

**Workshop Report and Consultation Brief**

**Consultation Workshop on Roll Out of the  
Pro-Poor Strategy with a special focus on  
Local Level WASH Service Monitoring and the  
Role of LGIs in Bangladesh**

**Dhaka, 22-23 June 2022**



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Accelerating WASH



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This document is the brief developed after the successful completion of the Consultation Workshop on the roll out of the Pro-Poor Strategy focusing on local level WASH service level monitoring and the role of LGIs in Bangladesh. This document gives insight in the progress of the implementation of the Pro-Poor Strategy, at subnational level in Bangladesh. This document also provides recommendations to the concerned government departments for bringing changes in the mechanism for successful implementation of the strategy.

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**Picture, Design and Layout:** IRC WASH

## Introduction and objectives of the workshop

The WASH SDG Programme partners in Bangladesh can play an instrumental role in the process of revising, updating and subsequent roll-out of the 'Pro-poor Strategy for Water supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh 2020'. The Policy Support Branch of the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has taken the lead in commissioning the strategy. The WASH SDG Programme partners assisted the Branch in this process. The WASH SDG Programme partners have started supporting the roll out of the said strategy in their respective programme areas.

Regular monitoring of WASH indicators is essential to roll out the strategy. It is difficult to understand WASH service coverage without regular monitoring. To track if WASH programmes at local level are moving in the right direction and whether they contribute to agreed upon sector targets, regular monitoring is necessary. Particularly to identify the hard-core poor households without basic minimum WASH services, service level monitoring is essential. Regular reporting of WASH progress on the basis of service level monitoring is required so that all actors can understand the progress that is being made.

To address this topic, WaterAid Bangladesh jointly with IRC and Simavi organized the 'Consultation Workshop on Roll Out of Pro-Poor Strategy focusing Local Level WASH Service Monitoring and Role of LGIs in Bangladesh'. The workshop was held on 22-23 June at UST Training Center, House 992, Road 16, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabor, Dhaka 1207.

The main objective of the workshop was to sensitise and build the capacity of selected LGI representatives and NGO partner staff on Pro-Poor Strategy roll-out. It was expected that at the end of the workshop participants would be able to prepare an action plan with clear roles and responsibilities to roll-out the Pro-Poor Strategy and local level service monitoring. The workshop was followed by a reflection session on WAI WASH SDG Programme Advocacy Strategy and Plan linking with evidence-based advocacy.

*Strengthen Capacity of selected LGI representatives and NGO partner staff on Pro-Poor Strategy roll-out and local level service monitoring*

*Sensitization of LGIs and bring clarity on their role and responsibility to roll-out the Pro-poor strategy* -----  
*Workshop Objectives*

## First session, day I: DPHE and WASH service provision through Local Government Institutions (Union Parishad & Municipality)

The session started with the introduction of the participants. Thereafter, the organisers introduced the objectives of the workshop. Additionally, participants shared their expectations from the workshop. After that the workshop was formally inaugurated by Mitaly Datta one of the Local Government representatives and Vice Chairperson of Srimangal Upazila Parishad.

The key expectations from the workshop shared by the participants were as follows:

- What are the roles of LGIs in implementing the Pro-Poor Strategy?
- How to identify the hard-core poor (hcp) households eligible for subsidy?

- At present, hcp households need to share 10% of the cost of the hardware to be eligible for receiving the grant, how to provide 100% subsidy to the hcp households?
- A letter from the Local Government Division (LGD) needs to be issued to the LGIs (Municipalities and Union Parishads) to make them responsible in implementing the strategy, how to push the issue?
- How to follow up the implementation of the Pro-Poor strategy with the LGIs?

Following the inauguration, a short presentation was given by Alok Kumar Majumder. The presentation included the overview of the WASH SDG Programme with its objectives, outcomes, partners and outreach.

After that, a presentation was given by Digbijoy Dey. He presented the findings of the assessment conducted on local level WASH service monitoring in Bangladesh. The assessment was conducted by IRC as part of the WASH SDG Programme in Bangladesh. The salient points of the presentation are:

- At present different Local Government Institutes collect information on WASH coverage.
- But most of them are limited to coverage information and cannot be considered as service level monitoring.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (including Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) surveys are looking at service level information, but these types of surveys are not conducted regularly and they do not provide local level data.
- It is important to do regular local level WASH service monitoring for local level WASH planning purposes.

