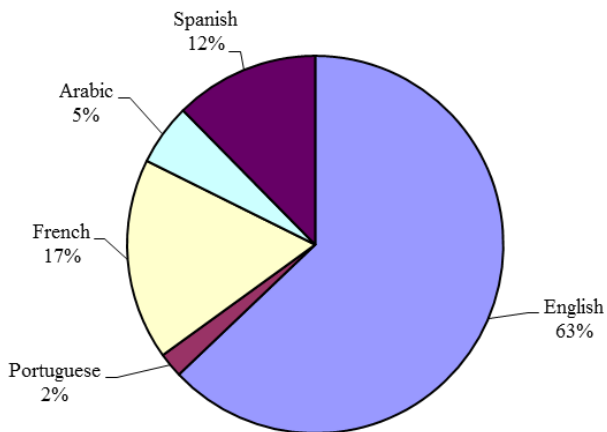
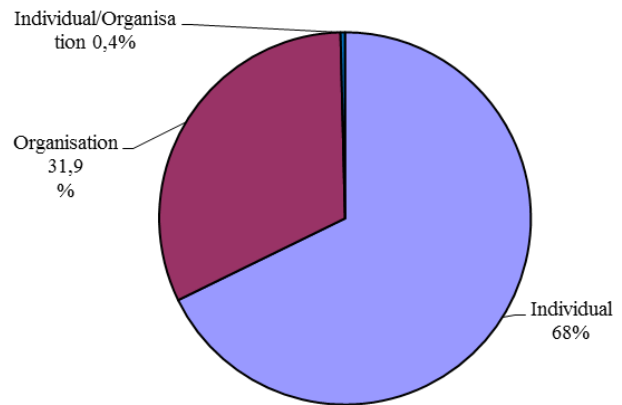
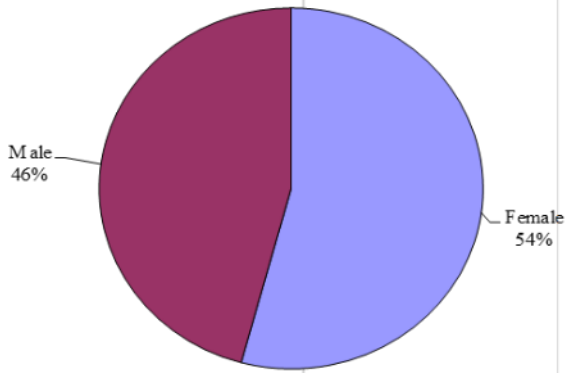
⁶ Numbers A, B and 1-5 do not include expenditure related to GWAPB. So, 0 for capacity building, but there have been many CB activities, mostly in Bangladesh, and others for which only salaries were the inputs.

ANNEX 1 Membership Report (by Milena)

