

Bangladesh Water Partnership

Report 2020

Issue No.: 09 Issue Date: Dec' 2021

In the year 2020 BWP implemented 13 activities under funded by Global Water Partnership (GWP). More details of important programs are presented in the following sections:

#### > Advocacy, Awareness and Capacity Building Programs

# TOT on IWRM to build capacity of water professional for better understanding of IWRM principles and practices for its implementation.



Gallery view of ToT on IWRM 2020

The BWP in association with the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a partner organization of BWP, has implemented the "TOT on IWRM to build capacity of water professionals for better understanding of IWRM principles and practices for its implementation". Due to the prevailing situation of COVID-19 pandemic, the training course was conducted virtually (Zoom platform) from 7-11 Nov' 2020. A total of 33 participants participated from mid-level water managers and professionals from different Government Department, Autonomous organizations, NGOs, research institutions and academia participated in the training program.

The main purpose of this training was to enhance the capacity of the multidisciplinary professionals/officials regarding IWRM principles and practices and the integration of IWRM processes within development implementations.

The training module was designed to facilitate dissemination of knowledge on IWRM among upper/mid-level professionals and academics of higher educational institutes who will be responsible for promoting the concept of IWRM and overseeing implementation of IWRM themselves. This training program was included the built-in concept of climate change and natural resources management in conjunction with the IWRM perspective.

The focus of the training was to build up the relatively younger generation of professionals to meet the challenges of the future head on and to excel in managing the complex arena of water resources management in Bangladesh and thus be the advocate of thriving development.

A total number of seventeen lectures to address various aspects of IWRM approach were delivered in the training program. From the BWP, Dr. Abdur Rashid, Treasurer of BWP delivered a lecture on "Demand Management and Water Allocation Principles". In the inaugural session of the program, Mr. Moshiur Rahman PEng, President, BWP, was present as the Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary General, BWP was present as Special Guest. In the concluding session, Dr. Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair, GWP-South Asia & Former Vice President, BWP was present as special guests and shared valuable experience regarding implementation of IWRM.

#### **Gaps of the Training**

Even though the participants were very satisfied with the whole training, there are some gaps which were mentioned by the participants. Here is a list of the common gaps mentioned by the participants:

- As the training was done in online platform (zoom meeting), the participants sometime missed the lectures due to the internet connection problem.
- The participants were unable to connect the zoom during the group discussion.
- Field practitioners on water pollution management and ecosystem management were not there in the training programme as lecturer/resource person. There was no field visit, of course, due to unprecedented pandemic situation but still could have done something instead
- It would have been nice to have speaker from Ministry of Planning or GED
- Sometime the time management was not good
- Lecture materials was not provided before the lecture days
- Ecosystem study and bio-indicator studies for ecosystem health projection should have been included in the course topic

#### **Overall Observations of the Training**

Overall all the participants were very satisfied with new form of training though there were some obstacles. 30% of the total participants recommend it as an excellent training programme, 60% recommended it as very good and 10% recommended it as good.



**Figure 3: Overall Training Observation** 

Enhance youth and gender Capacities about to improve sustainable Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation including WASH through schools and Local Organizations/Partner

BWP in partnership with Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC) implemented the project "Enhance youth and gender Capacities about to improve sustainable Water Management and Climate Change

Adaptation including WASH through schools and Local Organizations/Partner Organizations". The project was started in Oct' 2020 and ended in Dec 2020 at Senbug Upazila, Noakhali.

The primary objective of the project was to build appropriate knowledge and enhance awareness of youths from the selected three secondary schools focusing gender response Climate Change adaptation towards sustainable water management inside the Senbug Upazila at Noakhali district

The specific objectives are:

- i) improve knowledge among the school students (youths both boys and girls) about gender response climate change adaptation and sustainable water management through class room training session (Online platform: Zoom meeting) and workshop;
- ii) arrange an information exchange activity through essay competition among the students of the selected schools; and
- iii) disseminate the essay competition outcome thru a Upazila level workshop.

The project design adopted educational intervention based on observational longitudinal method. The selected safe water management and climate change issues include: climate change (CC) and its impacts, adaptation to CC impacts, sustainable safe drinking water, water safety and its management, methods of water disinfection during flood. Combined qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were implemented.

