

# Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report November 2015

BWP has implemented the following 2 activities under core program.

## ❖ Activities under core

The following 2 activities were carried during November 2015.

### **Activity-1: “Awareness raising and capacity building training of women on water management and environment conservation in the drinking water sector in selected Khulna slums”.**

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with its Bhairab River Basin Area Water Partnership and Initiative for Right View (IRV) organized a day long training workshop on “Water Management and Environment Conservation” on 11 November 2015 at VIP lounge, Khulna press club, Khulna. Eng. M.D. Kamaluddin Ahmed; Deputy Managing



Director (Eng.) Khulna WASA was present as chief guest. Mr. Tusar Kanti Roy, Head & Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology were present as a special guest. Participation of Women from different slums of Khulna were very lively and active.

The objectives of the program was to create awareness and capacity building of women on water management and environment conservation in the drinking water sector in selected Khulna slums.

The training program was divided into inaugural and technical session. The chief guest informed that water scarcity has been increasing day by day due to unplanned urbanization and climate change effects. The inaugural session was followed by an open discussion for half an hour.

The Technical session was facilitated by Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha, Convener, Bhairab River Area Water Partnership. The two presentations on water management and environment conservation were very much practical and informative. Marina Juthi, Secretary, Women Water Network, Khulna facilitated training session on Women and Water Management covering the topics on Traditional Relation of Water and Women, Water Scarcity and Women, Integrated Water Resource Management, Gender and Empowerment, Gender

Mainstreaming, Women Empowerment, Women Position in Water Management and Ability to Participate in Community Water Institutions. Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha Joy sldo facilitated training based on the topics Climate Change and Environment, Adverse Effect of Climate Change on Water and Water Management.

The training program informed that in Khulna city water logging problem, salinity and iron problem has been increased and only 23% of the population of the city has access to piped water supply and the rest resorts to alternative sources, such as shared public taps and tube wells built by privately.

**Outcome:** The program successfully sensitized the participants about the problems, challenges and way forward considering the issues on women empowerment, gender mainstreaming, water management and environment conservation in the Khulna city slums.

**Activity-2: BWWN Workshop on “Safe water and improved sanitation always adds value to the women’s lifestyle”.**



The coordinator of BWWN delivers her welcome speech

Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) has organized a half day workshop on “Safe water and improved sanitation always adds value to the women’s lifestyle” with the financial support of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) on 14 November 2015 at the Conference Room, AKM Giasuddin Milky Auditorium, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance awareness among the participants on uses of safe water and improved sanitation for better lifestyle. A total number of 29 participants, from grass root level women, women organization, different water user groups, projects, different GOs & NGOs working with water & sanitation, consulting firms etc. participated in the workshop.

The workshop was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN & Gender and Development Specialist. There were inaugural and technical sessions in the workshop. Dr. Nilufa Islam, Steering Committee (SC) member of BWWN and Ex-Director General of WARPO chaired the inaugural session.

Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN & Gender and Development Specialist, presented the historical background of BWWN. Ms. Nahar emphasized on safe water and good sanitation facilities for women. She informed that females are engaged to manage water, maintain water as well as collect water all the year round. She suggested equal active participation of male and female in water management.

Md. Shahidul Hassan, President of BWP and Ex-Chief Engineer of LGED, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Dr. Azharul Haq, Vice-president of BWP and Former-Managing Director of Dhaka WASA presented as special guest. Both of them emphasized on women's safety & rights and the enhancement of organizational capacity building.

The workshop was attended by two successful women, from grassroots level, who struggled a lot to improve their livelihoods. They shared their experiences on how they overcome their extreme poverty and the story behind the role model for their reliant activities.

Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP and Member Secretary of BWWN presented a synopsis report on BWWN activities. In her presentation she narrated the formation history of BWWN and major activities implemented by BWWN in the last five years (from 2011-2015). During her presentation she strongly emphasized to develop strong network through local level to national level. She also informed that the mission of BWWN is to empower women by capacity building programs on Water & Climate Change Issues and enhance their involvement on IWRM, Water Supply & Sanitation through an organized voice. Further she emphasized on youth engagement actively to make the BWWN's action more functioning towards gender equity and women empowerment.

The Technical Session was chaired by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN. Two papers were presented in this session. Dr. Salma Begum, Professor of Khulna University and Member of BWWN presented a paper on "Safe water and improved sanitation – how far have we come?" Prof. Salma emphasized on the arsenic poisoning in drinking water due to the increasing use of groundwater. Ms. Hasibun Nahar Khanam, Consultant at FAO and Steering Committee member of BWWN presented her paper on "The fragile state of water and basic sanitation in Haor and South West region of Bangladesh is putting women's survival in risk". Ms. Khanam emphasized on the sufferings of the people living in south-west

region of Bangladesh and the four districts of greater Sylhet namely Sunamgonj, Moulvibazar, Hobigonj and Sylhet due to flooding and water logging.

The technical session was followed by an open discussion session. The workshop was ended with vote of thanks by Ms. Naima Nazir, Member of BWWN and Research Assistant of BWP.

**Outcome:** The Workshop successfully sensitized the women about safe water and improved sanitation. It also encouraged youth participants to be engaged proactively in Integrated Water Resources Management as well as Climate issues considering the real world situation.

#### ❖ **Participations : Outside activities of BWP**

**Activity-1: Meeting of Study and Publication, Sub-Committee, of the Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (BANCID).**

Bangladesh Water Partnership is a Sub-Committee member of Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (BANCID). BWP was invited to participate BANCID's second meeting, for the year 2015, on "Study and Publication Sub-Committee of the Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (BANCID)" on 12 November, 2015. On behalf of BWP, Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary, BWP participated in the meeting and committed to submit a paper for their yearly publication.