Best Practice of BWA Partners
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Acknowledgement

The Bangladesh WASH Alliance has been successful to achieve most of its planned results. “Sanitation entrepreneurs” on sanitation market promotion and technical aspects of their work gave a strong momentum to work towards financial sustainability of the programme. Most of the partners of BWA have introduced sanitation market promotion and entrepreneurship development. Budget tracking has also yielded in increasing government budget for WASH not only in the Union Parishads where it was implemented but also in the neighbouring Union Parishads who had noticed benefits of proposing budget based on the real needs of people. People participation in budget preparation has increased and trust on local government institutions has also increased. Faecal sludge management by involving pit emptier has shown positive result. The municipality has taken lead role to implement FSM. Community based monitoring was instrumental to monitor real behavioural changes of the people. Local technologies Tippy Tap facilitated the hand washing practice. Government circular on use of sanitary latrine and proper management of hygiene in school has positive impact to increase school WASH situation. WASH health village group and WASH football tournament played vital role to promote sanitation and hygiene behaviour.

WASH Alliance partners have taken initiative to document and share these best practices, which is very much appreciated. An editorial board was formed and members are Mr. Zobair Hasan, Mr. Shaikh Zunaed Ali, Ms. Kazi Rukshana. Board members have reviewed and edited all the best practices. We extend our deepest gratitude to them. The Contribution of BWA partners, Aims Bangladesh, DORP, Dalit, Hope for the Poorest, Practical Action, SLOP Bangladesh, Uttaran and WaterAid Bangladesh is highly appreciated. We extend our thanks to the partners. We are also grateful to Partha Sarathi and Melicha Khan who had provided tireless efforts to prepare this best practice booklet. Bangladesh WASH Alliance is in debt to the community people who were nuclease of the programme. The colleagues of Bangladesh WASH Alliance country office helped a lot to prepare this booklet of best practices. Thanks to them as well.

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Personally, I am very much thankful to the all members of Programme Group of BWA and all others colleagues of Bangladesh WASH Alliance and partners who contributed to prepare this booklet on best practices.

Alok Majumder
Country Coordinator
WASH Alliance Bangladesh
Glimpse of WASH Alliance Bangladesh

The WASH Alliance International is a multi-national consortium of close to a hundred partners, working together based on equality with NGOs, communities, private sector, banks and public sector in 8 countries in Africa and Asia. In 2011, Six Dutch civil society organizations have formed WASH Alliance.

Vision and mission

As WASH Alliance we envision a world where all people have access to sustainable water and sanitation services that they can afford, and where all people can live under hygienic living conditions to improve their health, dignity and economic living standard.

It is our mission to ensure sustainable WASH services for all people, including the marginalised, in the areas where we work.

Bangladesh WASH Alliance

Wash Alliance has been working in Bangladesh since 2011. The 15 partner NGOs were involved in project implementation. At present 8 partners organization (Aims Bangladesh, Dalit DORP, Hope for the Poorest, Practical Action, SLOPB, Uttaran and WaterAid) are implementing WASH programme in 33 unions and 2 municipalities under 5 coastal districts.

The BWA partners have piloted different business approach and technical options to ensure sustainable finance in sanitation and to address sector challenges. Faecal sludge management by involving pit emptier has shown positive result. The municipality has taken lead role to implement FSM. Most of the partners of BWA have introduced sanitation market promotion and entrepreneurship development and also low cost durable latrine technologies. This initiative triggered the annual income of the private entrepreneurs. Low cost sanitary napkin production has been initiated by the BWA partners. Low income people were engaged in water vending in the municipalities facilitate to increase income of the people. These pilots are showing promising results and now the challenge is how to scale up these initiatives. Budget advocacy and budget tracking is also considered one of the major achievement of WASH Alliance.

