

ACTIVITY REPORT

Coordination Meeting, Central Workshop, ToT, Divisional level Training and WASH Cluster Meeting including Module Updating and app development.

1. Introduction

DPHE and UNICEF have jointly undertaken a few initiatives for the capacity development of WASH professionals on climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness, and response in WASH. The 1st was project is the capacity development in WASH sector in Bangladesh: climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and WASH in emergency preparedness and response. The previous phase of this initiative was completed in December 2023 which supported the development of a training module targeting the decision makers in the WASH sector, five training at the divisional level for DPHE officials, I/NGO professionals, and different government stakeholders, and organizing WASH Cluster meetings for five districts. To achieve the long-term goals set by the government and WASH Cluster in emergency preparedness and response in WASH, this capacity-building initiative for the WASH professionals needs to be continued until the government institutionalizes the mechanisms at both national and sub-national levels. Therefore, DPHE and UNICEF planned to continue the capacity-building activities and develop/update necessary tools and procedures to help WASH professionals' skills and capacity to effectively manage the disasters and impact of climate change in the WASH sector. Here, later it is the orientation training for the DPHE field staff under UNICEF supported DPHE WASH response to the cyclone Remal at Barisal and Khulna Division.

2. Goals and Objectives

The main objective of this capacity development initiative was to improve and strengthen the technical capacity of the WASH professionals as well as to raise awareness among different stakeholders at the national level and sub-national levels in different climate-affected regions of Bangladesh. The specific objectives of the assignment were:

- Strengthening the capacity of the WASH sector on emergency preparedness, and planning and delivering WASH services with a focus on Government partners including Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for efficient and effective lifesaving emergency responses related to disaster resilience and water safety.
- Promoting awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and WASH Cluster Coordination mechanism and developing capacities on the integration of DRR and climate (and/or disaster) resilient approaches into WASH programs across the country.
- Identifying gaps between current activities (capacity) and opportunities to make the WASH service climate resilient in different geographical contexts and developing a set of



recommendations, based on gap assessment, to better align ongoing activities with the disaster resilient WASH approaches.

- Addressing disaster and climate change impacts in the WASH sector and mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mechanisms into WASH programming (risk-informed) at the local and national levels.
- Improving the WASH cluster coordination at the local level to capacitate the WASH service providers in emergencies through effective coordination.

The trainings of WASH response to the cyclone Remal aims to enhance DPHE staff's emergency preparedness and skills for the emergency WASH response in remal affected areas of Khulna and Barishal districts.

3. Activity Overview:

The second phase of the capacity development program started in March. Previously, from the second phase, the activity report (reimbursed) for training at Chattogram and two consultation workshops was submitted. Following the success of the previous initiatives, additional activities were organized to further develop the capacity of the WASH professional and address water supply, sanitation, and hygiene challenges during disasters. The activities are:

- Three additional divisional training sessions were arranged in Sylhet, Faridpur, and Rajshahi for the respective DPHE circles. Along with WASH Cluster meetings that were held for each district in Sylhet, Faridpur, and Rajshahi.
- A consultative workshop took place in Dhaka on emergency preparedness and response in WASH for urban areas
- A three-day residential Training of Trainers (ToT) was scheduled at the Sarah Resort in Gazipur.
- Development of Rapid Assessment Data Collection App
- Orientation Training Program on WASH response to the cyclone Remal at Barishal and Khulna Division

4. Description of Activities

4.1. Capacity Development Divisional Training

The training programs were arranged in three districts at Sylhet, Faridpur, and Rajshahi representing their respective DPHE circles. There were a total of seven sessions conducted over two days in addition to an opening and a closing session, covering a wide range of topics such as climate change impacts, disaster management, regulatory frameworks, and WASH technologies for emergencies.

The sessions were:

- Session 1: Climate Change and Its Impacts on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



- Session 2: Disasters and Impacts on WASH Infrastructures in Bangladesh
- Session 3: Stakeholders' Roles in DRR and Emergency Preparedness and Response in WASH
- Session 4: Standards and Guidelines for WASH during Disasters and Emergency Response
- Session 5: Climate Resilient WASH Technologies
- Session 6: WASH Services in Disasters and Emergency Response
- Session 7: Emergency Response Planning and Implementation in WASH



Figure 1: Facilitators addressing the participants in Sylhet (a), Faridpur (b) and Rajshahi (c)

Participants were actively involved in various tasks and activities during the sessions, including group work to identify indicators and impacts of climate change, quizzes conducted through Mentimeter, and discussions on real-life problems related to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene during disasters. The training program was facilitated by experts working in the WASH sector of Bangladesh with a specialty in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and WASH in an emergency. The facilitators of the 2-day training program were:

