

With nationwide training largely completed, DPHE is now expected to take greater ownership in applying the knowledge and skills gained through the project. In this edition of our newsletter, we will provide progress on the activities conducted mainly from January to July of 2025.



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Pic: Guideline training to DPHE Engineers in Sylhet circle 19th Mar 2025

Event

Monitoring & Surveillance (M&S)

Building on previous efforts, DPHE has extended its Monitoring & Surveillance activities across 19 districts during FY2024/25. This expansion includes newly added districts such as Gaibandha, Bogra, Faridpur, Satkhira, Natore, Tangail, Habiganj, Cumilla, and Dhaka. These activities aim to track groundwater levels and assess water quality trends (by monitoring activity) and identification of contamination risks and mitigation approaches (by surveillance activity) to support data-driven and sustainable development planning. Data collection has been nearly completed, and analysis is ongoing to identify potential risks and patterns.

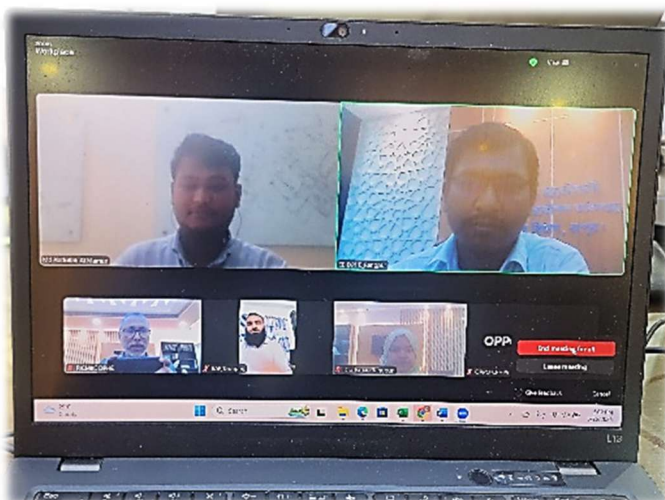
A major emphasis of DPHE's efforts in this fiscal year has been focused on strengthening capacity at the local level. A total of 830 personnel received hands-on training in various key areas including water sampling for arsenic, iron, chloride, and fecal coliform, as well as water safety data collection, digital data management, and standardized reporting techniques. These training sessions were conducted through workshops supported by PICMaC-DPHE (Phase- 2).

To enhance learning, DPHE introduced innovative training tools such as replica water models, which helped improving participants' comprehension and efficiency in real-life sampling and data entry tasks. Feedback from the field highlighted the pressing issues including the lack of permanent observation wells, insufficient access to digital water level meters, and resource limitations in remote unions and districts and lacking functional of the water quality laboratories.

DPHE has taken note of these challenges and emphasized the importance of adaptive planning using continuous field feedback. Looking ahead to FY2025/26, DPHE plans to continue Monitoring & Surveillance in the same districts to consolidate gains and prepare for wider expansion.



Pic : M&S training by using replica water models in Habiganj



Pic : Online communication to support M&S activities between field office and project team

Event

GL Training results and monitoring activities

Starting from early 2025, DPHE launched an extensive training program on the Comprehensive Technical Guideline (GL) for all field-level Assistant Engineers (AEs), Sub-Assistant Engineers (SAEs), and estimators. The GL training has been successfully conducted in all field circles, across the country. A seminar will be held for HQ and Project Offices within this year.

So far, a total of 680 engineers and estimators from field level DPHE have participated in the training sessions. The training aimed to build a thorough understanding of GL's structure and its practical application in day-to-day operational and project-based activities in diverse geographical contexts.

The day-long field training sessions focused on the introduction to the guideline, implementation of Development Project Proposals (DPP), and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of water supply systems. Sessions included interactive discussions and problem-solving exercises, allowing participants to share field-level experiences and provide insightful feedback, particularly on improving sections related to procurement processes and the integration of new, context-appropriate technologies.

Each session concluded with a comprehensive test to evaluate participants' understanding. Impressively, nearly 100% of participants scored over 80%, demonstrating the effectiveness and clarity of the training content and delivery.

