

INSIDE WASH FACTS & FIGURES 2014-15

Experience of 6 Upazilas

Genesis

DORP is a non-governmental development organization working in various geographical location of Bangladesh with special emphasis on coastal belt of southern and south-eastern districts. This initiative of DORP is "Increased WASH Budget allocation and utilization while community need is accounted in WASH policy and planning at national and local level for improved WASH Governance." By involving various WASH and non-WASH stakeholders, the initiative is trying to play an important role in the use of existing WASH policies and plans and also trying to involve local decision makers to implement of available WASH related policies and plans to bridge between the community and the local government representatives. There are four Approaches in the initiative which lead the activities and bring the outcome thus achieve the objective. These are as follows,

i Campaign and Promotion (Mass campaigning proves to be a valuable method to raise awareness in the community on WASH budget allocation processes and meetings. In addition to putting up large banners in open spaces in the villages, staffs drive through villages with loud-speaking cars at the eve of important budget meetings. This enables villagers to attend these meetings and voice their demands.)

ii WASH Service Monitoring (The WASH service provider is an important stakeholder in the WASH service and value chain. To find out whether WASH service providers actually fulfill their responsibilities, such as managing water supplies or sanitation services, household surveys are used. In mobile surveys community members are asked to give insight in which WASH services they do and do not receive. At the same time, Budget Clubs use community-based monitoring tools to interview the service providers about the WASH services they provide, how they do this and which challenges they encounter during this process.)

iii Lobby and Advocacy (Raising awareness and empowering people at community level is one thing, but this should be supported by lobby and advocacy activities. On local and sub-district level, quarterly meetings are organised in which WASH budget spending is discussed, but focus on national advocacy activities via television and newspapers is as important.)

iv WASH Budget Monitoring (In Bangladesh, like many countries, local governments are obliged to organise pre-budget and open budget sessions in which community members are informed about WASH budget spending and allocation. These sessions are also the perfect platforms for the communities to enter into dialogue with the policy makers, voice their needs or lobby for better spending processes. After these meetings, the budget plans are displayed on large banners in open spaces in the communities, to make the process transparent and make sure governments can be held accountable. Collection and review of National Budget documents is also an integral part of WASH Budget monitoring.)

What is WASH Budget Tracking?

Budget tracking is an initiative which helps to visualize the ground reality and to see how budget is allocated and utilized at Union Parishad in order to improve the WASH situation. How to make the per capita allocation also falls under the purview of budget tracking. It also intended to oversee the financial involvement in this sector while it also provides a roadmap to the decision makers in their attempt to address the commitment of the politician as well as government. A lot of set activities have been done under the approaches to engage the community in the budget preparation process, e.g. Pre-budget session, Open budget session, Public Hearing etc.

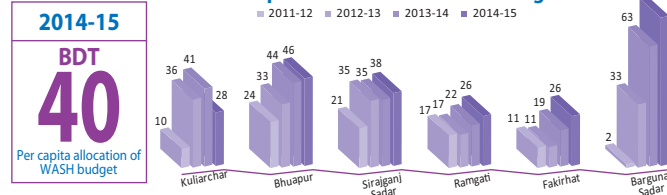
FACTS & FIGURES

Annual Cost for Resource Needs for Rural Water and Sanitation

MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability									
Total for Water Supply and Sanitation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Average 2009-2015
Grand Total for Rural in BDT Billion	26.19	26.45	26.70	26.99	27.28	27.49	27.75	188.88	26.98
Grand Total for Rural in USD Billion	3.83	3.86	3.90	3.94	3.98	4.02	4.05	27.61	3.94
Per capita in BDT	240.24	240.27	240.34	240.61	240.88	240.51	240.51		240.48
Per capita in USD	3.51	3.51	3.51	3.52	3.52	3.52	3.52		3.52

Source: MDGs Need Assessment and Costing 2009-2015 Bangladesh by GED of Planning Commission

Per Capita Allocation for WASH Budget



The figure shows per capita allocation of WASH Budget in the respective Upazilas in consecutive years. With a very low per capita investment TK 40 in fiscal year 2014-15 which is less than one sixth of the per capita budget allocation for rural water and sanitation to attain the MDG-7 relating to water and sanitation TK 240. However, this which depicts in one hand open defecation free with less expenditure and on the other hand, the present budget allocating is very low for improved water and sanitation facilities in rural settings to reading the MDG (None SDG) goal. Although budget is not allocating in line with per capita management but it needs to be considered to know the real picture of per capita allocation during the formulation of WASH budget for a geographical area.