The main activities of the project included:

- School selection and planning for the intervention with the concerned head teachers and Upazila Secondary Education Officer.
- Announced essay competition in the selected schools;
- Developed of educational materials: training manual and presentation
- Planned and implemented training/educational session among the students and teachers through virtual platform.
- Collected the essays written by the students from the schools;
- Evaluated the collected essay and selected first, second, and third position among the participants as well as best school and other school from the participated schools;
- Arranged workshop on the climate change adaptation and safe water management in Senbug Upazila, Noakhlai.
- Presented paper in the workshop and awarded prize to the first, second, and third position holder essay competitor students and other students as well as best school and other schools;
- Prepared progress and end-line report;



Online school training on Water Management and CCA

A workshop on "Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management" at Senbub Upazila has been organized under the study activities with the technical support of GARNET-SA in 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at Senbag Govt. Girls' High School. The main objectives of the workshop were (1) to discussion on workshop topic: Climate change adaptation and sustainable safe water management by the resource panel; and (2) to award prizes among the winning students of selected four schools. During the workshop exchange of views and sharing knowledge and buildup of the awareness and capacity of young school students, their guardians and other participants about climate change, its adaptations, mitigations, sustainable safe water management and its usage perspectives etc. were emphasized. In total 32 participants including the USEO of Senbug Upazila;, Headmasters, teachers, students and guardians of three selected schools of Noakhali district participated in the workshop.

Overall, about 1949 students were directly and indirectly benefited by the educational intervention of the project. The level of basic sustainable safe water management & Climate Change Adaptation and its related functions were found poor before the intervention. The study reconfirmed that rates of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) about Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management as well as its related issues among the students and teachers can be improved significantly after simple educational intervention as observed earlier.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Overall, about 1949 students were directly and indirectly benefited by the educational intervention of the project. The level of basic sustainable safe water management & Climate Change Adaptation and its related functions were found poor before the intervention. The study reconfirmed that rates of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) about Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management as well as its related issues among the students and teachers can be improved significantly after simple educational intervention as observed earlier.

Workshop on "Empowerment of Youth & Women and Strengthening on the Sustainable Water Management: Future Prospective



Gallery view of the workshop

The BWP organized the workshop (virtually) in association with Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC), a partner organization of BWP, on 28 Nov' 2020. It was a half day long online workshop with women professionals in water sector.

The objective of the workshop was to findings the challenges & opportunities for women empowerment in the water sector.

The workshop was designed to incorporate information sharing and development through paper presentations and discussions. A total number of 33 women participants, from grass root level, women organizations, different water user groups, different GOs & NGOs working with water sector participated in the workshop. Senior government officials from BWDB, Local Government Engineering Department and other organizations participated in the workshop.

The workshop was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN & Freelance Consultant. There were two session in the workshop; i) Inaugural session and ii) Technical session. She informed that to create awareness among the Youth & Women BWWN works with special heightened on grass-root-level on

water management and its impact on women and their livelihoods. She emphasized on Empowerment of Youth & Women and suggested equal active participation of male and female in water management.

In the technical session two papers were presented. Dr. Salma Begum, Professor of Khulna University and Member of BWWN presented a paper on "Gender: Past, Present, and Future Challenges".

In her presentation she discussed about the categories in Gender Terminology. She emphasized that the civil society,



governments, the private sector and multilateral organizations should take initiative to address the gender dimensions. Dr. Prof. Salma also pointed that funding access including modern contraception safe abortion, maternal health services and safe childbirth, as well as telemedicine must be prioritized. She also informed that gender inequality is a global concern. Further she urged all policies, programs, and investments including stimulus and recovery packages, must be designed with a gender lens, so they do not overlook or have unintended consequences for girls, women and gender equality.

Dr. Sufia Khanam Assistant Executive President EPRC presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> paper on "Recognizing Women as Managers for Sustainable Drinking Water: Rural Areas of Bangladesh".



