

WaterAid Training

on Asian Development Bank



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Report Prepared by:
Syed Ishteaque Ali Jinnah, Ph.D
Director, Policy & Advocacy

Assisted by:
ABM Ziaul Kabir
Programme Officer, Advocacy

Organized by:
WaterAid Bangladesh

Facilitated by:
WaterAid Asia Regional Office, Bank Information Centre-Manila & WaterAid
Bangladesh

WaterAid Bangladesh

House 97/B, Road 25
Banani, Dhaka, 1213
BANGLADESH

Tel. ++880 (0)2 881 5757, 881 8521
Tel/Fax: ++880 (0)2 881 8521
Email: info@wateraidbd.org
Web: www.wateraid.org

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Former WaterAid Country Representative Khandker Zakir Hossain making a point at WaterAid Training session on ADB ToT.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSP	Country Strategy and Programme
CUP	Coalition for Urban Poor
CDP	Coastal Development Partnership
DWASA	Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority
FEJB	Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh
LGD	Local Government Division
MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NGO-Forum	NGO-Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
OCR	Ordinary Capital Rate
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
TA	Technical Assistance
WAB	WaterAid Bangladesh
WAI	WaterAid India
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WatSan	Water Supply and Sanitation



A presentation session at training workshop.

1. BACKGROUND

In 2005 WaterAid undertook a Study of ADB Water and Sanitation projects to feed into the ongoing ADB Comprehensive Water Policy Review. One of the objectives of the Study was “to strengthen the advocacy skills and knowledge of WaterAid Bangladesh’s (WAB’s) local WSS NGO Partners in relation to research, conduct of policy reviews and of the ADB in particular.” WaterAid Partners have been involved in the Study by undertaking their own case studies of ADB projects, participation in consultations and research workshops. This training was organized with partners, journalists and some of the NGOs/CSOs to orient and share learnings from the Study with a focus on the ADB and Multilateral Development Banks in South Asia and ways to influence their projects and policies. The training was jointly organized by WaterAid Asia Regional Office and WaterAid Bangladesh.

2. PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING

In recent years, sustainability and reaching the poorest with development projects have assumed greater importance. It is generally accepted that the current arrangement is not conducive to the promotion of sustainable development. Institutional changes at all levels have to be brought in. The Asian Development Bank, based in Manila, Philippines, is a Multilateral Development Bank with the objective to reduce poverty and invests heavily in the water and sanitation sector in Asia where Bangladesh is no exception. The Training was designed to orient the participants about the ADB structures, policies, strategies, etc. so that the participants can carry out advocacy activities more appropriately with a view to influence the ADB for institutional changes towards pro-poor project planning and implementation.

Keeping these in mind, the following objectives were set:

Overall Training Objective

- To strengthen knowledge and advocacy skills of participants in relation to projects and policies of Multilateral Development Banks, with a focus on the ADB.

Specific Targeted Outcome:

- Participant’s deeper knowledge and understanding about ADB
- Enhanced advocacy skills regarding influencing projects and policies
- Decided action plans for advocacy (and engagement) with ADB

3. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY OF THE TRAINING

The approach and methodology of the Training was participatory with group-work and discussions in plenary.

4. PARTICIPANTS

A total of 26 participants from WAB urban partners, several NGOs and Government Ministries and Agencies related to LGD and DWASA participated in the Training. A complete list of participants is provided in Annex A.

5. TRAINING PROGRAMME

The two day long training began at 9.00 a.m. on January 29, 2006 and concluded on January 30, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. The Training Schedule is provided in Annex B.

5.1 Day 1

The Training began with the participants expressing their expectations which were documented to cross-check at the end whether these had been met. Some of the major expectations are mentioned below.

Expectations

- To learn about ADB policies/strategies towards urban/rural particularly focusing on the Millennium Development Goals on WatSan;
- To understand the issues regarding the urban poor;
- Understanding of ADB and its decision making process;

- Development of joint action plans for engagement with ADB;
- Clarification on issues with ADB for better cooperation.
- Show that ADB is not mysterious and as such open to collaboration;
- Understanding on how does ADB ensure community participation.

Note: The last two bullets, in fact, were expectations of the ADB representatives, present on the first day.

5.2 Session-1: What is ADB?

This session started with a power point presentation of a story about the possible sufferings of people in 2070 due to inadequate water and subsequently covered the issues regarding the structure of ADB, Governance of ADB, Country Strategy and Program (CSP) Priorities, ADB Project Cycle, Where does ADB gets its money from & the Bank's lending mechanism. Details of the presentation are attached in Annex-C.