WASH Alliance in Bangladesh is well recognized by government authorities and other stakeholder as a major player in WASH sector WASH Alliance has been contributing to WASH sector development in Bangladesh following its Theory of Change and its focus on FIETS (Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technical and Social) sustainability principles:

- Empowerment of community and community based platforms through awareness raising on WASH related right and health factors, so that they invest in their own health and well-being, voice their needs/ demand their rights to the right duty bearers and take the responsibility of their own lives and that of their families and communities.
- Enhancing function of WASH market in our intervention areas through capacity strengthening of entrepreneurs, social marketing/demand creation, introducing business approaches, facilitating development and provision of credit products for WASH by micro finance institutes.
• Improving public enabling environment through evidence base lobby and advocacy at local and national level for proper resource allocation, policy implementation, fulfilment of a leading role by the government, demanding improved coordination among different stakeholders and enforcement of law, applying social accountability tools such as budget tracking to ensure need base allocation and use of the resources at local level, etc

As result of Bangladesh WASH Alliance programme 211,516 people use improve sanitation facilities and 134,345 use improved water resources, with a per capita investment of €7 per person.

For more Information

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AIMS Bangladesh (Aesthetical and Integrated Media Service, Bangladesh) is a media communication company providing complete range of communications solutions with an emphasis on social development sector. The company is operating since 2008 and has provided a wide range of social and media communication services to reputed national and international organizations including World Bank, UNFPA, BRAC, Save the children, ILO-Geneva, ILO-Bangladesh, ICCO Cooperation, IFC, IOM, WaterAid, ActionAid, Christian Aid, NGO Forum, Swiss Contact, Smile Bangladesh, Bergen University-Norway, Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh, BCAS, RAJUK, Popular Group and many others. AIMS has awarded in different national & international event for their dedicated work to the society.

WASH Football Tournament
Background

This WASH football tournament goal was to bring as many people as possible together, from villages, to provide positive recreational activities and disseminate messages on WASH issues targeted at young men and women under the project areas in collective community mobilization for WASH awareness. An additional goal was to improve community awareness on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to empower them to make discussion with their families on WASH issues. COASTWASH project of AIMS Bangladesh initiated the WASH Football tournament, which supported by WASH program of ICCO-Cooperation and Bangladesh WASH Alliance program.

AIMS’s Initiatives

To organize the football tournament, first, two teams are formed. High School students are involved in the team and the players for the team are selected by school teachers and students. A large playground of a school is chosen as the event’s venue. Some materials like festoon with different types of WASH slogans, WASH stickers, banners, caps, printed T-shirts for players, staff and local elites are arranged a week before the tournament. These things are used on the day of the football match. For the campaign of WASH Football Tournament, posters are pasted in the project area around 12/15 days ago. Before three days of the event, the event’s date and venue are announced in upazila and the project areas using loudspeakers. From the community, elite persons like UNO, DC, UP representatives, teachers and others are invited as the chief guest and the special guests. WASH partner organizations are also invited by email to attend the event.

Lesson Learned

The event activity is posted using the Akvo Flow and the program report is shared with the WASH partners. The event’s output is followed up by visiting the houses of community people, asking them about WASH and making them aware.
DALIT is a Bengali word which means oppressed, exploited, neglected and deprived. DALIT got registration from NGO Affairs Bureau (N.1374) in 1999 and Ministry of Social Welfare (Khulna/1389/10) in 2010. A world is which DALIT and other marginalized communities realize their full potential in caste-based free societies that respect people's rights and dignity. DALIT aims to achieve sustainable and lasting improvements in the quality of life of DALIT and other marginalized and socially excluded groups, facilitating the access to education, promoting and advocating for their basic human rights, boosting community health, increasing the access to livelihood opportunities and WASH facilities. DALIT is working with disadvantage people specially dalit communities such as Rishi, Kawra, Dom, Methor, Behara, Bazadar, Jele, Nikari, Munda etc.

Tippy Tap can enhance hand washing practice

Background

Das Para situated under Piprail village and ward no. 6 of Jamira union of Phultala upazila where some Dalit community people lives. Their living condition is not normal as like others. They don’t have any general profession like others. Most of them have no land for cultivation. So, they have to depend on preparing bamboo made goods which they are doing traditionally and generation to generation. In this Das Para, there are 57 households where a total of 129 male and 122 females live. During the month of October 2015 when Dalit starts its project named “Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene”; most of the families don’t have access to hygienic latrines. They were careless about hygienic latrines. But, after launching of ‘ASWASH’ Project, peoples are getting motivated to install hygienic latrines.