She informed that women mainly related with water, however it depends on how they are being empowered and upgraded their knowledge especially in rural areas. Further she addressed that GPS & GIS tool has now been developed to determine appropriate site for community based water device by involvement of women in LGI and local women. Dr. Khanam informed that to empower women, they are promoting Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of the devices through Women for Environment and Livelihood (WEL) project and found its performance is promising. She also informed that rural women not only were trained on water related issues but also trained on holistic WASH related issues. In addition she informed that the women community has taken the responsibility of monitoring & supervision of SWT installation, taking

certification of SWT installation, taking over the 100% responsibilities of O&M of SWT.

Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP and Member-Secretary of BWWN presented an introductory paper on a synopsis of BWWN activities. In her presentation, she narrated the formation background of BWWN and major activities implemented by BWWN. She also addressed that in the light of Covid-19 situations the whole world wants the women community to come forward in the leadership in such a position where they can be given space, they can be promoted, and their voice can be louder in decision-making.

Mr. Moshiur Rahman, President of BWP and Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary General of BWP were present as special guests. They highly appreciated the BWWN and the EPRC for assisting BWP in organization such workshop. They opined that this workshop will help BWP to approach more new projects in future.

Dr. Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair of GWP-South Asia, Member of BWWN and Former Director General of WARPO was present in the workshop as the Guest of Honor. In her speech she informed that in the new strategy (2020 to 2025), the GWP included specially focused youth & gender as crosscutting issue based on three pillars such as SDG, climate change and trans boundary. She added that the GWP is now featuring the SDG with IWRM, whose goal is not only women community but also with third gender and disable person so that nobody can be left behind.

In the workshop, Prof. Engr. Bilqis Amin Hoque, President of EPRC delivered another Guest of Honor Speech. In her speech she recommended in promoting activities that will close the gaps among the women, men, youth equality and reality. She informed that women are working based on existing resources or specially related to water. Further, she added that it is high time to do something together

In the concluding session, Ms. Begum Shamsun Nahar emphasized on empowerment of Youth & Women and Strengthening the Sustainable Water Management: Future Prospective. She indicated that to live with empowering women you must change the men.

Finally, the workshop was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Nilufa Islam Regional Chair of GWP-South Asia, Member of BWWN and Former Director General of WARPO.

\* Research and Development



Gallery view of multi-stakeholders consultation

Water plays an essential part in achieving the overall global agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the indicators to measure the progress of SDG goals are SDG indicator 6.5.1 which assesses the degree of integrated water resources management implementation. The status has been assessed through stakeholder consultation workshops. This report provides the progress of Bangladesh in connection with the SDG indicator 6.5.1 through stakeholder consultations.

The consultations were conducted by BWP in collaboration with the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) under the guidance from the GWPO and the UNEP. implemented the project "Data Survey and Stakeholder Workshops on SDGs Indicator 6.5.1" in 2020. The main objective of the initiative was to assess the degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation, by assessing the four key components of IWRM.

Concerning stakeholders have been selected carefully by considering the multi-stakeholders agencies which include (i) Ministries and agencies who are directly working in water sector e.g. Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Joint River Commission (JRC), Department of Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development (DBHWD), Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), General Economic Division (GED) etc. and (ii) indirect and other water-related cross-cutting organizations as well as relevant NGOs. Apart from key stakeholders, participants from educational institutions, non-government organizations and water user associations working in different aspect of water resources have been selected as



well.

Stakeholder workshops were carried out in two rounds, one held on the 21 July and the other on 25 July 2020. Acknowledging the prevailing pandemic predicament, the workshops have been organized through the Zoom, an online meeting platform. Discussions were held in the first round regarding the content and concept of the questionnaires under different sections of SDG 6.5.1 indicator as well as the process of scoring. The probable score of individual sub-indicators was described with justifications or explanation for better understanding of the stakeholders. Taking lessons from round one, the stakeholders moved into the second round where they were then provided with the baseline scores of 2017, upon which they gave their scoring. The average scores have then been calculated for the four sections as well as the SDG 6.5.1 average for Bangladesh following the guideline by UNEP. After the preparation of the draft, it has been shared with the MoWR, the key stakeholder. A consultation meeting has been done with the MoWR in this regard. Using their comments and suggestions, the report has been updated and circulated through the participants. Then, a consultation meeting for validation has been done with the key participants. Hence, by compiling all the suggestions and comments the report has been finalized.