An online survey questionnaire has been sent to all DPHE engineers to monitor Guideline usage by them lately. By the office order, the recipients submitted their answers. The project team is currently evaluating the results based on the submitted questionnaires. If you have not yet provided your response, we kindly request you to do so at your earliest convenience. This activity will be implemented on a regular basis as part of periodic operations.

WRPM platform development

From December 2024 to June 2025, significant progress has been made on the Water Resources Potential Map (WRPM) Platform under the PICMaC-DPHE Phase-2 project, which aims to strengthen DPHE's capacity in water supply and resource planning. A major milestone was the establishment of a hydrogeological data platform designed to systematically gather key data such as chloride, arsenic, iron concentrations, borelogs, and groundwater levels from local DPHE offices. Initial efforts have focused on borelog data, vital for identifying and analyzing the first and second aquifers.

Parallel advancements have been achieved in the development of a dynamic, web-based mapping system. Most core functionalities are now in place, and the full platform will soon provide an intuitive, interactive interface for visualizing water



Pic : Guideline training to AEs, SAEs and Estimators in Faridpur circle 8th Apr 2025

Pic : Online questionnaire form for monitoring GL utilization



Pic : Discussion for online platform development with system contractor



resources data, significantly improving planning and decision-making capabilities.

In an effort to build a more comprehensive national picture, the team has initiated strategic collaboration with D-WASA and C-WASA. Proprietary data shared by these agencies will be exchanged with WRPM water potentiality results at the project's conclusion, enhancing mutual benefit and enabling a more complete national water assessment.

Ongoing technical oversight is provided by the project's Technical Working Group (TWG). To further refine aquifer analysis and delineation, two external experts from Dhaka University and BWDB are being invited to join in the specialized aquifer analysis team. Their expertise is expected to deepen the project's analytical strength and ensure more accurate assessment of Bangladesh's groundwater resources.

Manual preparation for supporting Pourashava piped water supply system

Under this project, O&M manual for Pourashava piped water supply for DPHE Engineers has been prepared. In February 2025, the first draft of the O&M manual was finalized following thorough internal review within the project team. This manual was developed using information gathered through field surveys, with the aim of aligning its content with the actual conditions of piped water supply operations in local towns across Bangladesh. However, recognizing that the draft did not fully capture the on-the-ground realities, it was decided that further improvement was necessary through a formal review by DPHE personnel.

To this end, six DPHE Engineers with practical experience in managing piped water supply systems in secondary towns were nominated as reviewers. On February 27, a briefing session was held to officially request their cooperation. During the session, the project team explained the background and purpose of the manual, its role within the broader project, key review points, and the schedule moving forward. Agreement for collaboration was secured.

Between March and April, the nominated reviewers provided valuable feedback, which was incorporated into the revised second draft, completed in June. This updated version of the manual is intended to be used as training material in the upcoming Training of Trainers (TOT) session scheduled for September 2025.

As the manual's use in TOT requires approval from the Technical Working Group (TWG), review requests have been sent and third draft revision will be made according to those members advice.

The project team would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the DPHE Engineers who contributed to this activity, especially those involved in the review process.



Pic: Discussion for WRPM updating in TWG, 20th May 2025



Pic: Example page of drafted O&M manual



Pic: Meeting for the manual reviewing with selected DPHE reviewers



Upcoming Schedule (August 2025– February 2026)

Activity	2025					2026	
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Output 1-1: Guideline dissemination							
Monitor DPHE's GL utilization: Answer online questionnaire							
Monitor DPHE's GL utilization: Evaluation							
Conduct dissemination seminar to HQ							
Output 1-2: Monitoring & Surveillance (M&S)							
Preparation of M&S activity in FY2025/26							
Training and orientation							
Data collection in fields and reporting							
Output 2: Water resources potential maps (WRPMs)							
Prepare user manual of WRPMs							
Support DPHE's data collection and arrangement for updating WRPMs							
Prepare update plan of the WRPMs							
Output 3: O&M support for Pourashava piped scheme							
Preparing for O&M support manual							
Conduct TOT to DPHE engineers							
Prepare further training plan for DPHE field office							

: Training
 : Office work
 : Field activity by DPHE

PICMaC-DPHE (Phase-2) Activities and flows*

