



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BANGLADESH WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP BANGLADESH)

20 January 2024



Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) Supported Integrated Water Resources Management, Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Awareness Programs in the Year 2023

Climate Change Adaptation with Integrated Water Resource Management through Community Engagement

BWP, in collaboration with Voice of South Bangladesh (VoSB), organized an interactive workshop on December 6, 2023 at the regional VoSB Oce, with the initiative aimed at addressing water-related challenges in Sharonkhola Upazila of Bagerhat District. The event, titled 'Stop Water Crisis: Time to Save the South of Bangladesh,' focused on the exchange of views and workshops on 'Climate Change Adaptation with Integrated Water Resources Management by Community Engagement' at Shoaronkhola, Bagerhat. Officials from Sharonkhola Upazila, including the Upazila Executive Officer, Upazila Chairman, educators, community representatives, journalists, and various esteemed individuals were present. Forward to December 12, 2023, two youth awareness programs on water conservation were organized. The event aimed to bring forth the perspective on 'Disaster Risk Reduction through Integrated Water Resources Management.' In pursuit of this objective, a workshop and awareness program were conducted involving 21 college students from Sharonkhola Government Degree College, and 19 students from Tafalbari Government School and College. Sharmin Eva, along with program consultant Dr. Hossain Al-Amin, led the workshop, with the presence of representatives from VoSB contributing to the overall success of the initiative. This initiative represents a vital step toward building resilience and ensuring sustainable water management practices in the region.

Stop Water Crisis: Time to Save the South of Bangladesh.

Objectives:

- Facilitate active involvement of local communities, particularly in the vulnerable areas of Shoronkhola Upazila, Bagerhat, in managing climate-resilient water resources.
- Conduct awareness campaigns within the community and provide capacity-building training for students to promote community-based adaptation strategies addressing the water crisis.
- Raise awareness about the significance of water conservation and educate the youth participants on methods to prevent water wastage and reduce overuse.
- Ensure the sustainable and efficient utilization of water resources, catering to the needs of both current and future generations.

The interactive session heightened awareness among participants about the water-related challenges in Sarankhola Upazila and the need for collective action. Decisions regarding water conservation initiatives were derived from the collaborative opinions and discussions held during the event. The youth awareness program helped raising awareness among the young generation and getting a commitment from them. We have enlisted 10 young change-makers who will voluntarily contribute to local community engagement and organize awareness sessions.



Photo: An interactive session and workshop were organised at the VoSB regional office in collaboration with BWP, with the initiative aimed at addressing water-related challenges in Sarankhola Upazila of Bagerhat district (Date: 6 Dec 2023 at VoSB Regional office at 11.30 AM)



Photo: Workshop on Integrated water resource management at Sharonkhola Government Degree College On 12th December at 11.18 AM



Photo: Youth awareness sessions were organized at Sharonkhola Degree college with young generation, with the initiative of selecting 10 Young change makers (Date: 12 Dec 2023 at VoSB Sharonkhola degree college at 10.45 AM)

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated Water Resources Management for Water Professionals

BWP, in association with the CEGIS organized Training of Trainers (ToT) to enhance capacity and increase practices of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) among water professionals in Bangladesh. The course was designed to understand better IWRM principles and practices. The six-day course from 09 to 14 December 2023 was participated by 18 water professionals from different organizations related to water resources management and development. This course was intended to coordinate and integrate the management of water resources between different organizations in a participatory manner in the context of environmental, social, and economic impacts of policy, planning, and monitoring activities. It provided an opportunity to advance the capacity of professionals involved directly or indirectly in the water sector to apply IWRM for policy making and implementation of projects. As part of the course, the ToT participants visited Hatirjheel Project and delineated the applied principles of IWRM and the associated gaps. The participants had specific objectives in their mind while starting the training. The evaluation output of ToT of IWRM 2023 showed that most of the participants achieved their expectations and the learning objectives.