Tushar Mohon Sadhu Khan, Additional Chief Engineer from DPHE gave a detailed presentation after that. The presentation provided insight in the overall water resources situation, WASH status of the country, DPHE's role and responsibilities, present work magnitude, ongoing projects and challenges. Different issues were discussed following the presentation. However, common element in the discussions was the unclarities and contradictions in the process of selection of the hcp households for handpump distribution. It was claimed by many of the LGI representatives present in the workshop that the current process of allocating handpumps is not done on the basis of evidence such as service level monitoring or need assessment and therefore may not be reaching and benefiting the poorest households.

It is identified that DPHE works following the circular<sup>1</sup> issued by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives in 2007. But at present, Union Parishads operate in accordance with the Union Parishad act 2009 and its follow-up operation manual issued in 2018. The 2007 circular and the 2009 act guides the Union Parishad to operate differently. According to the circular, Union Parishads should have WATSAN committees at Union and WARD level. The WATSAN committee is responsible for identifying the hcp households for WASH grant support. However, according to the Union Parishad Act of 2009 and its operational guideline, there is no provision for Union and Ward level WATSAN committees. Instead, there is to be a standing committee (along with 12 others for 12 different tasks) for sanitation, water supply and faecal sludge management.

In the workshop the Union Parishad councillors commented that practically, Upazila chairmen and Union Parishad chairmen control the process of handpump allocation and provision. Because at present the relevant grant applications must be presented to and approved by these chairmen. After selection by the Upazila or Union Parishad chairmen, the Upazila WATSAN committee permits the actual distribution of handpumps depending on the availability of funds<sup>2</sup>. The Union Parishad standing committee does not play any role in the selection of households and allocation of handpumps.

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant parts of the 2007 Circular are shown in Annex 2.

<sup>2</sup> [shorturl.at/xy178](http://shorturl.at/xy178)

According to the Pro-Poor Strategy for the Water and Sanitation Sector of Bangladesh 2020, the standing committees are responsible for identifying the hcp households. The Pro-Poor Strategy also provides guidance to these standing committees on how to select the eligible hcp households. Before the strategy was commissioned, there was no such official guidance. Although the new strategy has provided guidance to methodically select the eligible candidates for subsidy, the strategy is not yet operational. Till date the standing committees have neither received technical training nor do they have the technical resources to carry out their duties.

## Second session, Day 1: Pro-Poor Strategy and roles of LGIs

At the start of the second session of the first day, a presentation was given by Ranjan Kumar Ghose on the Pro-Poor Strategy, especially on its content and guideline for implementation. Moniruzzaman Khan, National Consultant of the Policy Support Branch joined the discussion. Partha Hefaz Sheikh supplemented Ranjan Kumar Ghose on the Pro-Poor Strategy discussion. The salient points shared in the presentation are:

- The present Pro-Poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation Sector of Bangladesh is the upgradation of the one commissioned in 2005.
- The present strategy guides the government to develop a national database for the hcp households, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is supposed to develop the database.
- During the period when the database is not in place, Local Government Institutes (LGIs) are supposed to identify the hcp households.
- To do so, the strategy has a clear set of conditions, based on which the LGIs can select the hcp households.
- The strategy includes a guideline for basic minimum WASH services, the hcp households who do not access the basic minimum WASH service will be eligible for support.
- The eligible hcp households will receive 100% subsidy to access basic minimum services, whereas the previous strategy had a provision of 90% subsidy which meant that the household had to bear 10% of the cost.

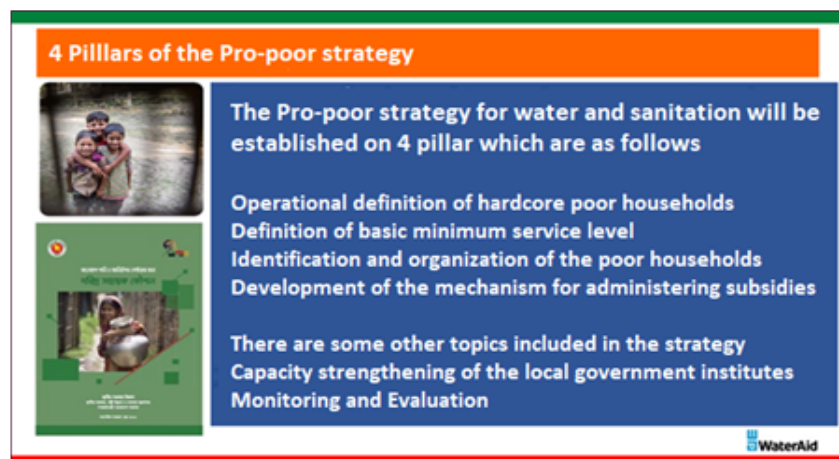


Figure 1: 4 Pillars of the Pro-Poor Strategy (picture take from the presentation)

The topic was further fortified by a discussion conducted by Shafiqul Islam, Advisor, WaterAid on WASH in Local Government Act and role of LGIs (Union Parishad and Municipality). The discussion focused on the Local Government Act (Municipality and Union Parishad Act) and the responsibilities it exert on the LGI duty bearers. Following the discussion, there was a simulation exercise carried out together with the workshop participants.