UNEP provided a questionnaire with 34 questions divided into four sections named enabling environment, institutions and participation, management instruments and financing. This pre-defined questionnaire has been used during the workshop to conduct the survey.

Compare to the baseline score of 2017, the final average score for 2020 is increased to 57 from 50. Though this shows small apparent progress, yet from the detailed questionnaire, it has been observed that Bangladesh has made progress in many sections. As discussed earlier, the participants have provided the scores to all the question. The final scores with the baseline scores are presented in the following table and the section-wise result is presented in the following sections.

Survey Time	1. Enabling environment	2. Institutions and participation	3. Management instruments	4. Financing	SDG 6.5.1 IWRM score
Baseline, 2017	50	49	56	45	50
Survey, 2020	58	60	61	49	57

Enabling environment is the first section of the questionnaire that facilitates the policies, laws, plans and arrangements. The purpose for such enabling environment is to provide a set of solid foundations of water governance structure while balancing out the social, environmental demands economic and for water resources. The average score is 50 and 58 respectively for the baseline 2017 and survey 2020. In the case of 1.2 (a) which is about sub-national water resources policies, the score is 60 in 2020 whereas there was no score in 2017. It is to be mentioned here that during the survey of 2020, the District, Upazila and Union levels have been considered



Stakeholder consultation:2nd Round

as sub-national. In the case of Sub-national water resources regulations (laws, decrees, ordinances or similar), Integrated Minor Irrigation Policy, 2017; Integrated Minor Irrigation Ordinance, 2019; Groundwater Management Rules 2019; Groundwater management Act, 2018 has been used to support IWRM which was reflected in District level and score for 2020 being 50 whereas there was no score in 2017. After the baseline, Bangladesh Delta Plan, 2100 has been approved in 2018. the Industrial Water Use Policy, 2019 has been approved by the MoWR, the Land Easements Acceptance Act, 2020 has been prepared and the Minor Irrigation Policy, 2017, National Environmental Policy, 2018, Act for Groundwater Water Management in Agriculture, 2018, Bangladesh Water Rules, 2018, has been enacted. Besides this, Bangladesh Water Resources Development and Management Act, 2019 has been drafted and Bangladesh Water Resources Development and Management Rules are under preparation. As for planning, District Integrated Water Resources Management Guideline, 2019; Upazila Integrated Water Resources Management Guideline, 2019; and Union Integrated Water Resources Management Guideline, 2019 has been enacted. Delta Governance Council has been formed to guide the Delta Plan.

The section of the **Institutions and participation** focuses on cross-sectoral coordination, private sector and other stakeholder participation and gender perspectives. The average score for institutions and participation

section has improved from those of the baseline. The average scores are 49 and 60 for the year 2017 and 2020 respectively. There is significant progress for this section. In 2020, the score is 60 for 2.2 (c) which is about the vulnerable groups, as the groups are addressed and consulted during the feasibility study phase of project formulation. There is also a provision of involving the vulnerable groups through 'Labour Contracting Society' or 'LCS' in carrying out earth-work for the O&M of different water resources development and management projects. LCS includes distressed, unemployed but fit for work people having no or less than 0.5 acres of lands. Moreover, for the donor-funded project, it is a requirement to involve vulnerable groups and ethnic communities.



The section of the Management instruments includes informed decision making, covering water availability monitoring and sustainable pollution control. water-related water use. ecosystems disasters, and and data and information sharing. The section of management instruments has also been improved. For 3.2a basin management instruments, the score was not given in 2017 since it was not applicable. However, some feasibility studies and basin-wide

planning are ongoing which will enable basin-wide management. This led the experts to provide a score of 40.

#### Stakeholder consultation:2nd Round

However, some feasibility studies are ongoing which lead the participants to provide the score. In the case of Aquifer management instruments, the score is 40 in 2020 which is higher compared to that of the baseline 2017 where the score is 20. This is because of the Groundwater Management Rules of 2019 and some policies about arsenic from DPHE which are the progress in this regard. The overall score for Management Instruments compared between the baseline 2017 and survey 2020 are found as 56 and 61 respectively.