Dalit’s Initiatives

From the strategic point of view, Dalit has formed 01 Watch Committee, 03 male and 03 female groups to implement the project activities at ward level. Dalit has continued conducting regularly monthly meetings with these groups to disseminate different messages through these committees. The watch committee is the key committee to carry out all the project related activities of respective ward. Following the process, same level of committee and groups have been formed also at ward no. 06.
Throughout these committees, Das Para community has come to know about ‘Tippy Tap’. They have shown the community how to install a tippy tap and what benefits the community can get by installing a tippy tap. This is how tippy tap was introduced to the community. The surrounding HHs also realized that this is a very effective way to make sure they can wash their both hands with soap after defecation.

**Changes at Ground**

So, finally from the above stated short success story, we can easily assess that installation of locally made Tippy Tap that can enhance hand washing practice. Even if it is installed near home where generally we wash our hands before taking food, it can enhance hand washing practices before taking food. The reason lies behind this success is availability of materials locally, and community mobilization by the committee members. If we can make the community understand the benefits, they will get accustomed to practicing any behavior, and they will take charge of the rest.

Dipti Rani Das, a school student of ‘Das Para’ said, “I have tried several times to have a water source near or inside our latrine, but didn’t have a solution on that. But, this tippy tap has given me that solution. Now, I am very much happy to have such a hand washing solution. By using this, I feel that my personal hygiene has been improved and bad smell are not coming from my hands as I am using soap while washing my hands after defecation.”
Development Organisation of The Rural Poor-DORP, a national NGO established in 1987, has been working in the field of development in different parts of Bangladesh. DORP is a Dutch ward, which means village and DORP implements its activities mostly in coastal villages on health, education, resettlement, WASH and governance through various approaches. In the DORP evaluation process, it has experimented various approaches and carried out some action-oriented research with a view of identify directions of its programs with active participation of rural people as program partners. DORP has received “The 2013 ‘Water for Life’ UN-WATER Best Practice” Award on its Health Village Concept.

WASH Budget Tracking: Connecting the Disconnects

Background

The WASH Monitoring programme led by WASH Alliance partner Development Organisation of the Rural Poor-DORP uses Budget Tracking as a mechanism to empower the people to voice their WASH needs to the government and to ensure that the relevant policy makers take a positive approach to ensure the right to water and sanitation of the people. This will finally lead to increased accountability and transparency of local governments. While doing so, changing the mindsets of all stakeholders involved creating a system for sustainable and affordable WASH services is main priority. This is the only way to adapt to fast population growth and to achieve full coverage. DORP has long advocated for WASH policy and financing, but officially began a WASH budget monitoring project in 2011 in six Upazilas (Barguna Sadar, Fakirhat, Sirajganj Sadar, Bhuapur, Kuliarchar and Ramgati) located in six different geographical districts. Through this initiative, DORP began to support a system of local bottom up budget searching and tracking in order to empower communities with awareness about the financing of WASH services and to advocate for better utilization of funds for improved implementation of WASH service delivery. The process involves assessing service quality at Union and Upazila level government WASH facilities, and mobilizing community members to work with their local government officials to ensure all available resources are optimally utilized. The initiative works with four approaches, 1) Campaign and Promotion 2) WASH Budget Monitoring 3) Lobby and Advocacy 4) WASH Service Monitoring.
Positive Changes

Frequent meetings among DPHE Engineers at Upazila, representatives of budget clubs, Health Village Group members and Union standing committees have resulted in improved understanding and trust between service providers and recipients. Using data, budget clubs have successfully advocated for WASH services in their communities. Water and Sanitation budget of six unions have increased up to 61% in 2014-15 than 2011-12 fiscal years through lobby and advocacy by community people facilitated by DORP. Government of Bangladesh also acknowledges that water and sanitation budget should be need based and prepared some policies to address these.

What is Budget Tracking?

