



Integrated Water Resource Management in the Barind Area

Swiss Portfolio Outcome:	Improved social well-being for all, including in emergencies
Implementation Period:	01.07.2018 – 31.12.2023
Implementing Partners:	Swiss Red Cross, DASCOH Foundation (NGO) and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO)
Swiss Contribution:	CHF 6.99 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 increased availability of safe water for disadvantaged people of the Barind area through sustainable, inclusive management and usage of water. With the support from Switzerland, this 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 has been framed to capacitate the Local Government Institutions (LGIs) to manage water resources effectively and increase the availability of safe water to at least 280,000 disadvantaged people in the Barind area. In addition, IWRM boosts LGI's capacity to build an effective coordination platform through proper application and practicing of water laws, rules and regulations.

Lines of Action / Components

- Engaging and enabling citizens, particularly disadvantaged, to work with the Local Government Institutions to fulfill their right to water.
- Supporting LGIs to ensure sufficient water supply to underserved population.
- Assisting LGIs to implement rules and guidelines defined under Bangladesh Water Act 2013 and 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 coordinated, equitable and sustainable management of natural 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 supported.