The section of the **Financing** is for investments, including infrastructure, recurring costs and revenue-raising. The overall score in the year 2017 is 45 which has improved in the year 2020 where it is 49. In the case of the national budget for water resources infrastructure, the score has increased slightly to 82 in 2020 compared to that of 2017. The participants consider this as there is sufficient budget which is increasing but the recurrent budget is not enough and sometimes not available as per need. For Sub-national or basin budgets for water resources infrastructure and IWRM elements, the score was not provided in 2017 considering about the unitary governmental system of Bangladesh. But in 2020, the score of 45 has been provided as projects are now being planned and implemented considering the basin/hydrological region approach of NWMP, BDP2100, Haor Master Plan (HMP) etc.



**Consultation with MoWR** 

Stakeholder consultation:1st Round

To conclude, the policies, acts, plans etc. provides a sound basis to implement IWRM. The instruments need to be updated regularly considering the effect of climate change and other improved implementation instruments. However, basin wise projects need to be prepared with the coordination of the relevant agencies. Moreover, the operation and maintenance budget of the projects needs to be enhanced than those of the present and should assure to make it available timely.

Finally, compiling all the comments and suggestions, the report was finalized and shared to the GWPO and the UNEP.

#### Baseline Survey on Youth and Young Water Professionals (YYWP)

In 2020, the BWP conducted the baseline survey on YYWP in association with the CEGIS, a partner organization of BWP.

It was an additional project assigned by the GWPO. The objective of the survey was to provide regional baseline local data on the status of the youth environment that will support and complement the development of the Youth and Young Water Professional Platform of Bangladesh and the South Asia.

To assess the status of the youth environment, a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methodologies has been followed.



It was proposed that a FB Platform will be develop for the Young Water Professionals in Bangladesh as well as for the GWP-South Asia in the next phase of YYWP development.

#### **Introducing Water Efficient Technologies for Barind Tract Project**

In the year 2020, the following actions were performed to conclude the project:

- a. Refreshers' Training of UHDMP performed in Jan-March 2020
- b. Virtual Orientation of Refreshers' farmer of UHDMP performed in April-May 2020
- c. Distribution of Personal Protecting Equipment (PPE)

#### Achievement

Within the reporting period the following achievement has been demonstrated. Capacity enhancement of Demo farmers and deep operators for both UHDMP and AWD method: After selecting the demo farmer and deep operator, project has provided the capacity enhancement training so that demo farmer can manage the situation in absence of technical personnel like dripper clogging, lateral pipe re-established etc. Within the schedule time 3600 farmers for UHDMP and 2400 farmers for AWD has been trained and skilled. On the other hand, deep operators have supervised, controlled and monitoring the Boro paddy field with judicious irrigation facility through AWD method.



**Refreshers training on UHDMP** 

70 drip kits have been installed in 70 progressive farmers field in IWET projects area in which 65 demo owners' plot size is 20 decimal and only five demo owners' land size is 50 decimal. Thus, from calculation, total land cover for UHDMP is 1550 decimal under drip irrigation system. The proposition was that after planting it is required at least 3 years to get the result. The project just passed two years; so it is not possible of calculating the yield. At present the project has entered third year. Therefore, next year the mango crop can be harvested and then the yield be calculated. By this time we have seen the vigority, inflorescence size, leaf and canopy size as well as trunk size externally, those are satisfactory and noticeable.

The project has find-out the result of Boro paddy where used in AWD method. Field Facilitators' have harvested six blocks'

data as one bigha from treatment plot and control plot. We

have seen that 1-2 mound Boro paddy has increased by the using of AWD method than normal method.

#### **Over all Challenges**

- Traditional mind set and adaptation of new technology were the main challenges of the project. The area people are not habituated in cultivation of fruit commercially; bring them out from this inertia was difficult.
- Most of the farmers are working in the field which a barrier to conduct a meeting or training timely.

#### Lesson learnt

- Proper motivation can change the mind set and become eager to adopt new technology
- Proper utilization of technology can enhance the production

#### Impact

The project life is very short. Within this period it is difficult to assess the impact of the fruit garden. For getting any result of fruit garden it is necessary at least three of production but the vegetative growth found satisfactory in respect of control plot.



was

AWD method applied

But in the area of AWD it was found huge impact which as shown below; a short survey was conducted among the AWD farmers and considering their response the following result is derived.