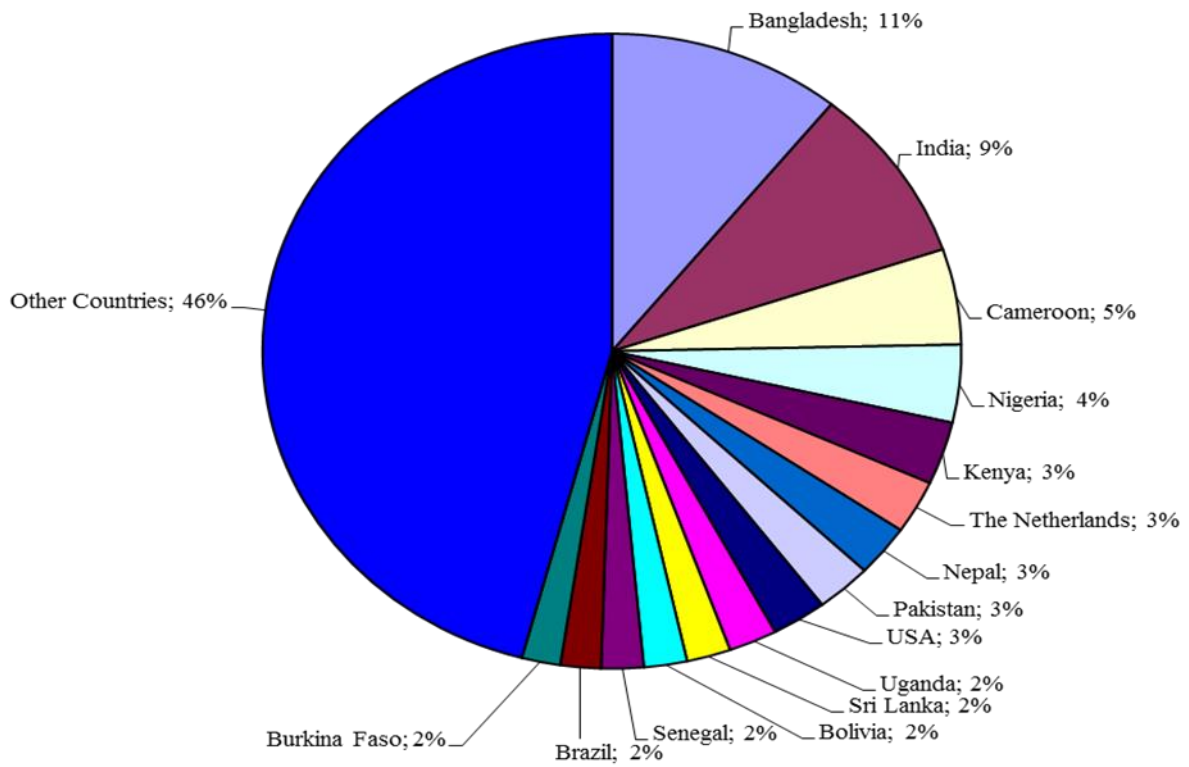


GWA Membership Report 2016

As on 31-12-2016	2404 Members 130 Countries	
Membership type	Percentage	Quantity
Individual	67%	1612
Organization	32,5%	781
Individual/Organization	0,5%	11



Membership per country, the top 15



ANNEX 2 Summary of Report of Gender Assessment for World Vision

Executive Summary

Gender equity is at the heart of aims and approaches of the new phase of Nobo Jatra. A comprehensive Gender Analysis was planned for the beginning of the project. The study and field work for the Gender Analysis was conducted during the monsoon of 2016, resulting in this report.

The southwestern coastal area of Bangladesh of which the selected sub-districts of Khulna and Satkhira are typical examples, go through a change in ecosystem accelerated by climate change and the cyclone Aila⁷ in 2009. During Aila sea water flooded a large part of the coastal belt, which made the land saline. Worsened by the rising sea level, induced by global warming, this process seems irreversible and women and men have a hard time trying to adapt to the salinity all around. The more south, the worse the salinity, and it seems to be the aspect in the natural surroundings that influences the lives and livelihoods of the people in the Nobo Jatra project area most. The division of work between women and men makes the salinity especially problematic for women who are responsible for domestic and drinking water. Men need water for agriculture, which has now been transformed into saline aquaculture, worsening the situation of the groundwater.

Literature about the region was reviewed before the field work and some key gender-related findings are summarised in Chapter 2. During the fieldwork more and more serious gender issues were found than described in the literature. The conceptual background of gender is explained: gender refers to asymmetric power relations between women and men. Gender and Diversity does consider different categories of women and different categories of men.

The methodology used for the Gender Analysis is foremost participatory and inclusive. It is described in chapter, 3, and more in detail in the earlier proposal for this study as well as in the Inception Report. The team of Gender and Water Alliance – Bangladesh⁸ spent about a week in each of the eight villages, of which three are very remote. They interviewed about 80 women and men, vulnerable people, as well as key informants, individually and an extra number in 12 focal groups to gather qualitative data. The style of interviews is called Inquiry, which entails an open discussion in which the interviewees are encouraged to tell what is important for them. Separate for the inquiries, in a survey with two questionnaires (one for men and one for women) relevant quantitative information was gathered from 240 women and men respondents, mostly married couples. Quantitative information on sensitive subjects such as domestic violence, child marriage, menstruation, sex, is less reliable than the data gathered from individual inquiries. The survey results about such subjects look much rosier than what we hear in the inquiries. This is explained in the text in each case.

Section 4.1. can be considered as a summary, since the overall findings are briefly described per subject. We found that landownership was rare among respondents, and only two women were found with some land in their name. 20% of women in the survey said to have irregular paid employment, and their average wage is Tk 100/day (currently \$1,25). Men's wages are also low, but still twice as high as what women get.

Despite differences between the villages we visited, there were some common issues faced by all. In general the more northern villages suffered less from salinity and damage from *Aila* (2009) than the southern ones. The impact of *Aila* continues to be dramatic, even more for women than for men. The findings per village are described in section 4.2. Food shortages are common for at least

⁷ Severe Cyclonic Storm *Aila* (May 2009) was a terrible natural disaster. It hit Satkhira and Khulna districts in Bangladesh. Dakshin Bedkashi was the worst affected union in Koyra Upazilla of Khulna district.