Photo: Water professionals engaged in practical sessions during the IWRM Training, inspecting Hatirjheel Project and applying principles learned (Date:9-14 Dec 2023 at CEGIS Conference Room, Dhaka)



Photo: Discussion with A.S.M. Rayhanul Ferdous, Chief Engineer, Hatirjheel Project Office followed by a visit to the project area (Date: 13 Dec 2023)

Capacity Building of Youth in Water Diplomacy

BWP took the lead in pioneering a groundbreaking initiative for Government, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations in Bangladesh by organizing a day-long workshop on 'Capacity Building of Youth in Water Diplomacy.' The event, held on December 23, 2023, at Hotel Omni Residency, Banani, Dhaka. Facilitated by Shafiqul Islam, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Professor of Water Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, alongside Mahmudur Rahman, Former Member of Joint Rivers Commission Bangladesh, this workshop stands as a testament to BWP's commitment to advancing water security beyond traditional boundaries by empowering youth, setting a precedent for future initiatives. The objective of the workshop was to empower youth with the knowledge and skills required for effective participation in water diplomacy. Through insightful lectures, case studies, and interactive sessions, participants comprehensively understood global water challenges and the role of transboundary cooperation. The event also focused on building practical water diplomacy skills through the Pablo-Burford Simulation Scenario. A total of 22 dedicated professionals from diverse institutions such as Bangladesh Water Development Board, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Water Resources Planning Organization, Joint Rivers Commission (Bangladesh), Department of Environment, Directorate of Disaster Management, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, NGO Forum for Public Health, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), etc. enthusiastically participated in the workshop. The workshop provided a platform for fruitful exchange and collaboration. Despite the time constraints, the participants expressed fulfillment of their expectations.



Photo: Young water professionals in workshop on capacity building of youth in water diplomacy (Date: 23 Dec 2023 at Hotel Omni Residency, Dhaka)

Youth and Gender Capacity Enhancement to Improve Sustainable Water Management

In collaboration with BWP, Reach to Unreached (RUN), a partner organization of BWP organized a dynamic youth mobilization activity in Barishal District through a Workshop on Youth Skill Development and Engagement on Conservation of Natural Water Resources (Awareness building through skill development to the young groups on IWRM and actions on water conservation strategies) on December 28, 2023 in the conference hall of SAINT-BD, Barishal. A total of 44 participants attended the workshop out of which 40 were from different youth organizations, universities, and colleges. Followed by group works, the youth participants were set for collecting field data related to encroachment and pollution of 3 canals and 2 points of Kirtonkhola River. The initiative aimed to address various aspects concerning the state of the canals, community engagement, pollution, unauthorized occupation, and the accumulation of debris. The overarching goal of this activity is to enhance the capacity of youth, with a particular emphasis on gender inclusivity, to actively contribute to water conservation and restoration efforts.

Objectives:

The strategies on conservation of water resources, biodiversity & climate change mitigation & adaptation solutions through innovation approach to youth engagement for action thrilled to influence to key stakeholder through arranging Dialogue on Water Tenure for water & food security, environment and climate resilience



Photo: Youth mobilization activity in engaging local communities and workshop on youth skill development and engagement on conservation of natural water resources (Date: 28 Dec 2023 in Barishal)

Strategy:

To collect on-site data and information following few strategic objectives. these are;

- Strategic Objective-1: To build conceptual idea and understanding to the Youth Groups for critical condition of natural resources (rivers, canals and water bodies) current analytical context through presentation.
- Strategic Objective-2: To drive the evidence on causes of encroachment and pollution through specific spot visit by youth team works and using technical devices.

- Strategic Objective-3: To compile data through diagnostic analysis by questionnaire survey, interviews, capturing images and videos.
- Strategic Objective-4: To influence the key stakeholders by showcasing case studies and examples to reduce environmental hazards and conservation of natural water bodies through advocacy meeting or dialogues.
- Strategic Objective-5: To address initiatives of development activities or infrastructure by policy mechanisms and regulatory level to increase the attractiveness and feasibility of using and up scaling by ecosystem-base approaches.

