

## Celebration of World Water Day-2019

### Call of the Honorable Prime Minister



*"I would like to request you all to stop discharging wastes into rivers... Every industrial unit will have to have waste management system so that it does not pollute rivers," said the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while addressing a function organised by Water Resources Ministry at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital, marking the World Water Day 2019. She also urges to pay special attention to maximising the use of surface water reducing dependency on underground water.*

Upholding the theme '**Leaving no one behind**' the World Water Day (WWD) 2019 was observed on April 11, 2019. The theme was an adaptation of the central promise of attaining the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 by 2030 since it committed to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all. As the goal includes all, it means no one will be left behind.

NGO Forum for Public Health, in collaboration with relevant government ministries, departments, key stakeholders of WaSH sectors and alliances, observed the day in a festive mood.



A Colorful procession of for celebrating World Water Day, 2019 at Dhaka

The Ministry of Water Resources was the leading body in organizing the rally and discussion session.

NGO Forum was cordially invited by the leading body to participate in the rally and discussion session and representation were ensured in both the events. Around thousands of people from different relevant government bodies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participated in the rally. The rally started from the South Plaza of National Parliament and ended in front of the Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

The Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the discussion session as Chief Guest. In her inaugural speech the premier encouraged all stakeholders to ensure effective management of water resources, supply system and best of its inclusive uses for all. She made an urge to all concerns for undertaking appropriate actions aiming to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 while

reinforcing the government's commitment regarding this.

NGO Forum for Public Health, at its regional and district level offices has also organized different events in celebrating the World Water day 2019. The regional offices facilitated to organize rallies, discussion sessions and ensure engagement of communities, local government representatives, civil society members, media personnel, development partners, respective departments and sectors and stakeholders. During the WWD, NGO Forum provided special focus on people who are in emergencies.

To ensure safe WaSH and sound environment for a healthy society, NGO Forum has been contributing in the sector in line with the government directions. The organization has also made significant efforts to formulate national policies and guidelines regarding WaSH. NGO Forum always strives to follow national policies and procedures while ensuring the engagement of the communities and relevant stakeholders into the interventions. The organization is also very willing to share learning and experiences among the stakeholders.

## World Water Day Message

**Antonio Guterres**  
*United Nations Secretary General*



**W**ater is a human right. Nobody should be denied access. This World Water Day is about upholding this right for all, leaving no one behind.

Today, 2.1 billion people live without safe water due to factors such as economic status, gender, ethnicity, religion, and age. Growing demands, coupled with poor management, have increased water stress in many parts of the world. Climate change is adding dramatically to the pressure. By 2030, an estimated 700 million people worldwide could be displaced by intense water scarcity.

We must encourage cooperation to tackle the global water crisis and strengthen our resilience to the effects of climate change to ensure access to water for all, especially for the most vulnerable. These are vital steps towards a more peaceful and prosperous future. As we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must value water resources and ensure their inclusive management if we are to protect and use this vital resource sustainably for the benefit of all people.

## Special Supplement on Water Advocacy Inclusive WaSH in Bangladesh: the Perspective and Advocacy

– **Mohammad Abdul Mannan**

During the last decade, Bangladesh has improved significantly not only on national water and sanitation coverage, but also in other sectors. Bangladesh has achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. However, there are still some unserved areas which received very little attention due to geophysical, socio-cultural and economic situation with very small scale infrastructural development, and poor road communication network in particular water and sanitation coverage. Extreme poverty in these hard to reach areas exacerbates the water and sanitation crisis. While the Government of Bangladesh has set its targets of achieving full coverage of water and sanitation by 2011 and 2013 respectively, special attention is needed in different aspects of development including technological options, social mobilization, financial resources, and service delivery mechanism because of special geographical, hydro-geological and social settings.