⁸ The team of the Gender and Water Alliance consist of: Shaila Shahid, Runia Mowla, Faridul Haque, Hasan Md.Titu, Swandipta Sadeque, Khadiza Akhter, Israt Ashtary, Paul Modhu, Anamika Amani and Joke Muylwijk

4 months of the year, during the monsoon and after it, till the harvest of *amman*. Child marriage among boys and girls is common⁹ in most villages, and is not only related to poverty. Parents often resort to marrying off their young daughters to avoid the social shame the family will have to suffer when girls are eve-teased on their way to school. To avoid humiliation even these eve-teasing boys will become the future husbands.

Both women and men mention salinity of water and land as the biggest problem for their health, their survival and their livelihoods, in all the villages. Gender relations are directly influenced by this increasing salinity: the division of household and other tasks between men and women although still rigid, has had to change with the new situation. Hand pumps now give salty and, in some cases, arsenic polluted water. New solutions for safe water have to be developed and constructed. Currently, in the Nobo Jatra project area, on average women respondents have to spend 5,2 hours¹⁰ each day to walk to collect water that is less saline, with the exception of the days that rainwater can be used. Rainwater is a source of fresh water that is locally collected by women, but limited by the size of the containers and the materials they have. They cannot conserve more than for a few days' supply of water after a good shower. The study team found no RWH (Rain Water Harvesting) facility of any mentionable size and capacity in the villages.

Employment, second to water, is a major problem. There are few opportunities for paid work, even less for women than for men. Most commonly women work in *gher* (large salt fish ponds), standing in the saline water infused with chemicals. Men and boys migrate for employment elsewhere, which leaves the women with an increased burden to care for the family. Girls don't migrate, and with the lack of employment opportunities some of them have a chance to stay in school longer than boys. The numbers for literacy, school enrolment and attendance are higher for girls and women.

Increasing salinity has more negative implications with gender aspects. Formerly women had fresh and nutritious food for the family from their homestead gardens with vegetables and fruit trees, livestock and poultry and small economic activities. This was productive work for women who are restricted to move out of their yards. Now women lost this work, income and food items.

Analysing our findings following the four interacting elements of empowerment (see 5.1.) made us realise that the word empowerment is out of place, as even basic needs are not fulfilled for most of the population in the visited area. Here follow the findings per element of empowerment, listed and short.

Socio-cultural empowerment

Of most women the self-image is low. What they say does not count, they have no way to make their voice heard. In some families women are consulted about family matters and food. Mostly women eat last and least. Child marriage of girls and boys is a prevalent practice. Marriage is often the only option for girls who drop out of school. Young husbands are not equipped for the responsibility of a young wife and children. There are few women-headed-households, and these are widows. Women have to stay at home due to cultural and religious norms that restrict their mobility. Hindu women do not experience this restriction, which makes it easier for them to do paid work. Safety concerns differ per village - in some cases women feel unsafe when having to use the hanging toilets, and in others girls feel unsafe on their way to and from school.

Physical empowerment

No fresh water close by is a major disempowering factor, mainly for women and girls. Saline water is bad for drinking, but also for bathing, washing, rearing cattle, and growing vegetables. To

⁹ Except for one village where an NGO has done awareness-raising work.

¹⁰ 1,3 km per stretch

fetch water from far distances is hard and physically wearing work. Sanitation facilities are simple and not very good, and even though one union declared itself to have 100% improved sanitation¹¹, our experience was the opposite. Violence against women is a common scenario. Child marriage leads to many reproductive health problems for girls and women. Women working in saline water *gher* suffer from problems of the skin and of the reproductive organs. Health facilities are difficult to access for the remotest villages, most women have unsupervised home births and myths about reproductive health are common¹². Family planning is the husband's prerogative but the woman's responsibility (through use of contraceptive pills). The nutritional status of poor people is inadequate.

Economic empowerment

Most households lack access to land, safe water, livestock, and schooling for decent work. There are few employment opportunities and a huge gender wage gap, which women accept due to fear of losing their only opportunity for paid work. Women have no access to markets, no control over their own earnings, and vulnerable groups are unaware of their right to government allowances. Men migrate for work, but are often not earning enough to send money home. Although women access micro-credit, loans are usually handed over to the husbands, who do not always repay.