Budget Tracking helps create accountability and transparency in WASH budget allocated and utilization from district to community level. Budget Tracking is based on two pillars. Firstly, it creates demand for WASH services in communities through a participatory approach, for example in WASH Health Village meetings. This way, it ensures the people’s participation in budget preparation processes, enabling them to better voice their needs. Special attention goes to the empowerment of women and children. Secondly, it helps governments, as service providers, to understand the WASH reality in the communities, and to enter into an open dialogue with them to cater the WASH needs of the people. We do this via Health Budget Clubs, pre-budget meetings and open budget sessions. In the districts where we are active, the budget tracking approach has led to an increase in annual WASH budget allocation of 12-13%.

Empowering communities at the Ward Level

In budget tracking there are three levels: the ward, Union, and Upazila level. At the ward level, particularly the women of the villages organize monthly meetings to discuss their WASH needs and the accompanying budget under a platform named “Health Village Group”. The groups consist of 25 members where 80% are female at ward level give opportunity for the people to discuss the sanitation issues and raise demand for necessary budget and products from the Union Parishad. They’ve selected a representative who leads the group discussion and identifies the most urgent needs.

Engaging local government at the Union and Upazila Level

During a pre-budget session, the Union Parishad collects and compiles the communities’ needs for the budget. With this information they prepare and submit a budget proposal to Upazila, the upper level government. The Union level also publishes a budget book that accompanies the drawing. Upazila Parishad approves Union Parishad Budget through the concurrence from District level. Therefore it is very important to engage Upazila authority in various Budget related events, and programs from which they understand the need and urgency of the community. WASH Budget Club (civil society representatives from the Upazila) at Upazila level is acting as catalyst; and do lobby and advocacy at Upazila level to pursue Unions as well as community need in the budget allocation.
At the national level, DORP organizes different lobby and advocacy meetings, workshop, and dialogue to bring attention to the policy makers and stakeholders about present situation of water and sanitation as well as budgeting for this sector in Bangladesh and plausible task to carry out for improvement. This process involves a review of documents to “search” for WASH budget allocation made at the central level and comparing them to what is actually disbursed and then utilized at the local level as well as publish booklet, fact sheet and budget analysis and share with large audience. DORP’s National Advisory Body further supports these efforts with national level advocacy and lobbying in order to address constraints at higher level of government.

**Initiative’s Contributions**

- Improved budget allocation, disbursement, and utilization according to community needs.
- Improved community mobilization, awareness, and empowerment concerning WASH planning services, financing, and management.
- Strengthened public-private relationships for WASH, for example, establishing Private sanitary entre preneurs and tubewell mechanic and link them with Union Parishad and DPHE.

**Engaging Media**

DORP has engaged the media through written articles, press releases, organised press conferences and even set up a television talk show with policy makers and senior officials from the WASH sector. It is a continuous process. Decision makers and Policy makers, listen to Media and speaks to media very well. Besides, media is playing a vital role in covering various
day observations, campaigns which helps to get WASH as priority issue in the Governments Plan. However, TV Talk show is very popular in Bangladesh; and many believe that TV Channels are also a Mini/Shadow Parliament. Media is not only the platform to make the changes but it is an added value for the whole process of Budget Tracking.

**Keys to success**

- Bridging between commitment and demand

DORP facilitated and attended numerous NGO network meetings, coordination and hearing sessions where people could get information on budget tracking and discuss our issues, questions and plans. These various meetings take place at Union, and Upazila level to express people’s need where service providers are also invited to listen to them.

- Different monitoring tools

Evidence based monitoring by budget monitoring tools along with different checklist bring information for strapping advocacy. We developed the WASH budget monitoring data collection tools through a consultative process, which helped to clarify the methodology and facilitated the replication of the process in new Unions. Checklist for Health Village Group, School, and FWC also support to collect data on situation and create evidence for advocacy at local and national level as well.