The key tasks of the Union Parishad identified in the exercise were:

- Management of the regulatory affairs of the union
- Conflict management
- Management of the road and communication system of the union
- Water supply and sanitation management
- Solid waste and hygiene management
- Identification of the hcp and households with a person of disability
- Social safety net
- Birth and death registration
- Vaccination registration

The simulation was carried through a white board exercise. The objective was to monitor the water, sanitation and hygiene status of the households of a Union and how to plan for gradual increase in WASH coverage and quality (increase in service levels). The exercise used the case of Kalighat union of Srimangal upazila.

## First session, Day 2: Discussion on evidence generation and advocacy

The first session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the workshop started with the recap of the first day. Instead of conventional recap, the workshop followed a quiz competition where the participants divided themselves into two groups and asked 10 questions to each other. The names of the two groups were Mitali group and Hasina group, after a hard battle, Mitaly group won the quiz scoring 90 out of 100 whereas Hasina group scored 80.

After the quiz session there was exercise on local level service monitoring, service data archiving and analysis using a spreadsheet based tool. The tool is developed primarily for social mapping monitoring data collection, can be used for regular WASH service monitoring data collection and analysis also. The exercise took M. Baliatali union of Barguna sadar upazila as trial location and collected hypothetical WASHs service data of the union for different time interval to track the progress at service level.

WAI Bangladesh WASH SDG Programme		Upazilla: Barguna Sadar		Union/Municipality: M. Balitali Union					
Social mapping records   Data entry sheet		Reporting period: January to June 2018		Partner: DORP					
Note: Complete all white cells									
Ward number >>		#1		#2					
		Overall total	Hard-core poor HHs	HHs with a person with a disability	HHs with disaster risk	Overall total	Hard-core poor HHs	HHs with a person with a disability	HHs with disaster risk
# of households >>		876	213	45	56	546	105	65	
# of people >>		4,566	1,121	454	453	3,123	564	345	
Disaster type >>					Cyclone				Cy
SANITATION SERVICES		#1				#2			
Availability of sanitation facilities		Overall total	Hard-core poor HHs	HHs with a person with a disability	HHs with disaster risk	Overall total	Hard-core poor HHs	HHs with a person with a disability	HHs with disaster risk
SAFELY MANAGED	Improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of onsite or removed and treated offsite	34	0	0	20	21	0	0	
BASIC	Improved facilities (pit latrine or septic tank with water seal and unbroken pan) which are not shared with other households	124	23	5	15	23	16	5	
LIMITED	Improved facilities (pit latrine or septic tank with water seal and unbroken pan) but shared between two or more households	456	100	21	7	324	71	41	

Figure 2: Data entry page of the social mapping monitoring tool

It was shared by the LGI representative that this tool will be very helpful for them to gather service level information and plan accordingly. However, they do not have capacity to collect information

following the tool. If the NGO partners do that and share the information with them, that would be helpful. To formally use such tool, they would require direction from their line management. Thus it is important that the tool should be shared with the line management (LGD) of the LGIs.

Following the session the participants divided into 5 groups based on their respective locations and carried out an exercise on possible activities of the LGIs and NGO/CSO partners in implementing the Pro-Poor Strategy. It has two sets of activities. One is the activities of the LGIs and the other one is how the partners can assist LGIs in implementing the strategy. Based on the discussion among the group members, each team developed one poster presentation.