- A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman, Superintending Engineer, Store Circle, DPHE, Dhaka
- Maharam Dakua, Consultant, DPHE
- Dilruba Farzana, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Dhaka
- Md. Yasin Arafat, Executive Engineer, Store Division, Dhaka
- Rebeka Ahsan, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Chattogram (Store Division)
- Dalila Afroze, Executive Engineer, AMD, DPHE, Dhaka



Figure 2: Group work on emergency response plan at Sylhet (a), Faridpur (b), and Rajshahi (c)

4.2. WASH Cluster Meeting:

A WASH cluster meeting was arranged at the end of the sessions of each of the three divisional training. The meeting was organized for Sylhet, Faridpur, and Rajshahi districts where the participants from these districts, who attended the training, took part. The members of the meeting

were the DPHE Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineers, Sub-Assistant Engineers of DPHE, Estimators and draftsmen, UNICEF representatives, and NGO representatives who are members of the WASH Cluster. At the beginning of the meeting, a brief overview of the objectives of the WASH Cluster and its scope of work as outlined by the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) and other guidelines was provided by Maharam Dakua. The WASH Cluster meetings were chaired by the Executive Engineer of DPHE. The meeting focused on establishing the WASH Cluster at the district level, determining its structure, and frequency of meetings, and defining its scope of work. The outcomes of the meeting included the submission of a 5W matrix to outline WHO, WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, and WHOM work is being done. It was agreed to hold WASH Cluster meetings every three months.



Figure 3: WASH Cluster meeting conducted for the districts Sylhet (a), Faridpur (b), and Rajshahi(c)

4.3. Consultative Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response in WASH for Urban Areas

A consultative workshop was arranged at the ITN seminar room, BUET, Dhaka on 20 May 2023 to understand the dynamics and challenges of water supply and sanitation in disasters in urban areas and identify solutions to address the challenges in urban areas. A total of 25 participants attended the workshop. Among the participants were Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers, NGO representatives, and other Government officials. The workshop was facilitated by A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman, Superintending Engineer, Store Circle, DPHE, and Maharam Dakua, Consultant, DPHE.



Figure 4: Consultative workshop on emergency preparedness and response in WASH in urban areas held at ITN Seminar room, BUET, Dhaka

4.4. Expert Input for Module Development, App Development, and Reporting

After the conclusion of the divisional training, the feedback of the participants was used to update the training module. Maharam Dakua, Consultant, DPHE gave expert input for module updating and development of additional tools. The workshop presentations and materials were also prepared along with the development of the training module with the support from Mr. Junayed Shahrial and Mr. Shafiqul Alam. They also worked as support staff in the workshop and trainings.

4.5. Data Collection App Development

Due to the lack of an appropriate data collection tool, many times, it is hard to deliver the data at the right time to the right person during and after a disaster. This often causes the breach of authentication of data. Common feedback from the participants of the training was to develop an app for rapid data collection and assessment by which it will be easy to deliver authentic data to the higher authority so that decision-makers can evaluate the damage of a disaster in WASH in a quick time. Hence, a mobile app development expert was hired and a rapid assessment data collection app was developed for the DPHE officials.



Figure 5: Demonstration of Rapid Assessment Data Collection App (a), App interface (b), and Participants giving their feedback on the app (c)

4.6. Final Training of Trainers (ToT):

The training module was updated following the conclusion of the nine divisional training sessions, and this led to the scheduling of a three-day residential Training of Trainers (ToT) at Sarah Resort in Gazipur, from May 24-26, 2024. A total of 19 participants attended the ToT program. There were four representatives from NGOs and INGOs and fifteen executive engineers. The Chief Engineer and the Additional Chief Engineers were also present in the program. A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman, Superintending Engineer, Store Circle, DPHE, and Maharam Dakua, Consultant, DPHE, led the ToT program. The ToT program had many engaging individual tasks and group works which were evaluated by the facilitator. The rapid assessment data collection app was demonstrated in the last session where the participants learned its functions. They also gave their feedback for further development of the app.



Figure 6: Training of Trainers (ToT) program held at Sarah Resort Gazipur

4.7. Orientation Training for the DPHE Field Staff under UNICEF Supported DPHE WASH Response to the Cyclone Remal at Barisal and Khulna Division

The training programs were arranged for the Barishal and Khulna division representing their respective DPHE circles on July 3 and 4, 2024 respectively. There were Eight sessions in the one day training program in addition to an opening and a closing session, covering a wide range of topics such as WASH Facilities Site Selection Criteria & Obligation, disaster management, regulatory frameworks, WASH technologies for emergencies, Financial Management, Audit and Project reporting, WASH Cluster Coordination and Accountability for Affected Population (AAP).