- Identifying and leveraging the strengths of each team member

Budget club members explored their existing networks and leveraged connections in their own respective fields to achieve the clubs goals. Working as volunteers with very minimal project funding, budget club members engaged key community members to join their cause. Health Village Group members enhanced their capacity by joining different meetings with local government representatives organized by DORP at Union and Upazila level.
Hope for the Poorest (HP) is a national level NGO, working in the urban & rural development of Bangladesh. HP has started its journey since 2004 patronized by ASA (world renowned MFI). The aim of the organization is to help the poor and underprivileged people in the country. To minimize the sufferings of these people HP operates the programs such as Primary Health Care (PHC), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), Sanitary Napkin Promotion (SNP), Micro Credit, Sanitation Entrepreneurship Development linking with ASA for Sanitation loan. The approach of the organization is considering demand driven and community engaged for sustainable solution, including financial and technical support from national and international development partners and donors.

Sanitation Entrepreneur’s development by HP

**Background**

Sanitation entrepreneurship development is a key initiative of HP’s WaSH program. HP is facilitating group and individual sanitation loans, which are administered by ASA. These loans are given for sanitation entrepreneurs and sanitation solutions for HHs.

**HP’s Initiatives**

From Jun 2014 to June 2015 HP has arranged 4 batch Sanitation Entrepreneur (SE) training at Satkhira where 49 entrepreneurs have attended from Satkhira and Bagerhat sadar sub-district. After the training 25 entrepreneurs has demand loan to HP for promoting sanitation business. In this circumstance HP link to entrepreneurs with ASA for loan disbursement. ASA disbursed 22,20,000 BDT among the 25 nos. entrepreneurs Through this business all entrepreneurs has developed business relationship with local WaSH stakeholder and also community people who were vulnerable in the community and not access a hygienic toilet but has a demand to toilet installed by loan. On the other hand HP has been taken initiative to provide HHs sanitation loan among respective areas. As a result SE business has been expanding and also increases sanitation coverage in respective areas.
Findings

We have arranged couple of new activities for sanitation entrepreneurship development and awareness rising for toilet installation among our project area (Networking Meeting with SE, Demand Creation Session and Marketing Campaign). After the activities latrine sold has been increasing by our trained sanitation entrepreneurs among the Satkhira and Bagerhat area. During Jan 2015 to Aug 2015 total 13616 set latrines had sold by existing 25 entrepreneurs. This project length is 3 years and supported by ASA. Based on success mentioned project ASA will replicate this approach rest of sub-districts in Bangladesh.
Practical Action is a UK based international development organisation works for Technology Justice and Wellbeing to reduce poverty. We work in 45 countries through regional and country offices in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to make a difference in the lives of poor people by transforming the technologies from idea to reality. In Bangladesh, focus of our work is around agriculture, extreme poverty, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, access to markets, Energy and urban water, sanitation and waste management. Our distinctive practical approach includes wellbeing, partnership, specialized knowledge services and policy engagement.

Turning Hazardous Jobs into Green & Risk into Resources; introducing Faecal Sludge Management
**Background**

Satkhira Municipality is the home of 140 thousand people, with 97% coverage of latrine; daily generates around 45,000kg of excreta. A major share of the sludge generated trapped in septic tanks for years from where it leach out to ground water sources, the other share drive its way to a local canal through direct connection of septic tanks or drainage line. This traditional management process of faecal sludge is not only degrading wetlands environment but also scratching the life of 5,000 peoples living in the slums situated around the canal. Of large fish markets of Satkhira, who supply fish in around 11 districts, use the canal water to wash the fish and making ice to freeze the fish. On the other hand, the groups inherit pit-emptying profession, was throwing sludge to canal after scooping it from pits. As the emptier groups using the traditional mechanism of emptying they always had different skin, lungs and stomach troubles and social stigma confines their territory of social interaction.

**Practical Action’s Initiatives**

Before initiating the “Faecal Sludge Management” activities Practical Action Bangladesh mould the problems in two shapes, the environmental degradation & uplifting livelihood assets of traditional pit emptier groups. The target was to introduce a total value chain of “Sludge to Compost” where a win-win situation will be ensured for both households (clients) and pit emptier (service provider). The client will avail a clean and fast pit emptying service as well as healthy environment in surrounding, the pit emptier will have more jobs done in the same time; accelerate their income as well as using safety equipments will protect them from having physical troubles.

