



Promotion of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene in Hard-to-Reach Areas of Rural Bangladesh



**NGO FORUM
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Bangladesh Centre for
Advanced Studies

THE PROJECT

Bangladesh had been greatly benefited from the *International Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Decades* in terms of WatSan coverage through the continuous initiatives taken by the government and the NGOs. But throughout the Decades and the days ahead, there have been various factors barring the country to reach the ultimate goals. Bangladesh has been fighting against water pollution & crisis, and to continue with its achievement of the highest coverage in safe drinking water supply among the South-East Asian countries. On the other hand, sanitation situation is yet much unimpressive leaving a long way to tread to reach the goal – ‘Sanitation for All’. Presently hygiene promotion has been considered a priority area. The harmonized blending of safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene is being promoted in the country. But considering the geophysical and geohydrological situation and its geographical location, Bangladesh is quite vulnerable a country while the climate change phenomena have become the real hurdle on way to reach and sustain the universal success in the field of safe water supply, hygienic sanitation and hygiene practice, especially in the hard-to-reach areas.

The geophysical context of *char*, *haor*, exposed coastal areas, flood-prone areas and drought-prone areas are diverse and it is distinctive from location to location. Each of these areas has distinct characteristics and livelihood pattern of the people. In such a diverse socio-economic condition the people of these hard-to-reach areas suffer the most and have very little service and facilities including water and sanitation. The hard-to-reach areas are also extremely disadvantaged in terms of accessibilities. Poverty and vulnerability are very high among the population. Again, there are also the absence



of technological options that make provision of water supply and sanitation even more challenging in the hard-to-reach areas. The hard-to-reach areas are also distinctive by context, and water and sanitation in these areas need special attention. Responding to such vulnerabilities, the government, development partners and NGOs are emphasizing for providing supports to these hard-to-reach areas with special attention to climate change impact on water and sanitation.

Keeping its commitments to the MDG targets, NGO Forum for Public Health and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies have been facilitating the implementation of the project '**Promotion of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene in Hard-to-Reach Areas of Rural Bangladesh**' with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Project is under implementation covering 47 hard-to-reach unions under 5 agro-ecological zones in Bangladesh. Starting in December 2011, the Project is set to be continued up to November 2014.

RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

It is quite impossible to reach the national goal 'water and sanitation for all' keeping any particular area deprived of these facilities. But the reality is that millions of people still living in dire necessity of water and sanitation facilities in the hard-to-reach areas i.e. the exposed coastal area, drought-prone area, *haor* area, *char* area and the flood-prone area of Bangladesh. Climate change has put their lives once again under enormous risk of disaster and vulnerability. Being parts of Bangladesh, the frontline country feeling the pain of climate change, these hard-to-reach areas have become the most vulnerable relating to its spatial locations, communication facilities, moderate civil amenities and access to basic services & facilities.

Taking all the hardships into active consideration NGO Forum and BCAS have become promise-bound to ensure water and sanitation facilities in the hard-to-reach and disadvantaged areas. The rationale of this Project is justified as it is targeted to sensitizing and capacity building of LGIs & other WatSan service agencies & relevant stakeholders and awareness raising of the community people in the

hard-to-reach areas. This Project is also targeted to promoting effective WatSan & hygiene services, and consolidating & disseminating the actions & learnings to enhance capacity of the concerned to adapt and improve understanding on key vulnerabilities. Acknowledging the vulnerabilities and also uncertainty concerning how people would adapt and cope with the adverse situation the vulnerable people will be availing the context-specific and user-friendly technologies in the field of WatSan & hygiene & in the selected hard-to-reach areas. More importantly, technological intervention would be clearly defined whether it needs modification, renovation or innovation alongside the awareness building of the community people on the challenges including climate change in the hard-to-reach areas. With the blending of capacity building of LGIs & other service agencies, awareness building of the selected community people, and promotion of context-specific safe water supply, sanitation & hygiene facilities around 0.7 million poor & vulnerable people will be directly/indirectly benefited out of the total population under the selected 47 hard-to-reach unions. Finally, the policy-makers and planners would be convinced of the relevance of the impacts of vulnerabilities on WatSan learning from the scalable outputs which should be integrated into larger policy-making frameworks for giving special attention to reduce the risk in the field of safe water supply, environmental sanitation, health & hygiene at different agro-ecological hard-to-reach zones.

SALIENT ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT

1. Reaching the Hard-to-Reach
2. Governance - Linking the Local Government
3. Contribution to Poverty Reduction
4. Reducing Climate Change Risks on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health
5. Focusing on Health & Hygiene Habits
6. Women Empowerment through WatSan Intervention
7. Advocacy & Communication
8. Addressing Good Governance
9. Sustainability with innovations
10. Scaling up of learning through HLP



Overall Goal:



Contribute to the achievement of national goal on WaSH through context-specific & scalable water supply, sanitation & hygiene services in hard-to-reach areas.