Basically, the MDGs were determined to address the issue of coverage only. In contrast, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses both on the coverage and quality of development in all the respective sectors. A survey data revealed that about 86% of total population in Bangladesh have access to drinking water. 61% of its population have sanitation facilities but about 40% toilets are not hygienic. The BBS survey data shows that about 47.7% households are still using unsafe water. 12.5% households have to use arsenic contaminated water in different areas in Bangladesh since they do not have any alternatives. The survey data by ITN-BUET in CWIS national consultation meeting in Dhaka has shown that 1% of population are still defecating openly. There is no specific survey data to explore the WaSH situation in healthcare facilities in Bangladesh, but the maternal and new born mortality rates in Bangladesh indicate that water borne and water infectious diseases are the vital causes of these unexpected deaths.

We know that there are 17 sustainable development goals and 169 specific targets, and these targets have to be achieved by 2030. Among these SDGs and targets, the SDG-6 is the most important, as because, achieving SDG-6 will be contributing and supporting to achieve other SDGs. The Sustainable Development Goal-6 described about clean water and sanitation for all. The SDG-6.1 is for drinking water, 6.2 is for sanitation and hygiene, 6.3 water quality and wastewater, 6.4 water use and scarcity, 6.5 water resources management and 6.6 ecosystem. Henceforth, the achievement or the failure of other SDGs is partially depending on how effectively the SDG-6 has achieved.

It is important to establish inclusive Water Management and Supply system to achieve SDG-6. The CWIS system is a new option that may be potential to introduce and bring in practice to reduce difficulties of achieving our target by 2030. The functions of the water supply and sanitation sector in Bangladesh are primarily guided by the policies and strategies that include the National Policy for Safe Water Supply & Sanitation (NPSWSS), 1998, National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation & Implementation Plan, 2004 (NAMIP) National Sanitation Strategy (NSS), 2005 Pro-Poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation Sector (PPSWSS), 2005, the National Sector Development Program (SDP) for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2010.

Most of the policy papers and supporting guidelines were developed and approved for achieving the millennium development goals by 2015. If we want to achieve our next course of targets by 2030, the government and respective sectors must need to review and update the policies, guidelines for supporting the multiple short-term, mid-term and long term development programs for SDGs. Otherwise, it would be very tough to make progress towards our expected outcomes with having limitations and challenges such as lack of skilled human resources to operate and manage critical objectives and technical activities. The capacity building of human resource is not only the first requirement for the government sectors but it is also a priority issue for the private, development organizations, civil society and communities as well. The project management capacities and quick implementation both in the government and private sectors in Bangladesh are lagging behind. Awareness raising for common understanding among citizen is important to ensure benefits of development program equally. Collaboration and integration among multiple initiatives are crucial to ensure sustainable development through our upcoming development projects. Engagements of different sectors including professionals,

private sectors, NGOs, development partners, local government institutions and communities are key before designing a comprehensive development programs to support for achieving the SDGs.

Overlapping is observed since the respective sectors have undertaken a lot of initiatives to make significant progress to achieve the individual SDG. A proper collaboration and coordination mechanisms would be helpful to minimize the overlapping and avoiding duplication, and it would support using our revenue appropriately and saving it. We need a holistic approach in program designing and specify the roles and responsibilities (who will do what). Thus, we will achieve the goals together.

NGO Forum has been involved as the apex networking and service delivery body of NGOs, CBOs and private sector operators in the WaSH sector of Bangladesh. Based on its pioneer role in the Public Health sector, NGO Forum has been implementing interventions on WaSH, health, nutrition, environment, DRR, humanitarian assistance, rights & governance, adaptation to climate change and etc. Extensive network with diversified partners and its experience helps the organization to undertake initiatives in the hard-to-reach & unserved hydro-geological locations of the country. Being a rights-based organization, NGO Forum utilizes its proven experiences as development partner with all concerned government bodies, LGIs and duty bearers, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, civil society, media, national and international agencies, development partners and other stakeholders to implement multifaceted development interventions. All these interventions have a direct or indirect linked with SDG-3, 6,13 and 16. Therefore, the ultimate impacts of the interventions undertaken by the organization have been contributing to achieve the targets of the above SDGs.