Practical Action Bangladesh start advocacy with Satkhira Municipality on the necessity of Faecal Sludge Management, after what Municipality manage a 10 decimal land for sludge treatment. The pit emptier groups are also start groomed on use of modern de-sludge equipments, safety equipments and maintain of health their own health issues. After completion of Faecal Sludge treatment plant (2,000 liters/day-dumping capacity) in November 2014 the selected Sweeper groups start dumping in the plant. Practical Action fabricate 03 sludge carrying tri-cycles, 01 sludge transporter (1200 liter), 01 submersible pump for suction of sludge from pits & 15 sets of safety equipments in late 2014. In last 11 months the pit emptier groups dumped 70,000 liters of sludge in the treatment plant, 3050 kg of sludge cake produced after drying it in solar bed, 4.5 tons of compost produced after co-composting. Practical Action released around 55,000 liters of treated water in nature; around 6,000 liter is still in the system. Satkhira District’s Department of Agriculture Extension compares the nutrient value of cow-dung Vs human sludge cake, where sludge cake found 1.42 times more effective and soil friendly than cow-dung. 01 urban farmer is using the sludge compost regularly as well as 52 families using it for homestead gardening. Regular campaign on pit emptying & against illegal sewerage by municipality helps generating awareness, which increase the number of job for the sweepers.
Lives are Changing

Chandan Hela, born in a Harijion family and inherits the Pit Emptying job; in such a society where he can’t even join any social events with the same dignity as the others. Chandan is serving the municipal dwellers from three and half decades, where he never pampered for his contribution rather having bad words. Chandan’s children in school and his wife in the market face the same cunning face of society, as Chandan remove faeces from pits and septic tanks. For Chandan the most challenging thing was to manage the needs of his family with the earning from this profession, “it was around 300 BDT per day in average, counting income from my job in municipality and pit emptying at night, where a good amount has needed to cut for medication” Chandan added.

Up to September 2015; the pit emptier group led by Chandan Hela (Jomader of Municipality) uses the Vecu-tag & Pump for around 250 nights. According to Mr. Chandan, “this pump helps us to remove the liquid part very quickly, and we don’t need to get our self down to the septic tank; it saves time as well as we can now do 2-3 empting in a single night where as it was hard to make 2 empting at a single night.” When asked about any improvement of health, he replied that the visible change from the last 5-6 months is on their skin, the skin dieses reduced after start using gloves & gum boot. The visible change in income proved most contributory for his family members; the income graduated to 18,000 BDT per month from 9,000 to 10,000 BDT. In the last one year Mr. Chandan signed two different agreements with Municipality where he signs as the counter part of Mr. Mayor; proves the change in social status as well. Chandan said, “Thanks to Practical Action Bangladesh who enlighten me and my group about new technologies of pit emptying, it not only reduces our stress and accelerate our income but also show us a healthy way of living. Moreover in Satkhira Practical Action established pit emptying as a dignified job.”

Yet to Achieve

Practical Action’s assessment shows some unavoidable situation hampering smooth running of Sludge to Compost value chain; capacity of present sludge treatment plant, sludge transporter as well as number of emptying job.

There is no control of municipality over building design, so ideal septic tanks are still beyond imagination; maximum of the sewerage outlets are connected with canal directly or via drains. The situation improves in a number from last two years but yet to achieve more. An FGD with pit emptier groups shows that total 5-6 households take the empting service daily on an average through all the existing pit empting groups, what means hardly they touched 2000 pits/tanks in a year; whereas almost 20,000 pits/tanks are here used by 27 thousands families. In the existing mechanism only 3000 liter can be dumped in a single night, from what 300 semi-solid go for drying and other 2700 liters for filter. Now the drying beds can contain 800 kg of semi-solid and it need to be there for 14-21 days (depends on weather); it means the emptier can dump no more than 3 times or 9 tons in a row; whereas in 14-21 days they collect 210 tons to 315 tons of sludge. Again the transporter can only move 1 tons of sludge in a single time; where the cost effectiveness touches the edge.