## 2nd session, Day 2: Roll out of the strategy and activities of local partners

In the second session of the day, Numeri Zaman, Joint secretary, development wing of Local Government Division (LGD) (previously Joint Secretary in the Policy Support Branch of LGD) joined the discussion. The discussion in that session held around the role of local government institutes and NGO/CSO partners. At the beginning of the discussion, a presentation was given based on the exercise carried out to identify the set of activities needed to be carried out to implement the Pro-Poor Strategy. Hasina Parvin from Uttaran (local partner of WASH SDG WAI Bangladesh Sub Programme) presented the set of activities identified in the exercise. The key activities are:

1. Preparatory meeting at LGI level with all stakeholders
2. Capacity building of the LGI staff and standing committee members
3. WASH Standing committee takes action to
  - a. Identification of the hcp households within the constituency with the help of the WASH
  - b. Identification of the hcp households that cannot access basic minimum WASH services
4. Presenting the list in ward meeting /WATSAN committee/TLCC meeting
5. The list is circulated in the notice board and LGI websites
6. Finalization of the list
7. Budget allocation for subsidy provision
8. Periodic monitoring of the process to track progress

Based on the presentation Numeri Zaman discussed various aspects of implementing the strategy. He mentioned different bottlenecks of implementing the strategy as well. Notable points are lack of monitoring information. The progress should be periodically monitored. Numeri Zaman suggested that the progress can be monitored in one year interval. He also mentioned that LGD is reactivating its sanitation secretariat to better coordinate these activities. At the end he requested if WAI programme can develop and share an update on the commitments made by the LGI participants and local partners in implementing the Pro-Poor Strategy.

## Key recommendations from the workshop

1. The Local Government Division needs to send a letter (or instruction or circular) to the Municipalities and Union Parishads to initiate the proper implementation of the Pro-Poor Strategy by the local authorities.

2. DPHE needs to update or substitute their 2007 circular to align the allocation/subsidy process with the Union Parishad Act of 2009 and the Pro-Poor Strategy of 2020. Particularly to clarify the role of the WATSAN Committees and the WASH Standing Committees.
3. According to the Pro-Poor Strategy, Municipality and Union WASH Standing Committee has the key responsibility to identify eligible hard-core poor households for WASH subsidy. However, these WASH Standing Committees lack the evidence (service monitoring or need assessment data or information for instance) to make the right needs-based decisions. Hence, a clear and simple monitoring mechanism need to be put in place so that the Standing Committees have the information required to perform their tasks in accordance with the Pro-Poor Strategy.
4. Local Government Institutes lack technical and financial resources to plan, implement and monitor the process, thus Local Government Division need to develop an action plan (may engage National institute for Local Government- capacity building unit of LGD for LGIs) for the capacity building.



## Annex I: List of participants

Name	Designation	Organisation
Amir khasru	Programme Coordinator	Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP)
Nurul Amin	WASH Coordinator	Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP)
Ms. Halima	Ward Member (Women)	Baliatoli Union Parishad
Ms. Aysha Akter Dally	Ward Member (Women)	Burirchar Union Parishad
Ms. Tania	Ward Member (Women) 4, 5 & 6 no Ward	Aylapatakata Union Parishad
Hasina Parvin	Project Coordinator	Uttaran
Sk. Rushayed Ullah	Project Officer (Technical & Advocacy)	Uttaran
Renuka Karmokar	Project Officer, Advocacy	Uttaran
Md. Alkaj Ali	Secretary, Agardari Union Parishad	Agardari Union
Abdur Razzak	Secretary, Nagarghata Union Parishad	Nagarghata Union
Bishawjith Kumar Ghosh	Secretary, Khalishkhali Union Parishad	Khalishkhali Union
Mst Kamrun Nahar	Female Member, 04,05,06 No Ward Agardari Union Parishad	Agardari Union
Engr. Md. Jasim Uddin	Executive Engineer	Betagi Municipality
Mrs. Shiuly Dakua	Female member of reserved Ward (Ward No. 4,5,6)	3 No. Hosnabad Union Parishad
Mr. Manik Chandra Roy	Member, Ward No. 5	2 No. Gourichonna Union Parishad
Mr. Md. Mominul Islam	Project Manager	SLOPB Bangladesh
Mr. AKM Akbar Hossain	Monitoring Officer	SLOPB Bangladesh
Md. Ziaur Rahman	Social Development Officer and WASH SDG Focal	Satkhira Municipality
Md. Liakot Ali	Secretary	Satkhira Municipality
Anima Rani Mandal	Counselor – 4, 5 & 6 No. Ward	Satkhira Municipality
Md. Ruhul Amin	Market Development Officer	Hope for the Poorest (HP)
Mr. Mrinal Kumar Sarker	Town Coordinator WASH SDG Project (Satkhira & Kalaroa)	Hope for the Poorest (HP)
Md. Wahidur Rahman	Program Manager (WASH SDG)	Hope for the Poorest (HP)
Aminul Islam Sohan	Project Coordinator	Practical Action
Ashish Kumar Das	MEL Officer	Practical Action
Prodip Chandra Karmaker	Municipality Coordination Officer	Practical Action
Md. Kamal Hossen	Social Development Officer	Barguna Municipality
Rojina Akter	Councilor	Kalapara Municipality
Tusher Kanti Das	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Klaroa Municipality
Rabeya Parveen	Councilor and Panel Mayor-3, Ward 7,8,9	Satkhira Municipality
Pankaj Ghosh Dostidar	Project Manager	Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA)
Mitaly Dutta	Upz Vice Chairman	Sreemangal Upazila Parishad
Salim Ahmed	Pannel Chairman	Rajghat Union Parishad
Debashish Deb Rakhu	Union Chairman	Satgao Union Parishad

