



Integrated Water Resource Management in the Barind Area

Domain of intervention:	Democratic Governance
Implementation period:	01.07.2018 – 30.06.2022
Implementing partner:	Swiss Red Cross, DASCOH Foundation (NGO) and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO)
SDC contribution:	CHF 4.75 million
Modality:	Mandate

General description

The Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Barind tract area of Bangladesh is a project that covers three districts of north-west Bangladesh namely Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon, in order to help the local government institutions to contribute to increasing availability of water for disadvantaged people of the Barind area through sustainable, effective and inclusive management and usage of water. With the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the project has been implemented at the national level by the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and at sub-national level by the consortium of the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) and DASCOH Foundation.

Objectives

The overall goal of the IWRM Project has been framed to help the local government institutions (LGIs) to contribute to increased availability of water for 280,000 disadvantaged and underprivileged people in the Barind area by boosting the LGIs' capacity in water resource management and to build an effective coordination platform through proper application and practicing of water laws related rules and regulations.

Lines of action / components

- Engaging and enabling citizens, particularly disadvantaged, to involve with Local Government Institutions in IWRM process in order to fulfill their right to water.
- Supporting LGIs to ensure sufficient water supply to underserved population
- Assisting LGIs to implement Bangladesh Water Act 2013' Rules and Guidelines, motivate citizens and LGIs to co-finance IWRM interventions
- Assisting GoB to formulate Barind Participatory Water Management Plan and further improve the flow of information in this integrated water management system.

Intended impact in terms of systemic change

By promoting the coordinated, equitable and sustainable development and management of water, land and related resources, and addressing the institutional challenges associated with integrated water resources management, the project intends to ensure access to sufficient and safe water for the disadvantaged people of the Barind tracts in North-Western Bangladesh.

Intervention Targets

- At least 95% disadvantaged people (384,750 out of 405,000) have access to safe drinking water.
- At least 76% LGI (32 out of 42) allocate funds to implement IWRM issues.
- Citizen and LGI contribution increases by 13% and 7% respectively.
- Codified water saving interventions area increases by 15,000 ha (out of 63,400 ha under 42 LGI)
- Groundwater irrigated *boro* rice replaced with other irrigated crops or less water intensive rice systems by 25% (15,800 ha out of 63,400 ha).
- Piezometers showing reduced rate of decline or stabilized water levels by 60% (30 out of 50 wells)
- Divisional office of WARPO is established at Rajshahi.
- WARPO replicates the Barind experience in one district of two other divisions, Central Government will contribute at least 10% capital cost.
- More water stressed areas could be identified and declared.