What we want in future

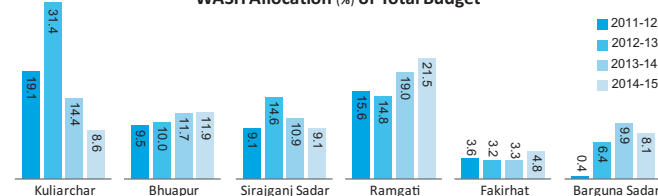
- Increase WASH Budget Allocation.
- Involving Community and introduces government's commitment on WASH, so that demand/need can be initiated.
- Massive awareness on various policies and Strategies of Government into operational level at ground.
- Separate WASH Budget at National level and fund allocation directly to the Union Parishad.
- Operationalisation of Union parishad Operation Manual.

Governments Budgeting

Article 87 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stipulates that a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in respect of each financial year is required to be laid before Parliament. Constitutionally it is called the Annual financial statement and commonly it is termed as budget. Budget is a comprehensive blueprint of the annual estimated receipts and expenditure of the government. The budget is prepared for every financial year. It starts on 1st July and ends on 30th June. Each year, the Finance Division has to supply budget estimate forms with relevant instructions within 31st August; departments are to return the estimates to Finance Division within 31st October. Ministries and departments use previous year's actual expenditure for preparing expected budgets for the next year. Administrative Ministries/Divisions and different directorates prepare their budget estimates in prescribed format and send those to the Finance Division.

The Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) has been introduced to attain the targets by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure. The tenure of MTBF of Bangladesh is three years which includes estimated budget for the ensuing financial year and the projections for two further years. Excluding budget year the allocations of other years are based on projection. Every year it is updated in order to maintain the continuation of three years future expenditure plan.

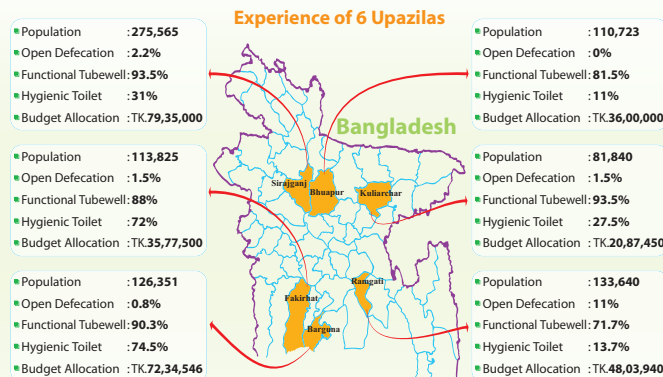
WASH Allocation (%) of Total Budget



The figure shows that WASH Budget allocation percentage of total budget in consecutive years of 6 Upazilas. Though the absolute amount of WASH budget has increased in all six Upazilas but the percentage decreased in three Upazilas in relation with total budget of the Unions. These budgets have been allocated after receiving the demand Ward and pre-budget sessions held at Ward and Union level during each fiscal year.

3%-19% WASH budget has been increased in four fiscal years through Budget Tracking process where community was engaged and local government structured i.e. Union standing committees were revitalized. Availability, accessibility, sufficiency, equity and quality are the five major pillars of right to water and sanitation while investing in WASH is an underlying pre-requisite for strengthening those pillars. It is found from all unions that budget increased as per local need and involvement of the institutions.

The percentage share of total Union Parishad (UP) budget spent for WASH sector is in most cases higher than the percentage of national budget spent for WASH sector for the country as a whole. Referring to the above figure which shows that the average percentage share of UP budget spent for WASH in project UPs is higher compared to the national average. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector as part of the overall development, still remains as one of the most neglected area although it is one of the social determinates of health.



In terms of policy formulation, planning and implementation, budget allocation, and understanding the link of WASH with overall economic development; the government has not yet being that much active though water and sanitation is considered as the basic human rights. The progress of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will be accelerated by promoting access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene. Item seven of the MDG states: The proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (to be) halved by 2015. However, this target has none shifted to attain Sustainably Development Goal (SDG)-6.

Impact of Budget Tracking

1. Peoples Participation in Budgeting process increased;
2. Annual both (revenue: Tax and Development) budget increased;
3. Resources duplication avoided;
4. Multi stakeholders involvement increased;
5. Use and Practice of Union Parishad Operational Manual in place;
6. Regular Open Budget sessions is happening by their own budget;
7. Overall WASH Governance improved.

The facts envisage that budget will increase in all areas where community people's involvement in the budget process is more and Union Parishad open their budget substantially. Significant achievement observed on improvement of access to water and sanitation in the Unions though per capita allocation of WASH budget is one sixth of estimated budget for rural areas. Functional tubewell and Hygiene latrine number also increase in contrast with ODF. Engaging community people and sensitize authority at the same time could make a relationship that contribute to enhance effort for improvement of particular sector which in future may solve issues like budget and its proper utilization thus develop country situation.