Besides, a Representative of the ADB Bangladesh Mission made the following complementary clarifications on the presentation in Session-1.

- It was clarified that the ADB funded Technical Assistance (TA) Projects are mostly on grant basis to assist the borrower/national government/ government agencies for building capacity or in preparation of feasibility study for loan project. However, sometimes grant money is used for building capacity of small private sector through “Small Private Sector Window”. For example, introduction and marketing of cell phone at grass roots level through Big Private Companies like Grameen Phone as well as in Power Sector is an example of building capacity of private sector.
- In a few cases it was found that the ADB funded TA were implemented by loan money exclusively for revenue/income generation like cattle rearing, construction of village markets, roads, culverts and institutions like schools, etc. but the amount should be below US\$ 3 million.
- It was also mentioned in another clarification that although interest rate of loan money from Ordinary Capital Rate (OCR) is usually higher, it is not as much as that of commercial banks.
- It was clarified that the ADB Bangladesh Mission was established in 1982. Since then, it has been implementing its programme based on Country Strategy and Programme (CSP) which is generally developed in line with the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)/national targets.
- The House was also informed that, outside the Region, ADB has currently established offices in the United States of America, Australia and Japan for decentralized operation.

5.2.1 Discussion Session

A spontaneous participatory discussion was held in the plenary following the power point presentation in Session-1. Followings are some of the highlights:

- It was discussed that any co-financing development project should comply with the ADB policies even if the amount of **co-financer** (any other donor or bi-lateral/multilateral agencies) is bigger than that of ADB funds. It was also revealed that two types of accounting systems prevail i.e. i. if any co-financing is on the parallel basis, **co-financer** can separately maintain their accounting system themselves or ii. they can also request ADB to maintain their accounting system on their behalf.
- It came out during the plenary that “Poverty Reduction” is the present overall objective of the ADB. Initially, the overall objective of ADB was “Economic Growth” from 1966 and over the time it has been changed.
- There was a lively discussion on who influences whom i.e. is it ADB which influences the recipient developing member countries or the opposite? It was opined by the participants in the discussion that since the educational level of recipient developing member countries of the ADB is comparatively low, they are expected more to be influenced by the ADB and not the other way round.
- There was a discussion on the roles of the ADB's “Knowledge Management Partnership” section. It was said that a new position called “Vice President” has been created to manage this section. It was informed in the meeting that the main role of the section is to gather lessons learnt of the ADB interventions over the last 40 years as well as to provide guidelines/directions for other development interventions. The ADB is intending to act as development think-tank based on their experiences. Questions were raised by the participants on who is the real expert of development- is it grass-roots people or ADB? Concerns were also expressed in the meeting that lessons from local communities on ADB policies over the years have not been fully reflected in the lessons learnt of the ADB Management Partnership as yet.

- Discussion was held on the issue of success rate of the ADB funded projects. It was disclosed in the meeting that success rate of the ADB funded projects is between 40% and 60% based on ADB indicators. It was also informed in the meeting that there are three types of evaluation categories i.e. i. Unsuccessful, ii. Partially successful and iii. Successful for the ADB funded projects. Concern was expressed by the participants that ADB prefers more loan projects to increase their capital rather than go for real-quality works.
- Discussion also centered on the anti-corruption (zero-tolerance) policy mechanism of ADB. It came out that if corruption is found in any stage of any ADB funded project, there are three possible implications i.e. i. Sanction for a numbers of years, ii. Cancellation or iii. Special measure like penalty.
- Immunity status of ADB was discussed in the discussion session. It was said that when ADB was founded, this was one of the arrangements. Moreover, every country that works with ADB agreed on its immunity beforehand.
- On the issue whether there is any mechanism to form steering group involving Civil Society and Media Representatives to implement ADB funded project or not, it was said that the ADB does form steering group involving Civil Society Representatives.
- Discussion took place on the ADB practice of “1 dollar 1 vote”. It was stated that countries who contribute more to ADB, have more votes. As a result, when it comes to voting, countries like Japan and USA have more "hands to raise", and thus have/exert more influence. Therefore, lobbying with those countries is considered more effective than lobbying with countries that donate little money. However, in most cases, projects are approved by consensus.

5.3 Session-2: Why Target ADB?

This session covered the issues regarding ADB in the global development arena, ADB in South Asia, importance of ADB policies, different ADB policies and strategies, the process of the Water Policy Review, the opportunities of engagement & the opportunities for change. During the presentation session, the facilitator shared relevant experiences on how to do policy campaign along with community and protect community against any adverse impact of the ADB funded project. Presentation of this session is attached in Annex-D.