Political empowerment

There are very few NGOs active in the project area, hardly any female Union Members, no water users groups or similar organisations. Credit groups only collect and lend money, and are not involved in awareness raising. Women vote who men tell them to vote. Few people are aware of their rights.

The four elements of empowerment interact, and all four need to show a positive trend, to denote empowerment. In the six villages the baseline for empowerment indicators stand at zero for many of those interviewed. This poses enormous challenges for the work of Nobo Jatra, and it is vital that attempts are made towards improvements for them. The themes of intervention of Nobo Jatra are all crucial, also from a gender perspective: Agriculture and Food Security; Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition; Water and Sanitation; Disasters, Vulnerability and Building Resilience; Economic Participation and Livelihoods; and Governance. On request of the Nobo Jatra team, the findings were sorted in two ways, first by empowerment elements, and then by the 6 themes of the project. The first way is to be found in 5.1. and the second in 5.2. Of course the same findings are used, so some repetitions could not be avoided.

Where average men and women have problems coping with their environment and with local oppressive power relations, various vulnerable groups can be expected to be in worse circumstances. Section 5.3. summarises key observations and findings of the study team regarding five different vulnerable groups: widows, elderly men and women, disabled women and men, youth and ethnic minorities.

A MenCare component is important for the project because without men learning to open their mind and discuss subjects with their female and male family members, women certainly will not have a chance for empowerment. **Part 3**¹³ of this report includes aspects of the work for MenCare,

¹¹ With the SDGs, the definition of improved sanitation facilities has been sharpened, a.o. from communally owned to household toilets. By the new standards Bangladesh fell back from nearly all to just over half of the population having access to sanitation. Also in this study the case of 100% will not stand.

¹² Pregnant women eat less than they should, as they believe a smaller baby will make the delivery easier and less risky.

¹³ After the field work and during and after the presentation workshop (9 September 2016), some more issues arose, which were not in the ToR and in the proposal for the Gender Analysis, because they are more of a second step after

for adolescent Girls, and the Child Protection committee. It also includes plans for Capacity building needs of NJ staff, with a separate section for the Community level workers. A selection of the many cases collected during the field study are compiled in a separate document: **Part 2¹⁴**. Attachments of this report include the draft report of the Presentation workshop, and the questionnaires.

Reading the findings and analysis in more detail further in the report, will clarify the seriousness of the situation of rural people in remote areas in Bangladesh. In Dhaka and in many urbanised places, the impression about poverty in Bangladesh can look quite different from that in small villages. The Nobo Jatra project has many ambitions, and as many challenges to actualise the improvement planned in remote and unexposed places, 700 in all. Blue prints will not be effective in most places, so it is important to understand the real context and relations at the grassroots' level. Learning will have to be the most important aim as well as outcome of the project: learning to think with an open mind, for the Nobo Jatra team, the community workers, and the women and men beneficiaries, in fact for all involved. The learning will have to be based on looking differently at gender and power relations, using the opportunities for change, and the change agents in the villages, who will mostly be women and youth.

New issues will keep coming up, with new regulations and a changing climate.



the analysis than part of the analysis. Therefore a separate document is written (**Part 3**), with initial steps and building blocks for a Gender Action Plan for the Nobo Jatra project.

¹⁴ These are not edited, which has the advantage that the reader can visualise him or herself in the village, listening to the rural women and men.

ANNEX 3 GWA Approach

GWA Approach in Bangladesh and Sustainability

The mission of GWA is to promote women's and men's equitable access to and management of safe and adequate water, for domestic supply, sanitation, food security and environmental sustainability. GWA believes that equitable access to and control over water is a basic right for all, as well as a critical factor in promoting poverty eradication and sustainability.

The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) works towards better decision making at all levels by knowledge development, capacity building and awareness raising, advocacy and sharing within the network, involving her many members worldwide, supporting water professionals with gender mainstreaming.

Gender is applied in the broad sense, meaning relations between women and men, but also ethnicity, race, socio-economic differences, age, different abilities and caste. All these forms of diversity interact, and awareness about power relations helps water management to be more sustainable and effective. What is unique to GWA is that it is the only organisation in the world and in Bangladesh that works on gender mainstreaming in integrated water resources management (IWRM). Water programmes in most countries the world over often focus on hardware and infrastructure whilst women and gender programmes hardly ever look at technological interventions and their impact on gender relations.