Outcomes:



1. Poor and excluded population are able to demand context-specific water supply & sanitation services with special focus on climate vulnerabilities in rural hard-to-reach areas.
2. Poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable population in selected hard-to-reach areas have established their access to sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
3. Policy-makers, local governments and service agencies are sensitized and respond effectively in promotion of sustainable water supply, sanitation & hygiene services.



THE IMPLEMENTATING ORGANIZATIONS

NGO Forum

Being launched as the UN-brainchild in 1982, NGO Forum has been involved as the apex networking and service delivery body of NGOs, CBOs and private sector operators in the WatSan sector of Bangladesh. Over the years it has been contributing to the improvement of Public Health situation by reducing mortality and morbidity, and conserving sound environment. In order to implement its programmes as a process of holistic transformation of the society towards development, the Forum has emphasizingly stepped forward maintaining a perfect balance among WatSan, health and environment. Combining hardware & software supports and networking efforts, NGO Forum materializes its integrated programmes directly and in association with around 850 partners under its 14 Regions countrywide.

Vision

Improved Public Health & Sound Environment

Mission Statement

NGO Forum is a national networking and service delivery organization in the area of water, sanitation and environment dedicated to contribute to the improvement of Public Health situation, especially for the poor, marginalized and excluded segment of the society of Bangladesh.

Being an adaptive learning and rights-based organization, NGO Forum is committed to contribute to the promotion of Public Health through providing facilities and services in safe WatSan, hygiene, health care and environmental issues. Keeping this focus NGO Forum utilizes its vast experiences and works as development partner with all concerned government bodies, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, civil society, media, national and international agencies, development partners and other stakeholders.

With a committed and competent work-force, and strong network, NGO Forum strives to bring an enabling environment by complementing the implementation of all relevant national policies.



BCAS

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) is an independent, non-profit, non-government, policy, research, and implementation institute working on sustainable development (SD) at local, national, regional and global levels. Established in 1986, it has grown to become a leading research institute in the non-government sector in Bangladesh and South Asia. It works using interactive approaches and multiple methodologies. BCAS has a broad spectrum of knowledge on health, environment, climate change, water resources management, urbanization, clean technology & other relevant areas gained through

research conducted for over a period of 25 years. BCAS addresses sustainable development through five interactive themes: (a) environment-development integration, (b) good governance and people's participation, (c) poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, (d) economic growth, public-private partnership and sustainable market and (e) Corporate Social Responsibility. Over the period BCAS has developed outstanding expertise on the mentioned areas in terms of scientific, technical and local knowledge.

Vision and Mission

- To undertake action research on policy issues and implementation at local, national, regional and international levels for advancing and supporting sustainable development.
- To develop ideas and models for efficient resource management, conservation of the environment with an aim to promote sustainable development and system analysis.
- To ensure people's and community participation in planning, implementation and management of resources through integration of science, policy and people.
- To undertake collaborative research with scientists in both national and international organizations to share knowledge and experience.
- To motivate and facilitate the private sector to adopt cleaner production methods, pollution abatement techniques and ensure clean environment and sustainable trade.
- To enhance the capacity of civil society, private and public sectors in the areas of environment and natural resource management and promote pathways to green economy for ensuring sustainable development.
- To closely work with various agencies and departments of the Government in different countries as well as development partners, international institutions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
- To integrate sustainable development knowledge, practices and interlinkages at different levels of decision making including local, national, regional and international.

Partners in Operation

- Local Government Institutions
- Partner NGOs
- Union WatSan Committee, Ward WatSan Committee & Local Adaptation Committee
- Private Sector Operators
- Journalists of Mass-media
- Village Development Committee
- Local Allies (school teachers, students, religious leaders, cultural groups and so on)



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Institutional Structure for Project Management

- *NGO Forum is leading the fund receiving and delivery of the outputs.*
- *NGO Forum and BCAS have deployed a focal point each to coordinate the planned activities.*
- *A Steering Committee is guiding the focal points to make strategic decision, approving plans & reports.*

Project Steering Committee

- NGO Forum - The Executive Director
- BCAS - The Executive Director
- The focal points of the implementing organizations

For further details, please contact

Chief, Advocacy & Information, and Project Coordinator

NGO Forum for Public Health

4/6, Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Tel: +88-02 8154273-4, +88-02 8128258-9

Email: ngof@bangla.net, aic@ngof.org, Fax: +88-02-8117924, Website: www.ngof.org

Script : Joseph Halder, Jubaida Akhter

Photography : Abul Kalam Raja, *Design* : Waresul Haque