5.3.1 Discussion:

Like Session-1, a discussion session was held in the plenary following this Session. Following are some of the highlights.

- Discussion took place on the possible ways for small NGOs/CBOs to raise concerns against ADB policies and bad impact of the ADB policies or the ADB funded project. According to the ADB representatives, as per its public communication policy, ADB funded project personnel are encouraged to talk with relevant Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in order to boost/involve community participation. Besides, all the ADB projects' informations are available in the Country Strategy Programme (CSP) mentioning about whom to contact against any specific issue. In addition, there is a system of quarterly meeting between the ADB and NGOs. It was also revealed that although ADB mostly funds governments, it also, sometimes, funds NGOs as well.
- On the responsibility to be shouldered should any project fail, it was found that this responsibility usually goes to the national government.

5.3.1.1 Synthesis of this discussion session:

ADB have many good policy documents which sometimes contradict with community demand. Although it appears that in theory, ADB has many good policies, but to make sure these are also good in practice, the role of the CBOs is very important. Therefore it is important for the CSOs to facilitate creating a democratic space for the grass roots people, undertake more lobbying with ADB as well as arrange policy dialogues.

5.4 Session -3: Group Work - Cross-checking of learning

The participants were divided into three groups of 6-7 persons in this Session for group works. The groups were given the assignment of noting their views on two issues i.e. i. Their learning from Sessions 1 & 2, ii. Issues that they felt needed to be clarified and, at the end, were asked to present their group findings in the plenary. Details of these Group Works are provided in Annex-E.

5.4.1 Synthesis of the Group Works:

Learning from Sessions 1 & 2

The participants perceived that ADB has become more than a Bank as it has developed different policies which at least address some of the important development issues like community participation. Simultaneously, the participants acknowledged that there are concerns amongst the stakeholders and that monitoring of the policy implementation is also not adequate.

The participants also stated that they are now acquainted with the national and international structure of ADB and its Country Strategy and Programme formulation process. They also mentioned that although policy decisions in terms of loan approval and Technical Assistance are, as was said, made on consensus basis, contributory share of money i.e. 1 \$ = 1 vote still influences the decision making process.

Issues to be learnt

The participants acknowledged that Knowledge Management Partnership and NGO Centre are positive developments inside ADB structure and as such they want to know details of them. Since understanding of ADB policies is important in terms of doing advocacy, participants were keen to have more understanding on the ADB policy issues.

5.5 Session-4: Sharing of the Country Case Studies' learning (Past and Present) on ADB

Following two presentations were presented in this Session:

Presentation- 1:

Presentation on WaterAid's synthesis report *Water for All? A Study in three countries namely Bangladesh, India and Nepal on the Effectiveness of ADB Funded Water and Sanitation Projects in Ensuring Sustainable Services for the Poor*, prepared for the ADB Water Policy Implementation Review. Details are provided in Annex F.

5.5.1 Discussion:

- It was acknowledged by a representative of the ADB-Bangladesh Mission that the findings of the synthesis report of the ADB Aid Effectiveness are vital in terms of further improvement of ADB funded Water and Sanitation Projects in Ensuring Sustainable Services for the Poor. At the same time, they differed with one of the findings re "Tariffs should include safety nets for the poor and additional revenue (beyond that needed for O&M) should be used to expand network to poor not repay loans" because ADB is a Bank.
- The participants agreed with the findings of the synthesis report and particularly acknowledged that strong community participation lacks in the ADB funded projects. It was specially mentioned that the new generation of the ADB funded projects emphasize the importance of the community participation from the very beginning.

Presentation-2:

Presentation on ongoing ADB project in Dhaka – focusing on project design, implementation, new policy for Dhaka WSS, opportunities for engagement. Details are provided in Annex G.

5.5.2 Discussion:

- The participants generally appreciated the presentation and acknowledged that there are still a plenty of opportunities to be engaged in the ADB funded Dhaka Water Supply Project to make it pro-poor. Some of the participants mentioned that adequate consultations were not followed with the sector stakeholders during the preparation of the draft Dhaka Water Supply Policy.
- A representative of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) clarified that the draft Dhaka Water Policy is still with the DWASA Board and will be sent to the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) for approval within the next one month.