In Bangladesh GWA currently has 260 members (this number was 110 at the beginning of the project) of which 95 women and 165 men. These members include professors of various academia, research scientists, water engineers, gender and water experts, management staff of NGOs, and CBOs (Community Based Organisations) – all involved in integrating gender concerns in water related projects and activities. Nearly two thirds of the GWA Bangladesh members are men, and they are important allies in mainstreaming gender in water related policies, projects (including EKNsPs), and other activities in the country.

The GWAPB trainings and workshops for capacity building and knowledge development will essentially use the IWRM approach, along with participative, actor-oriented methodologies of sociology which view empowerment of water users, and especially poor women, men, and children not only as an objective but as a pre-requisite for ensuring sustainable, equitable, and efficient water management.

Relevant guiding principles and key features of the GWA approach as applied by GWAPB are included in the following conceptual framework:

IWRM Integrated Water Resource Management

Realising the shortcomings of the IWRM approach, it nevertheless remains important to look at water management in an integrated way. Water is ever getting scarcer and many people, in fact women, in Bangladesh have a big problem finding water for their households and families, whilst too much groundwater is used for over-thirsty agricultural crops. The different water uses are interlinked and should not be looked at separately. Decision making on the use of water and its management cannot be done without taking the different stakes, needs, and interests of diverse groups of people into account. Participation of all water users, stakeholders, but also stake-losers is necessary not only to

prevent conflicts over water, but also to make the best use of the available water, be it for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, other productive uses or for nature. In the Bangladesh Water Act 2013, it is clearly written that drinking water is priority number 1. Nevertheless in Bangladesh between 80 and 96 % of fresh water is used for agriculture (numbers from different sources). Technical and social aspects of water management are equally important.



Fathers could enjoy taking care of the children too

Gender includes women and men

GWA does not only focus its work on women, but also on men. In most public sector water institutions and technical teams men outnumber women, so it has been important to build their understanding of gender relations in water management, and how Gender Mainstreaming (GM) can make their work more effective, cost-efficient, and sustainable. Men water professionals learn the importance of involving women in decision making, and thus adding to the sustainability of changing power relations. However, while addressing both men and women in CB activities, GWAPB has recognized that special support needs to be given to women in gaining the necessary skills to be able to effectively participate in decision making. Poor men are in a different position than poor women, but they also have responsibilities, difficult to fulfill with access to few resources. Men, as much as women, need to learn to understand about gender relations and the advantages of empowerment of their wives and themselves.

Gender+, Gender Plus, Gender and Diversity, Gender and Inclusion

These are all labels for gender in the broad sense to be applied for understanding power relations at all levels: relations between women and men that interact with ethnicity, race, socio-economic class, different abilities, age, etc. All this diversity, shows the richness of the differences between people, and awareness about power relations helps water management to be more sustainable and effective.

Equity is meant to reach equality

In case one category of people is left behind, equal treatment will not help them get on track, they will remain behind. For equality it is necessary to give the vulnerable and less privileged people extra support, until equality is reached.

Empowerment approach with four interacting elements

An empowerment approach has been taught and applied with four interacting elements: socio-cultural, political, economic and physical. Empowerment, especially of marginal women, but also of other categories of people, is used as an objective and a tool for analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of all our activities. This has been the core of GWAPB's Capacity Building. Technical professionals overall find this easy, whilst in general the often promoted Gender Analysis (of Moser and Harvard) was too difficult, time-consuming and hard to make applicable to the real context.

Women are agents of change, not just victims

Women are not only victims, but also agents of change, actors in development. They have useful skills and knowledge because of their specific tasks in water management and sanitation. Only by their genuine participation, not just in work but also in decision-making, can efficient and sustainable water management be achieved. Those who are responsible for certain tasks, also should be involved in relevant decision-making.

Women are also victims, especially in disasters

Women and children are by far the majority of the victims of disasters and climate change (floods and droughts), so it is important to involve them in disaster risk management, again, not just to do the (earth-) work, but also to make the decisions.

To operationalise these concepts and the ideas behind them, we apply the following principles:

Building on existing knowledge

The social knowledge that technical counterparts already have, is acknowledged and built on further.

Involve partners and GWA members and their expertise

GWA ensures efficiency of its activities by working in partnership with other (member) organisations. In GWAPB it is clear that all work has been together with other organisations or projects. Where possible GWAPB has applied the expertise of its members.