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Pranesh Goala	Union Chairman	Kalighat Union Parishad
Alok Majumder	Country Coordinator	WAI, WASH SDG, Simavi
Shamsur Rahman	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Officer	WAI, WASH SDG, Simavi
Digbijoy Dey	IRC Country Consultant Bangladesh	IRC
Tushar Mohon Shadhu Khan	Addl. Chief Engineer (Planning)	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
Numeri Zaman	Joint Secretary (Development Branch)	Development Branch, Local Government Division
S.M. Moniruzzaman	National Consultant	Policy Support Branch (PSB), Local Government Division
Partha Hefaz Shaikh	Director – Policy and Advocacy	WaterAid Bangladesh
M. Shafiqul Islam	Policy Advisor and Former Additional Secretary	WaterAid Bangladesh
Imamur Rahman	Programme Manager	WaterAid Bangladesh
Ranjan Kumar Ghose	Advocacy Specialist	WaterAid Bangladesh

## Annex 2:

### ২.৪.১ ইউনিয়ন পানি সরবরাহ ও স্যানিটেশন (WATSAN) কমিটি

১. ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান	সভাপতি
২. ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ	সদস্য
৩. ইউনিয়নের দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত নলকূপ মেকানিক, জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর	সদস্য
৪. সহকারী স্বাস্থ্য পরিদর্শক/পরিবার পরিকল্পনা পরিদর্শক (উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক মনোনীত)	সদস্য
৫. স্থানীয় মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের একজন প্রধান শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা (উপজেলা মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা অফিসার কর্তৃক মনোনীত)	সদস্য
৬. স্থানীয় প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ের একজন প্রধান শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা (উপজেলা শিক্ষা অফিসার কর্তৃক মনোনীত)	সদস্য
৭. স্থানীয় একজন ধর্মীয় নেতা (ইউএনও কর্তৃক মনোনীত)	সদস্য
৮. ইউএনও কর্তৃক মনোনীত একজন এনজিও প্রতিনিধি (যদি থাকে)	সদস্য
৯. ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ সচিব	সদস্য-সচিব
* কমিটি অনধিক ২ (দুই) জন সদস্য কো-অপ্ট করিতে পারিবে।	

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### ইউনিয়ন পানি সরবরাহ ও স্যানিটেশন (WATSAN) কমিটির কার্যাবলী

এই কমিটি প্রতি মাসে অন্ততঃ ১ (এক) বার সভায় মিলিত হইবে এবং প্রধানতঃ নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যাবলী সম্পাদন করিবেঃ

- ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ে পানি সরবরাহ, স্যানিটেশন ও ব্যক্তিগত স্বাস্থ্যভাঙ্গাস উন্নয়নের জন্য সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধিতে সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ এবং প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরকে সহায়তা প্রদান;
- ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ, ওয়ার্ড সামাজিক কমিটি (এসডিসি), এনজিও এবং অন্যান্য স্থানীয় সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের কর্মকাণ্ডের সমন্বয় সাধন ও মূল্যায়ন;
- পানি সরবরাহ ও স্যানিটেশন সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারি ও বেসরকারি সকল প্রকার সহায়তা প্রকৃত উপকারভোগীর কাছে পৌঁছানোর পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ;
- ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ে পানির উৎসের তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রশিক্ষণসহ (Caretaker Training) অন্যান্য প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচিতে জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরকে প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা প্রদান;
- স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের আওতাধীন কোন প্রকল্পের জন্য প্রকল্পে নির্দেশিত পানি সরবরাহ ও স্যানিটেশন বিষয়ক দায়িত্ব পালন/কর্ম সম্পাদন; এবং

## Annex 3: Pictures from the Workshop