5.6 Day 2

5.7 Session-5: Monitoring Multilateral Development Banks in South Asia

The facilitator in this session focused on sharing of experiences of Civil Society Organizations' involvement in monitoring different MDB-funded projects' problems and their impacts. Details of the presentation are attached on Annex-H.

5.7.1 Discussion:

Elaboration of discussion on the issues of immunity status of MDBs, safe-guard policies of ADB, importance of network building, voting power system of ADB member countries took place in this discussion session. Besides, discussion also took place on the means of communication system of the MDBs. Emphasis was given on the importance of using local language in terms of communication.

5.8. Session-6: How to influence ADB policies and projects?

The facilitator emphasized in this session about the scopes of intervention in terms of exerting influence on ADB policies and projects as per its project cycles and decision making structures. The facilitator also provided focus on building campaign mechanisms and different strategies in order to build understanding on how a campaign can create impact on ADB policies and projects with examples from different countries. Details of the presentation are attached on Annex-I.

5.8.1 Discussion:

It was stressed that it is always important to collect information from local communities before lobbying with ADB. It was also said that there are greater opportunities at the initial stages like in initial social assessment/environmental impact assessment stages to exert influence for positive changes in any ADB funded project. There were discussions on whether there are standard CSO indicators to evaluate the extent of successes of ADB funded projects. It was clarified that CSOs mainly use community assessment in doing evaluation but ADB has some broader indicators to evaluate either any ADB funded projects are unsuccessful or partially successful or successful. Information was also provided in the session about different NGOs/CSOs which are currently active in doing advocacy with MDBs.

5.9 Session-7: Briefing on ADB/WB funded Water Supply and Sanitation Projects

It was an unplanned short session. The facilitator provided a brief description about ADB/WB funded major Water Supply and Sanitation projects. Details of the presented information are attached in Annex-J.

5.10 Session-8: Campaign and Advocacy Planning (How will WaterAid and partners engage the ADB-funded WSS project in Dhaka?)

The facilitator collected some highlights of the 6th session in poster paper of the two days discussions and presentations so that the participants can easily make the joint campaign and advocacy plan. The facilitator then requested each of the participants to suggest way forwards for doing campaign and advocacy for influencing ADB towards pro-poor WSS projects planning and implementation based on their organizations' resources and capacity. The participants provided 33 suggestions for doing campaign and advocacy planning following the directions of the facilitator. The participants were again requested to split into two groups and prioritize top 5 suggestions amongst 33. One volunteer from each group presented their prioritized suggestion in the plenary. The following 5 issues were finally identified for carrying forward in order to doing joint campaign and advocacy activities with the organizations who volunteered and committed to lead the activities. Details of the group works are attached on Annex-K.

Sl. #	Prioritized Activities	Who will be involved	Who will lead	When (month)
1	Info collection	WAB, Plan, DSK, CDP, FEJB, PSTC, PRODIPON, NGO-F	CUP	March
2	Share info	CDP, WAB partners	WAB – WSS CUP–wider-urban	March
3	Negotiate	WAB partners, CDP	WAB,CUP	Now & onwards
4	Media work	WAB, DSK, PSTC, NGOF	FEJB	March
5	Network building	WAB partners	WAB, CUP	End Feb

Action Planning-Review

As the WaterAid Team is supposed to be very busy in February because of the ensuing OPR, it has now been decided that the first Review of the Action Plan would be done in May, 2006 instead of the proposed end of March.

6. Evaluation

In order to assess the extent to which the Training had succeeded or not in achieving its ends as well as to explore possibilities of further improving it in future, an Evaluation was undertaken at the end with each participant filling up a prescribed form on the subject. To ensure free comments and remarks, the participants were told in advance that writing names or other details on the form was not mandatory. Some of the various aspects covered in the Evaluation included accommodation facilities, pre-training information, travel arrangements, catering and, of course, contents of the Training by Session. The Evaluation, as a whole, was very positive from the side of the Participants. However, for a better and more detailed understanding, details of this Evaluation are made available in ANNEX-L.

7. Concluding Session

All the participants generally appreciated WaterAid for organizing the Training and expressed their eagerness to work jointly as per the action plan. Appreciating the interest and dedication shown by the out-of-country Facilitators and WAB staff as well as the considerable devotion showed by the participants in the Training, the Country Representative of WaterAid Bangladesh emphasized on the importance of implementation of the newly-developed action plan as an important activity to be undertaken in the coming days. Thanking all involved in the Training and wishing success in the ensuing implementation of the action plan, he officially declared the end of the Training.

8. Annexes

Annexes can be provided on request to amin@wateraidbd.org.