Some initiatives are need to be taken- like regulation against illegal sewerage connections, involve district administration with the illegal sewerage connection issue as this is taking the ecology to its demise. Increase capacity of sludge treatment and transportation where minimum 7 tons could be carried (considering present situation) once to dumping.
Stichting Land Ontwikkelings Project Bangladesh (SLOPB) is an international NGO registered as a charity organization in the Netherlands. SLOPB is registered with NGO Affairs Bureau, under the Prime Minister’s Office of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. SLOPB is also registered with the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms under the Societies Registration Act-1860. SLOPB began its development activities in Bangladesh in June 1995 in the south-west coastal belt of Bangladesh with the vision “to improve livelihoods and promote greater health and food security among the poor and marginalized people including women, orphans, children and disabled.”

When villagers join hand in hand, Institutions respond to their demands

Background

The Ward Health Development Committee (WHDC) of Ward number 1 of Betagi Sankipur Union under Dasmina Upazila consists of 12 members; 9 women, 4 men. One male teacher, one Imam, one birth attendant, one male village doctor, 8 female volunteers, and 1 male volunteer. All members in the group have the same tasks and responsibilities, irrespective if they are female or male. For example the male volunteer also gives cooking classes to explain about healthy food preparation.

SLOPB’s Initiatives

When setting up the WHDC, SLOPB made a proposal which people in the ward should participate in this committee. This proposal was agreed upon by the volunteers themselves as well as the other inhabitants of the ward. The president of the committee was elected by the committee members. At the start of the project all members of the WHDC got a three day training on Health and Sanitation and the traditional birth attendant got an extra three-day professional training. After finishing the training they got a kit, umbrella and sandals to perform her work. Not only did the WHDC identify who needed a toilet or access to a DTW, they also checked if the beneficiaries were actually using the facilities. Due to their active attitude the members of the WHDC have a meeting with this WASH standing committee at UP level every month.
Results

As a result of all the work of the WHDC the health of the people living in the ward has significantly increased. There are fewer diseases due to the improved hygiene, so people spend less money on doctors-bills and they are happier because they are healthier. Because open defecation has stopped, women now also dare to gather leafy vegetables and prepare them as they know that they can be eaten safely. Also child mortality has gone down now the traditional birth attendant has received training. She acknowledges that she has benefitted a lot from this training as it gave her confidence and people trust her because of it. Now SLOPB has phased out its activities in ward number 1 of Betagi Sankipur Union, the WHDC has stopped the monthly meetings. But they still have a monthly meeting with the UP; in those meetings the birth attendant presents figures on how many children are born, how many malnourished etc. They also continue in submitting a list to the UP every year for new latrines and DTWs for those who do not have access to drinking water and sanitation. Furthermore they continue home visits to identify who is eligible to go to the satellite clinics for supplementary food for children under five year old. Yet, they would like SLOPB to continue with some funding for the meetings and with the provision of DTWs like before.
Uttaran, which means ‘transition’, in Bangla language, is a people centered organisation using a rights based approach to alleviate poverty, diversify livelihood opportunities and empower poor communities throughout the southwest region and gradually expanding to other parts of Bangladesh. It was established in 1985. The core focus of Uttaran programs are human rights, land rights and agrarian reform, community based river basin management, sustainable water management, adaptation to climate change, ecological agriculture and food security. The organization has been working in 13 districts in 5 divisions now. It has 37 branch offices beside the Head Office in Dhaka. Currently the organization is covering 132,000 direct partner-beneficiaries.

Community Based Monitoring brings sustainable change in hygienic behavior

Background

Under Action Research Activity guided by IRC Uttaran’s WASH project has enabled to bring sustainable change in hygienic behavior. Community people of five villages; of Talat Upazila of Satkhira district have brought sustainable change in their hygienic behavior through conducting Community Based Monitoring by them.

