

Women's WASH Platform (WWP)

Empowerment in WASH

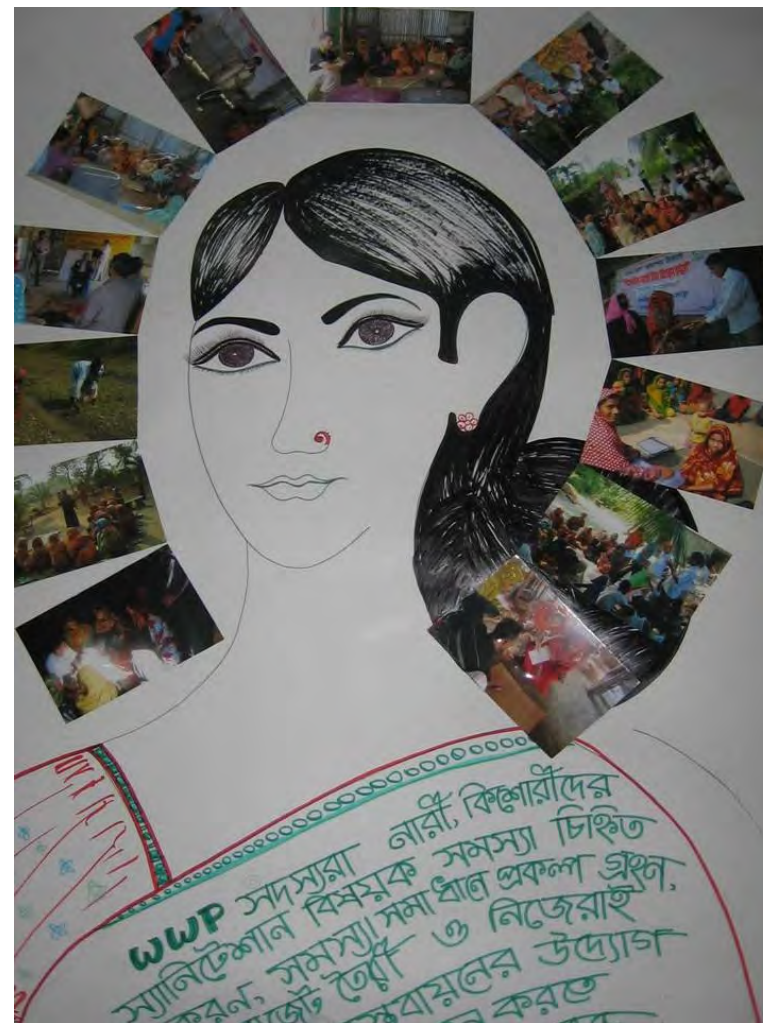
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Women's WASH Platform

- Project background
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- Outcomes
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- Way Forward

