

# Review of the Water Safety Plan (WSP) Seminar

11 December 2007



**IDB Bhaban  
Rokeya Sharani  
Dhaka**

**WaterAid – water for life**  
Dedicated exclusively to the  
provision of safe domestic  
water, sanitation and hygiene  
e d u c a t i o n

## **WaterAid Bangladesh**

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On the 11 December 2007 a half-day WSP Seminar was held at IDB Bhaban Meeting Room, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka organised by WaterAid Bangladesh Water Safety Plan and Capacity Building (WSP&CB) Cell organised the seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to:

1. Share WAB experiences and learning of WSP initiatives among sector actors,
2. Display and disseminate WSP related IEC/ BCC materials developed by WAB,
3. Obtain feedback from sector actors on the materials and activities for further review,

Detailed seminar programme was as follows –

Time	Activities
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Address and Seminar Objectives- Mr. Azahar Ali, Country Representative (Acting), WAB</li> <li>• Speech of Chief Guest and Seminar Inauguration- Prof. M. Feroze Ahmed, BUET</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Key Note Paper on WSP:</b> Perspective, Significance and Applicability of WSP in Bangladesh Presented by Mr. Sk. Abu Jafar Shamsuddin, ITN
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Water Safety Plan (WSP):</b> WSP experiences of WAB initiatives Presented by Mr. Azahar Ali, Country Representative (Acting), WAB
12:00 – 12:30	Comments from Discussants
12:30 – 13:15	Plenary discussion on Key Note Paper and WAB initiatives
13:15 – 13:30	Closing remarks
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch and closing</b>

The range of WSP related IEC/ BCC materials developed and used by WAB were displayed in the foyer area.

The seminar started with the welcome address delivered by Mr. Azahar Ali, Acting Country Representative of WaterAid Bangladesh and inaugurated by Prof. M. Feroze Ahmed, Prof. of Civil/ Environmental Engineering, BUET.

Prof. M. Feroze Ahmed highlighted some of the key aspects in WSP both globally and locally. He also kindly chaired the morning session.



The first presentation was by Abu Jafar Shamsuddin of ITN-BUET.

### **Presentation 1: Keynote Presentation on WSP: Perspective, Significance and Applicability in Bangladesh – Abu Jafar Shamsuddin**

The presentation covered the overall global scenario regarding water borne diseases, the main concepts of WSP and the importance and applicability of the WSP in the Bangladesh context. The WSP was expanded upon with discussion on health based targets and independent surveillance.

The presenter highlighted that WSPs were continuous and required continually revisiting to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant to the context and technologies.

The 2004 APSU study was introduced, with importance given to the guiding frameworks developed for various context specific technologies, relevant IEC/ BCC materials and pilots which were carried out through several organisations; WaterAid, DPHE-Unicef, NGO-F, EPRC, Dhaka Community Hospital, DASCOH and BAMWASP. It was noted that overall WSPs were positive yet there remained areas where further attention was needed; mainly capacity building and the development of more appropriate materials and tools.

**Abu Jafar Shamsuddin** discussed some of the challenges that those implementing WSPs faced; everyone agreed that the scale of implementing WSPs was a major problem but believed that with increased expertise in Bangladesh – developed through NGOs, increased involvement of local governments and the utilisation of training organisations such as ITN, that this was possible.

It was also identified that WSPs were, at present, not of importance to key decision makers and as a result were absent from the national drinking water policy. An increased importance at a national level would encourage donor and GoB supported projects.

***Presentation attached - Annex-1***

Refreshments were served while participants were able to browse through the IEC/BCC materials which had been developed and used by WAB during the pilot of WSP.

**Presentation 2: WaterAid Bangladesh - Sharing Seminar on WSP – Azahar Ali, Country Representative (Acting), WAB.**

The objective of the WaterAid Bangladesh presentation was to share the experiences and results of the recent pilot project with sector actors and gain feedback

Based on the experience gained in the APSU pilot study WAB identified WSP as a tool for achieving safe water and effective sanitation for over 6million beneficiaries in Bangladesh. The key focus for implementing WSP was placed on capacity building and the development of appropriate IEC/ BCC materials. The presentation explained some of the methodologies and rationale in implementing the pilot together.

Results of the overall hardware improvements, source bacterial contamination, hygiene behaviour improvements and household bacterial contamination were discussed. Overall the results showed that improvements had been made at both the source and the household, however, activities required more mobilisation for fund raising showed lesser improvements than those for behavioural mobilisation alone such as cleaning of surroundings.

In order to reach the proposed 6 million beneficiaries with safe water and sanitation by 2009, WAB will concentrate on; technical Input, capacity enhancement, HP sessions and IEC/ BCC materials. To date WaterAid have made significant progress with mainstreaming WSP into regular activities; building capacity of CBOs, caretakers and partners staff. IEC/ BCC materials have been finalised and distributed among partners assisting them with training & hygiene promotion sessions and further sharing of WSP messages. These materials are available for wider distribution within the sector upon request.

WAB concluded the presentation identifying the need for LGI Involvement and national policy recognition of WSP for it to be successfully implemented across Bangladesh. Further research is also needed into the safe distances between water points and pit latrines in Bangladesh context to support the WSP requirements. WAB have already initiated an action research with Partner VERC for various contexts in the country.

***Presentation attached as an annex-2***

**Discussion:**

- 1. National Policy on WSP** –The Policy Support Unit (PSU) to the Local Government Division voiced the need for national policy to incorporate WSP. It was recognised that a lot of technical expertise had been developed and experience documented on best practise. PSU identified WSP as an effective tool and incorporation into national policy would ensure that best practises were followed and NGOs and GOs alike implemented it as a uniform approach.
- 2. Emergency Response and WSP** - The Sidr and the applicability of WSP to emergency conditions was raised several times within the seminar. WSP is a management tool for normal operation of water points. It is possible that hygiene promotional and educational activities could extend to cover emergency situations – overall increased education should enable the community to better understand the risks posed and take informed actions to reduce them.

3. **Source Sustainability-** CEGIS raised concern over the installation of tubewells and the lack of concern by the sector in source sustainability. The deep aquifer in Bangladesh is a confined aquifer and therefore it is essential that research is carried out on source longevity and recharge capabilities.
4. **IEC/ BCC materials** – It was identified that within the IEC/ BCC materials that hygiene behaviour messages were not consistent throughout the caretaker manuals. Kolshis can be seen transported without covers – one of WAB WSPs major messages is that containers should be covered during transportation and storage. Thanks were given for the observation. WAB highlighted the importance of such seminars for feedback and have taken the comments on board with respect to making changes for following edition.



WAB would like to thank all the participants for the constructive and interesting debate on WSP and hope that future events will follow to ensure that WSP dialogue continues.

#### **Annexure**

1. Keynote Presentation on WSP: Perspective, Significance and Applicability in Bangladesh – Abu Jafar Shamsuddin
2. WaterAid Bangladesh - Sharing Seminar on WSP – Azahar Ali, Country Representative (Acting), WAB
3. Participants List