From interview it is found that the farmers use to irrigate paddy 15-17 times during boro season.

#### Regional Programs

### 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Council (RC) Meeting



Gallery view of 26<sup>th</sup> RC meeting

Due to current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Council (RC) Meeting of GWP South Asia was scheduled virtually on 30 November 2020 from 1.30-6.30 pm (Delhi Time). Two Regional Council (RC) Members of each country and CWP Chairs, Senior Network Officer (SNO), GWP SAS Regional Coordinator and Country Coordinators (as observers) were invited to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair, GWP-South Asia.

On behalf of BWP the following participants participated:

- i. Mr. Moshiur Rahman Peng, President of BWP
- ii. Dr. Prof. Umme Kulsum Navera, Regional Council Member
- iii. Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, Regional Council Member
- iv. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator (as observer)

The meeting started with an interactive session where the participants were sent to breakout rooms by the Technical Host to greet and meet with each other.

In the introductory session, the participants were welcomed by Dr Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair, GWP South Asia and the Regional Coordinator of GWP-South Asia. Bringing the speciality of the meeting, Dr Nilufa indicated that this was the first time in GWP SAS history that a RC meeting was held virtually. The CWP Chairs and Country Coordinators were invited for the meeting. She thanked the previous Senior Network Officer (SNO), Dr Yumiko Yasuda, for her support and welcomed the newly joined SNO Dani Gaillard-Picher to the RC.

The following 10 Agnda were discussed in the meeting.

- i. Welcome remarks by Dr Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair and introduction of Ms Dani Gaillard-Picher, New GWP SAS Senior Network Officer
- ii. Address by Ms Dani Gaillard-Picher, New GWP SAS Senior Network Officer
- iii. Adoption of 2020 RC Agenda
- iv. Follow-up of the 2019 RC Meeting by Regional Coordinator
- v. GWP SAS Programme Update by Lal Induruwage, Regional Coordinator, GWP SAS
- vi. Financial and Audit Reports 2019 by Regional Coordinator, GWP SAS
- vii. Introduction of 2021 work plan and budget by Regional Coordinator, GWP SAS
- viii. Locally raised funds 2021- Challenges and opportunities by Regional Coordinator
- ix. Breakout Session
- x. GWP SAS Governance and Administration

# The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) and Partners Forum

The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) and Partners Forum (PF) of Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) commenced on 7 December 2020 at **1.00PM – 4.30M** (New Delhi time) online. The meeting was presided over by Dr Nilufa Islam, Regional Chair, GWP South Asia.

Dr Nilufa Islam welcomed the participants to the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Water Partnership South Asia General Assembly/Partners Forum 2020. In her welcome speech, she briefly explained about the GWP network as well as on GWP South Asia. She said the region currently have 411 active partners in seven South Asian Countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka out of which 84 partners have registered for this meeting and showed their interest to attend the meeting - which is absolutely amazing about mobilisation.

Dr Nilufa insisted on the solidarity of GWP during the pandemic and informed that GWP SAS has decided to conduct the GA in accordance with the GWP statutory guidelines using a virtual platform in order to maintain business continuity. Further, she informed that she hopes the Partners will use this opportunity maximally to interact with each other and learn from each other.

Further, she introduced Ms. Dani Gaillard-Picher, Senior Network Officer for GWP South Asia to the participants and invited Dani to introduce new GWP Strategy 2020-25.

From the GWP Bangladesh the following 9 participants participated in the GA:

	Partners	
2.	Mr. Abdur Razzaque Akanda	Partner
3.	Dr Monowar Hossain	Partner
4.	Md. Moniruzzaman Zaman	Partner
5.	Md. Rafiqul Alam	Partner
6.	Md. Abdullah Abraham Hossain	Partner
7.	Mr. Habibur Rahman Talukder	Partner
8.	Dr Sultan Ahmmed	RC Member GWP Bangladesh
9.	Mr Md. Moshiur Rahman	Chair, GWP Bangladesh
10.	Ms Mukta Akter	Executive Secretary, GWP Bangladesh

In the GA, the following 8 agenda were discussed:

- **01.** Partners meet each other (in small breakout groups)
- 02. Interview with Dr Howard Bamsey, GWP Chair (Video)
- **03.** Introduction of New GWP Strategy 2020-2025 by GWP Senior Network Officer, Ms Dani Gaillard-Picher
- **04.** Implementation Progress 2017-19 Period and introduction to 2020-2022 GWP SAS Three-year Work Programme by GWP SAS Regional Coordinator, Mr Lal Induruwage and discussion.
- 05. Session summary of GWP Network Meeting 2020 Eurasia Session by GWP SAS Regional Coordinator

06. Breakout Session—Partner engagement for "Bring the Change" with youth engagement

07. Presentations of key messages by each group and way forward

**08.** Closing remarks by GWP SAS Chair, Dr Nilufa Islam

A vote of thanks and the closing speech was given by the GWP SAS Chair, Dr Nilufa Islam. She also appreciated the enthusiasm of the Partners throughout the meeting and extended her thanked to all for spending their valuable time with GWP-SAS to successfully conclude the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Partners Forum 2020.

\* Governance Related Activities

# The 33<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of BWWN

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) was held virtually on 16 August 2020. The Meeting was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. A total of 13 participants participated in the meeting.



Gallery view of the meeting

The major object of the meeting was discussion on (i) Call For Proposals: Gender & SDG Study" under SDG 6.5.1 and other related SDG targets and (ii) Discussion on the preparation to implement the activity of BWWN for 2020.

During the meeting the committee decided to develop a combined proposal under led by Dr. Prof. Salma Begum, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University and BWWN member and requested Prof. Salma to send the proposal to the BWP secretariat by 25 Aug' 2020 for

review. The final submission of the proposal was submitted to the GWPO on 28 Aug' 2020.

Further, under the agenda-ii, the committee decided to arrange a Zoom meeting in September 2020 inviting the members of BWWN as well as reach out the women water professionals from the roster of women professionals developed by the BWWN in 2019.

**Executive Committee (EC) Meetings of BWP** 



#### Views of EC Meetings

Four Executive Committee (EC) meetings (68<sup>th</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup>) of BWP were held respectively on 04 February, 16 July, 26 Sept' and 5 Dec' 2020. The main agenda of the meetings were: Implementation status of work plan 2020 under GWP Funds; Status on Data Survey and Stakeholder Workshops on SDGs Indicator 6.5.1 under GWP Funding; status on the additional funded youth program for 2020; update on IWET Project; Discussion on the 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Council (RC) Meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) of GWP-South Asia; Discussion and Confirmation on the Financial & Accounting Manual with Procurement Policies and Human Resources Policies Manual of BWP; Nomination of Regional Council (RC) Meeting for the tenure from July 2020 to Dec'2022; Nomination of the Regional Chair for the GWP-South Asia for the tenure from July 2020 to Dec'2021; Identifying members for the vacant positions of EC of BWP; Discussion on holding the 18<sup>th</sup> AGM of BWP and Secretary General Report. The committee expressed its satisfaction on the overall performance of BWP in the year 2020.

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Gallery view of 18<sup>th</sup> AGM

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019 of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) was held virtually through Zoom platform at 3:00 pm on 26 Dec' 2020 (Saturday). A total number of 28 partners/members of BWP participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Moshiur Rahman PEng, President, BWP.

The AGM was started with prayer for the salvation of departed souls of late Dr. KhondakerAzharul Haq, Former President of BWP & Regional Chair of GWP-SAS and late Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, former Secretary General of BWP & RC Member of GWP-SAS, who passed away in 2020. The prayer was conducted by Dr. Abdur Rashid, Treasurer of BWP.

The Chairperson gave his welcome speech and thanked the members and partners for their participation in the AGM. The Secretary General's report was delivered by Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary General of BWP and the Audit Report, Program update of 2019 and the work plan for 2021 were delivered by Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP. All these reports were approved by the house with minor observations.

Mr. Moshiur Rahman, President of BWP concluded the AGM by delivering his concluding remarks. As there was no other issues to discuss, the 18<sup>th</sup> AGM was ended with vote of thanks from Begum Shamsun Nahar, Vice President of BWP.

**Bangladesh Water Partnership** 

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