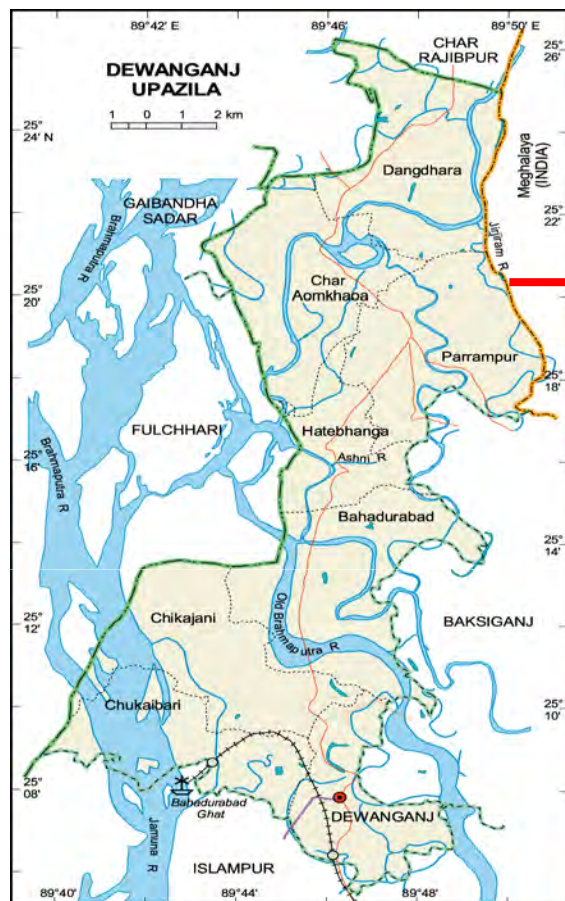


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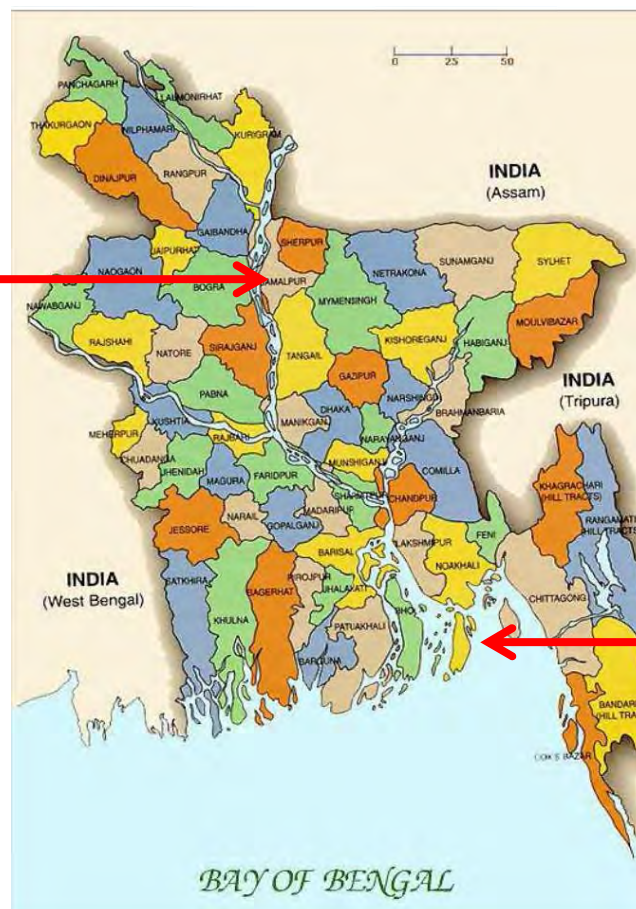
Self motivated and proactive groups of women who address women's specific needs for WASH services in flood prone areas of Bangladesh



Project Location



**Flood prone river basin
Jamalpur District**



Bangladesh
Over populated , most
disaster prone and
vulnerable to CC



**Cyclone and saline
affected Coastal char
Noakhali District**

Project Background

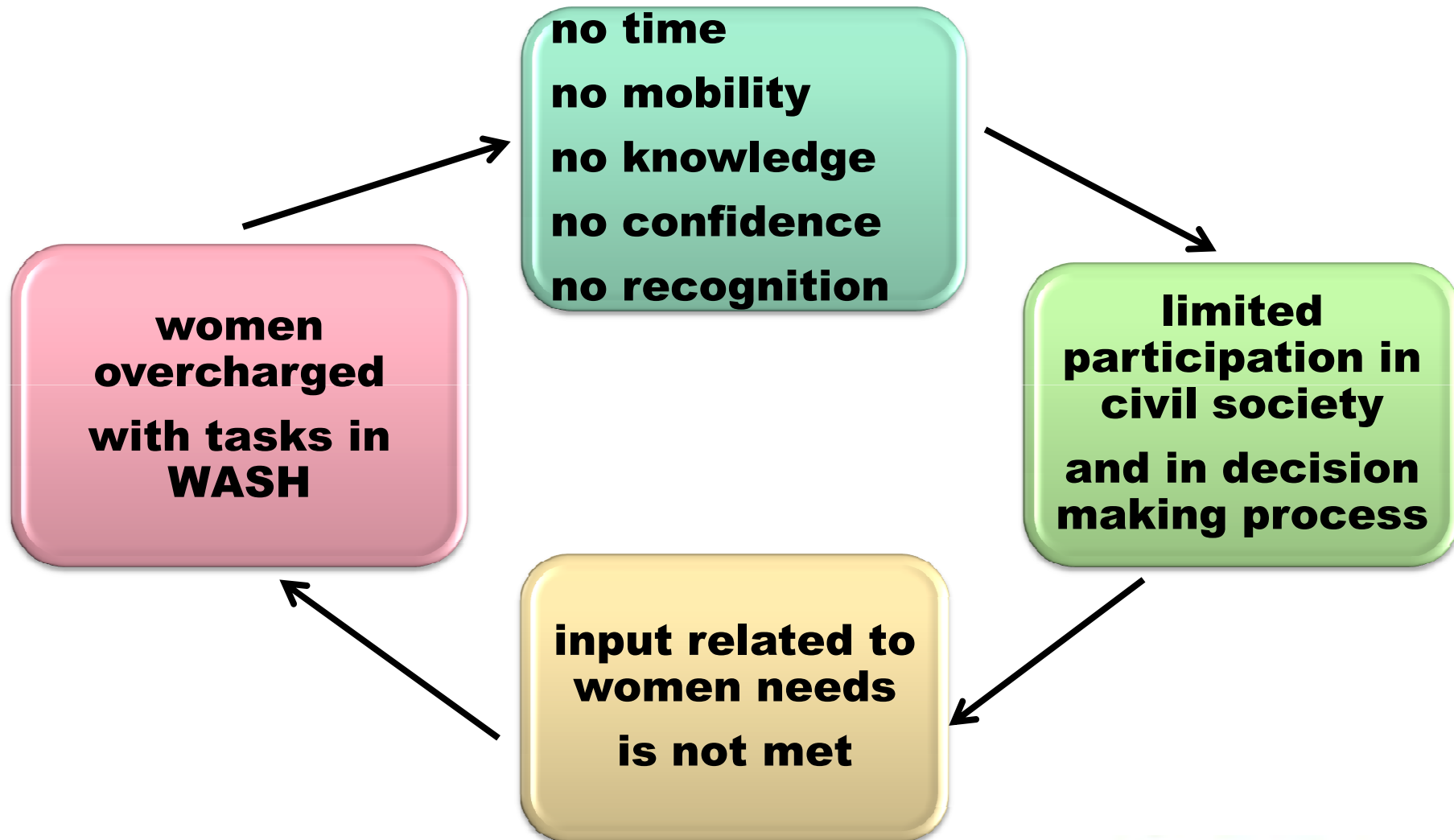
Access to WASH:

- Water collection time is 31 minutes one time round trip in Noakhali. They collect water two times a day.
- In dry season water scarcity and salinity is extreme in Noakhali - most ponds are dried up and hand pumps are not working
- Overall 52% HH have access to latrine. Out of these 11% are hygienic. Most latrines do not provide privacy for women.
- 68% latrine inundated in flood water in Jamalpur

Lack of Women's Inclusion in Project Design by government or during HH level WASH installation

- Low percentage of women were consulted during water point and latrine installation – Noakhali – 21 %, Jamalpur – 56 %
- In Noakhali, most married women complained - in dry season they cannot bathe regularly so feel unclean and shy to sleep with their husbands. This sometimes results in distrust and physical or mental abuse by their husbands.

Baseline Information



Objectives of WWP

- **Women will be actively involved in designing, constructing and managing WASH facilities that meet their needs.**
- **Women will have the skills and confidence to manage the WWP**
- **Women will feel more confident to negotiate with men (and sometimes older women) and contribute to decision making on the provision of WASH facilities**





WWP Formation



Problem Identification



Training



Access to market



Monthly Meeting



Project Planning

**Completed
Projects**



Water



Bathing



**Latrine for
Disabled**

**Way Forward
and
Sustainability**



“We identified our problem and initiated schemes. We purchased the required materials by ourselves for our projects after verifying prices at several shops in three local markets to ensure lower price and best quality. We ourselves hired masons and carpenters to construct the bathing cubicles as per our agreed design. We did close monitoring during construction to ensure the quality and appropriateness”.

--Mohima Begum, Cashier, WWP, Noakhali

Video clip



Outputs

- **20 WWPs formed and trained (220 women)**
- **Construction of 125 bathing chambers including latrine and menstrual management facilities (20 – 30 family per chamber)**
- **302 unhygienic latrines has been raised and converted in to hygienic latrines**
- **770 sets (1 slab 5 rings) of rings and slabs were provided to poorest HH and provide technical support to construct disaster resilient latrine**
- **3 special latrines for differently able people were constructed**
- **Non-budgetary activities e.g. counseling with adolescent girls on menstruation management, personal hygiene specially in emergencies.**
- **250 menstruation kits distributed to adolescent girls**
- **Construction of 190 tube well raised aprons**

Outcomes



Women involved in the project said:

- **“In the beginning we were confused, but now we are very confident”**
- **“We used to bath in alternate weeks, but now we bath every day with dignity and privacy”**
- **“Now, I do not allow my husband to enter home without washing hands when he came back from field”**
- **“We will continue our platform and have already started a savings group”**

Outcomes

Rawson Aara never usually left her compound to go to market-someone else sold her goods for her. After joining the WWP , she started to sell her own produce and got 50000 Taka more than before.

“Now I understood I was cheated before. In future I will recheck the price in different markets and then sell my own beans”

Outcomes



"We are 11 people moving together. They (who have been resisting us) are afraid of us. Now they invite us to sit. They usually talk to the government representative, but now the talk to us too."

After one WWP member's (Rawson Ara) house has been destroyed by some muscle-man, all WWP members came forward to help her and also sought help from the police.

Lessons Learned

- **Involvement of husbands, mothers in law and/or elder women in different meetings and decision making processes (power sharing) creates enabling environment for the younger women.**
- **Go slow and steady in managing religious and social leaders.**
- **Women's mobility increased enabling them to use their bargaining power at local markets**
- **Not all WWPs performed to the same standard. 4 out of 20 WWP were under performing mainly due to social conflict and difficult access due to remote location.**
- **National level stakeholders, mainly government, showed interest in the project at the outset but did not get very involved . In future need to find ways of linking WWPs with local authorities.**

Way Forward

Strengthen the WWP and promote sustainability by:

- **Addressing users contribution to O&M**
- **Linking with institutions who can build women skills and capacity**
- **Advocate at national level for recognition, scale up and replication**
- **Investigate reasons for under performance of some WWPs**
- **Increase DRR and resilience perspectives in all future capacity building initiatives**

Thank you