Inception Workshop on Built Water Storage in South Asia

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the event marked the initiation of a ground breaking regional project, generously funded by the US State Department, named "Built Water Storage in South Asia." This initiative seeks to revolutionize water security by enhancing the planning and management of water storage across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Mr. Moshir Rahman, President, BWP. Dr. Matthew Mc Cartney, Project Lead provided a comprehensive overview of the project, and Mr. Lal Indurwage, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS introduced the project. Following a comprehensive overview of the project's background and objectives, participants engaged in discussions on critical water security issues in the country. A significant element of the project involves providing opportunities for women to contribute their insights and ideas, acknowledging their crucial role in achieving sustainable water security. The one-day workshop concluded with participants expressing satisfaction, recognizing the project's timeliness, and emphasizing the imperative shift from words to actions in addressing the pressing water security challenges in the region.



Photo: President, BWP delivering his inaugural speech and participants engaged in group discussion at the Inception (Date: 28 Jan 2023 in Dhaka)

Local Organizing Committee Member of 11th International Perspective on Water Resources and the Environment (IPWE) Conference

The 11th IPWE Conference took place from January 4-6, 2023, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where BWP acted as one of the Local Organizing Committee members. BWP played a crucial role in supporting the event's organization, collaborating with the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-EWRI) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The plenary session featured a video speech by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest. Distinguished figures, including Maria Lehman, President of ASCE, Dr. Shirley Clark, President of EWRI, Md. Tajul Islam, Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives, and Honorable Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen, graced the occasion. The conference theme, 'Risk and Resilience in the Time of Climate Change,' resonated through 145 papers presented in 24 technical sessions, with participants representing 13 countries.



Photo: President and Country Coordinator of BWP with Md. Tajul Islam, Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives at the IPWE Conference (Date: 4 Jan 2023 in Dhaka)

MoU Signing Ceremony between BWP and IWFM, BUET

BWP and IWFM, BUET has signed a MoU on February 20, 2023 with the presence of members from both the institutions. This MoU will facilitate knowledge exchange, and undertake cooperative efforts for collaborative research and capacity building on climate change, water and flood management related to local infrastructures in Bangladesh.



Photo: MoU signing ceremony between BWP and IWFM (Date: 20 Feb 2023 in Dhaka)

Transboundary Water Resources Management in the GBM River Basins

Young Professional from BWP presented a research paper titled ‘Rivers Beyond Borders: Uncovering Opportunities and Evaluating the Efficacy of Transboundary Agreements in the GBM Basin’ at the 9th International Conference on Water and Flood Management in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was organized by IWFM, BUET, held from 14-16 October 2023. The study stems from the vital contributions of BWP and CEGIS under GWP SAS funding for the project titled, ‘Mapping Transboundary Water Resources Management in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna River Basins.’

29th Regional Council Meeting

The 29th Regional Council (RC) meeting held on 14-15 December 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was presided over by the GWP SAS Regional Chair, Ms. Kusum Athukorala. All the RC members, CWP Chairs, Country Coordinators and GWP SAS Secretariat Staffs were present. The Network Specialist for China and South Asia, Laurent-Charles attended online.’



Photo: President, Country Coordinator, and RC Member from BWP attended 29th RC Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal (Date: 14-15 Dec 2023 in Nepal)

BWP Executive Committee Meetings and Annual General Meeting

BWP Executive Committee (EC) meetings (79, 80, 81 and 82) were held respectively on 25 February, 20 May, 26 July and 28 October 2023. The main agenda of the meetings included Implementation status of work plan 2023 under GWP funds, discussion on Built water Storage in South Asia Project, discussion on core fund release, discussion on the status of SDG 6.5.1 project, selection of new EC Member, Sharmin Akter Eva, Project Director, VoSB, appointing new Accounts Officer of BWP, discussion on locally raised fund initiatives, etc. Also, the 21 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) for the year 2022 was held on 20 January 2024 at the Conference Room, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Executive Engineer Office, Dhaka. BWP executive committee, general members and representatives of partner organizations of BWP participated in the meeting.



Photo: EC Meeting and AGM, BWP Office, Dhaka



Bangladesh Water Partnership

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