Uttaran’s Initiatives

Through WASH project Uttaran has started Community Based Monitoring in its five working villages and hired consultant Dr. Amal from IRC for technical assistance and guidance under the Action Research Program of the project. He along with project staffs formulated format based on 10 major results; number of households, number of people, number of children below 5 years old, number of families using deep tube-well water as drinking water, sources of drinking water of the families, type of latrines used by families such as sanitary latrines, unhygienic latrines and pit latrines, number latrines found with stool on pans or slabs, hand washing points within 15 hands of latrines, arrangement of water and soap within 15 hands of latrines and specific disposal points in the households, for data collection by community people on monthly basis.
In five villages, the community people have formed five CBM teams to observe the progress of using safe drinking water sources, using of sanitary latrine and other practice of hygienic behavior through visiting door to door of the households of the villages regularly on monthly basis. This regular and intensive door to door supervision by their neighbors, the community people have become aware on using safe drinking water, sanitary latrine and other practices of hygienic behavior.

**Changes at Ground**

The result of conducting of CBM in regards to use of source of drinking water is that families under the activities of CBM did not use water of deep tube-well as drinking water before conducting CBM, but after the starting of CBM these families are starting to drink water of deep tube-well and the number of families using drinking water from deep tube-well has been increasing day by day. In relation to use of type of latrine the result is that before conducting CBM, they used unhygienic latrines but after starting the CBM they are using sanitary latrines. Many of them have constructed new sanitary latrines. On the other hand some families has repaired their old latrine and made these as sanitary latrines. Before conducting CBM, pans or slabs of latrines of families under the CBM were found with sludge but after conducting of CBM, most of the slabs or pans of latrines are found clean without any sludge on them. Therefore, CBM has been playing significant impact on the community people towards the practicing of sustainable hygienic behavior.
WaterAid is an international NGO that enables the world’s poorest people to gain access to safe water and sanitation. Together with improved hygiene, these basic human rights underpin health, education and livelihoods, forming the first essential step in overcoming poverty. WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world’s poorest communities. We work with partners and influence decision-makers to maximise our impact. In Bangladesh we’re operating since 1986 as one of the lead actors in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector and is well experienced in innovating, scaling-up and managing large scale projects targeting poor, vulnerable and excluded.

MoE circular on improved sanitation facilities in schools
Background

WASH in school is the integral part of proper education to the student. Unfortunately water, sanitation and hygiene situation in schools are poor. Every year 272 million days wasted due to diarrhoea. Education and social development of the teenage girl students hindered for absent at school due to low hygiene management in menstruation period. Only 35% schools have hand washing facilities and 1 toilet for 187 students at their premises in Bangladesh. 36% students know about menstruation before they face it practically, 6% schools provide education on hygiene and 43% schools have separate latrine for girls (National hygiene baseline survey 2014, PSU & WaterAid). In this situation government has so many things to do for improve the situation.

WAB’s Initiatives

Along with the government, WaterAid Bangladesh, CAMPE, partners of WASH Alliance Bangladesh and many other NGOs are working to improve WASH situation in educational institutions. The NGOs were actively pursuing to the education ministry to provide instruction to the schools /educational instructions to improve WASH facilities at their institutions. In relation to the above, in December 2014 WaterAid, CAMPE, SHARE and Daily Prothom Alo organized a round table dialogue on dismal finding of WASH situation in schools/educational institutions based on the National Hygiene base line survey. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Education and National Project Director, A2I Program graced the roundtable as the Chief Guest. Recognizing the fact the Secretary, MoE agreed to take proper action to improve WASH situation in schools/educational institutions.

Response of government towards WASH

On 23 June 2015, The Secretary, Ministry of Education of GoB has issued a circular “to improve the toilet and sanitation conditions in secondary and higher secondary schools, madrasas and technical & vocational institutions.” The key instructions have been provided to schools, madaras and educational institutions through this circular, which will be helpful to improve WASH situation. The circular was referring the ‘Bangladesh National Hygiene Baseline Survey 2014’, which was conducted by Icddr,b with support from WaterAid and PSU. The key massages of the circular are:

- Separate toilets for girls with provision MHM facilities
- Provision of toilet for person with disability
- ensure availability of water and soap in toilet
- SMC and teachers to ensure cleanliness of school toilets
- Constant monitoring of health, education department and local administration

This is a great initiative from Ministry of Education and sincere thanks to them. Now we need coordinated effort to implement this circular.

Bangla (original): https://goo.gl/h1Cjtt
English (translated): https://goo.gl/HETTx
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