During CB workshop time is made for fieldvisits. This is a visit to a Proshika Credit Group, near to Koitta

No space for patronising

GWAPB’s way of working is to show technical water professionals that gender mainstreaming is in their own interest, and that, if they want, they will get our support. In this approach there is no space for patronizing. There have been open discussions in order to learn from each other, both ways. GWA needs to know about the technical work to explain the gender relations in its context and to come together to suggestions for improvement by gender mainstreaming. That was achieved in participatory and interactive capacity building workshops, in field visits and in the meetings with EKNsPs.

Individual Gender Action Plans and Active Learning

Within its capacity building work GWAPB has applied the earlier developed methodology for active learning: water professionals are assisted and encouraged to develop an individual gender action plan (IGAP) for gender mainstreaming at their work-place, which GWAPB staff would coach when asked to.

By exchanging experiences in follow-up workshops, participants learnt from each other and network amongst themselves leading to better results.

Demand driven, participatory, tailor made activities are prioritised

Effectiveness is achieved through the demand-driven, participatory and tailor-made approach GWA uses in all its activities. This has ensured ownership at the level where the activities are executed, and increases their sustainability as well.

Monitoring with few indicators

Formulation and monitoring of SMART (specific, measurable, applicable, realistic and time-bound) gender indicators is often key to the sustainability of programmes. GWAPB has contributed to quantitative and qualitative monitoring, by developing frameworks together with the EKNsPs, as well as developing some documents for gender disaggregated data collection. The indicators should be few, to make sure monitoring serves a purpose and does not become a purpose on its own. Monitoring progress in gender mainstreaming needs to be both quantitative and qualitative (inquiries).

Inquiries

Inquiries are an open form of interviewing in which the interviewee can him or herself tell what are important positive and negative aspects of their daily life or situation. There are no questionnaires, apart from perhaps a checklist with subjects. Case studies are written with literal quotes. Such inquiries and case studies are used for qualitative monitoring, by repeating them after some time.

Field visits in capacity building workshops

If time permits, it is always educative to have a field visit as part of the training workshops.

Avoid Development Jargon

In GWA communication, training and documentation we avoid development-jargon: we try to speak and write in easy language to be understood also by those whose mother tongue is not English. To speak and write easy language is not easy. Jargon is much easier, but is also an obstruction in development. Jargon hides daily realities, thus creating the possibility to deny and ignore the real problems and the real people involved.

If all in the room speak Bangla, of course the language spoken in the session will be Bangla.

Documentation

Of all activities reports have been written, as well as of team meetings. It can be said that most work has been documented.

The GWA and GWAPB approach has proved to be effective and appreciated.

Sustainability

The FIETS concept of sustainability of SIMAVI had been applied with some additions: Financial, Institutional, Ecological, Technical and Social including gender, with adding Economic and Political, coming to FIETSEP.

The GWAPB project has different aspects of sustainability, and some that are not yet sustainable. GWAPB has not yet managed to be financially sustainable, the project was, but the institution now that the project is over, is not. Institutionally GWAPB has been successful, with the NGO AB registration, and an increasingly wide and good reputation, but without the F (financial), the I (institutional) on its own is insufficient. Ecological and Technical sustainability has more relevance in the EKNsPs, not directly in GWAPB. Also Economic and Political are meant for the EKNsPs.

For the EKNsPs the GWAPB has added to their sustainability, and to that of their work in the districts. To reach critical thinking and learning, is a great and sustainable achievement, difficult to turn back. But many participants of capacity building activities have changed jobs, so within the EKNsPs the gender mainstreaming knowledge is not yet sustainable all over and needs more CB input. This can be considered Institutional (in-)sustainability. From the Final Monitoring Report of GWAPB (June 2016) by the external STE we quote:

“It is evident that GWAPB’s capacity-building activities over the three year period have had a significant impact in improving knowledge of gender and water issues among Bangladeshi professionals working in the water sector. Although many of them have left the EKNsPs with which they were employed, they have brought their newly-acquired knowledge to their new positions, thus creating a trickle-down or indirect impact of the GWAPB project.”

The FIETSEP indicators are all important for the beneficiaries of the EKNsPs. The development that they are experiencing in the projects will give them more income, and in case the projects work from a gender perspective, the chance that the source of income is sustainable is larger. Also the



Fisher boys in Dublar Char

environmental and political aspects (their own organizations) are more sustainable when women and men have equal opportunities in the project. The Technical indicator is very interesting: in some of the projects there has been attention for women-friendly technologies for agriculture, for water supply and sanitation, for aquaculture, etc. Once such technologies have been developed, they are there to stay. Other organisations will see them and be inspired to copy, adapt and apply them.