The sessions were:

- Session 1: Natural Disaster and Impact on WASH Infrastructures in Bangladesh and WASH in Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Session 2: WASH Facilities Site Selection Criteria & Obligation
- Session 3: Climate Resilient Water & Sanitation Facilities (technology)
- Session 4: Standards and Guidelines for WASH during Disasters and Emergency Response
- Session 5: WASH Facilities Operations and Maintenance
- Session 6: Project Management, Monitoring & Reporting
- Session 7: Financial Management, Audit and Project reporting
- Session 8: WASH Cluster Coordination and Accountability for Affected Population (AAP)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 7: Training for the WASH Response to the Cyclone Remal at Barisal(a) and Khulna(b)

The training program was facilitated by experts working in the WASH sector of Bangladesh with a specialty in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and WASH in an emergency. The facilitators of the 2-day training program were:

- A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman, Superintending Engineer, Store Circle, DPHE, Dhaka

- Saleha Khatun, WASH Officer, UNICEF, Bangladesh
- Furqan Ahmed, WASH Officer, UNICEF, Barisal
- Tarek Khan, WASH Officer, UNICEF, Cox's Bazar
- Nahid Mahmud, WASH Officer UNICEF, Khulna

5. Conclusion

The effective execution of the training programs and the workshop for DPHE engineers, Government officials, and NGO professionals across 35 districts stand as a commendable achievement in a very short time. The list of the districts from which DPHE officials participated in the training is provided in [Figure 6](#).

Figure 8: List of participating districts in the capacity development program

Sl. No.	DPHE Circle	Participating Districts
1	Sylhet	Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj
2	Faridpur	Faridpur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Rajbari
3	Rajshahi	Rajshahi, Bogura, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Natore
4	Workshop on Urban Disaster	Bhola, Kushtia, Lalmonirhat, Satkhira, Khulna, Rajshahi, Jhenaidah, Lakshmipur, Nilphamari, Khagrachari, Sherpur, Bandarban, Meherpur, Sirajganj, Chapainawabganj, Sylhet, Dhaka
5	Training of Trainers (ToT)	Dhaka, Netrokona, Kushtia, Nilphamari, Khulna, Natore, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Chattogram, Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, Sherpur

The responses observed in the performances and feedback from participants underscore the success of this initiative. The findings from the workshop, ToT, and the training programs highlight the crucial importance of continuing capacity development in the WASH sector in Bangladesh, especially in the areas of emergency planning and response.

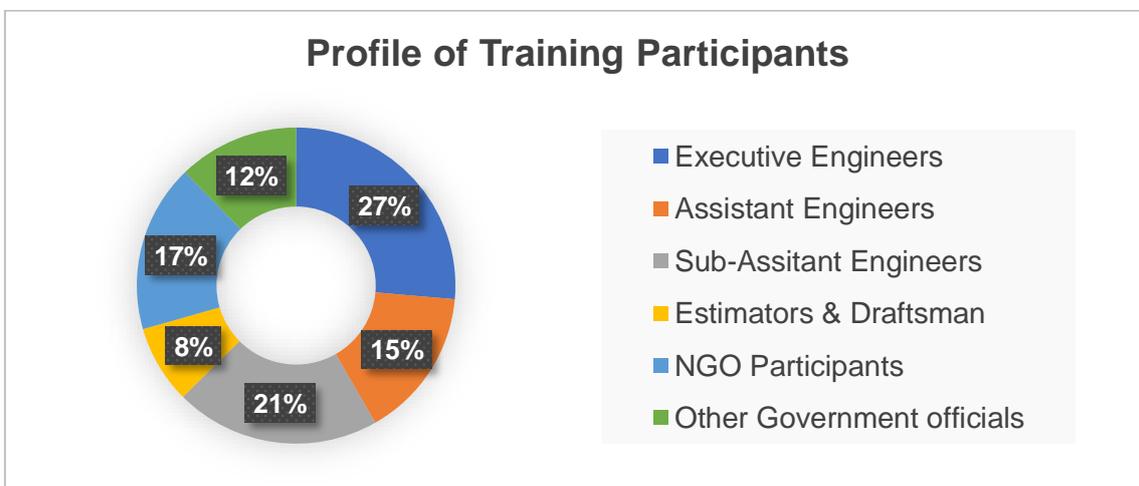


Figure 9: Profile of the Training Participants

A total of 163 participants attended the capacity training programs. Among the participants, there were 43 Executive Engineers, 25 Assistant Engineers, 34 Sub-Assistant Engineers, and 13 Estimators and Draftsmen of DPHE as trainees. In addition, 28 NGO representatives and 20 officials from other departments of government participated in the program.

A total of 131 participants participated in the training for WASH Response to the Cyclone Remal at Barishal and Khulna division. 73 participants were present at Barishal and 58 participants were present in Khulna for the training. Among the participants there were Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Sub-assistant Engineers, Estimators, Draftsmans, and Mechanics.