## Field Level Observance Call to Ensure Governance: Water is a Human Right

The Field offices of NGO Forum observed the World Water Day at different levels. In light of the theme “Leaving no one behind” the team in Ukhiya Upazila organized rally, discussion session, cultural event and Art/Quiz competition in celebrating the Day on April 11, 2019. The above activities to celebrate the day was organized under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner Land, Mr. Fakhru Islam as a representative of UNO. Mr. Ibrahim Khalil, Sub Assistant Engineer (SAE)- DPHE, Ukhiya and Mr. Mosarraf Hossain, Project Coordinator, NGO Forum-UNICEF project, Upazila level government officials from different departments, teachers and students of different Institutes, journalists and almost all WaSH actor representatives including Mr. Asif Ahmed, PM, NGO Forum AAR Japan Project attended the event. Likewise, The UNHCR project of NGO Forum has organized various types of events such as rally, open discussion, art competition and cultural function at camps 5 & 17 on 25 March 2019. The Honorable Commissioner of RRRRC Mr. Abul Kalam, ndc attended at the ceremony as chief guest while Mr. S.M.A Rashid, Executive Director of NGO Forum for Public Health was present as special guest. The event was presided by Mr. Obaidullah, CIC of camp 5 & 17. Mr. Ataur Rahman, Project Coordinator, NGO Forum, UNHCR Project, Mr. Shahidul Islam, DPM, NGO Forum, AAR Japan project and other govt. and non govt. organization representatives participated in the events. Mr. Rafiqul Islam Majumder,



DPC, UNHCR project facilitated the event. WaSH focal ACF, NGO Forum's AAR Japan project and other WaSH actors jointly organized a colorful rally and discussion meeting on the occasion of World Water Day on 11 April 2019 at Camp 11 assisted by ActionAid. Mr. Zahid Akter, CIC Camp 11 was the chief guest and ACIC Mr. Sujit Kumar was special guest in the event.



**Launching of SPPLG Project**

NGO Forum launched a project titled "Strengthening Pro-poor & Participatory Local Governance Project" on 5 May 2019 at Rangpur. The objective of this three year project is to support 30,000 people from pro-poor groups living in the City Corporation areas under WaSH facilities implemented by respective government bodies. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Rangpur City Corporation. Mr. Md. Mustafizar Rahman, Honorable Mayor of Rangpur City Corporation attended the launching programme as chief guest while Mr. S. M. A. Rashid, Executive Director of NGO Forum was the chair. The Chief Engineer of DPHE Rangpur, Civil Surgeon Rangpur District and the Chief Engineer of Rangpur City Corporation were present as special guests. The city corporation, representatives of respective departments and sectors, members of Civil Society Organizations, INGOs, NGOs and other development partners attended the launching session.



**Visit of Unicef Officials**

On May 19, 2019, Chief of WaSH, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Dara Johnston visited camp 6 to observe NGO Forum's WaSH activities including piped water network, ABR FSM, Latrines, Tube wells and MHM Learning centers. He was accompanied by the WaSH Manager-Martin Worth, Programme Specialist-Climate and Environment-Cristine, WaSH Specialist-Zahidul Islam Mamun and WaSH Officer-Kabita Yesmin and other representatives of NGO Forum.



**MoU Signing Ceremony with CWASA**

In order to implement the Integrity Management Project with Chattogram WASA



(supported by Water Integrity Network) for the period of 2019, an MOU has been signed between Chattogram WASA and NGO Forum for Public Health on 7th March 2019 at CWASA Conference Room, Chattogram.

**Inauguration of Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Happy Announcer: Mr. Abul Kalam, NDC. Additional Secretary, Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner of the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management, Ministry of People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Waste Water Treatment Plant & Faecal Sludge Management facilities, Nayapara & Noor Ali Para, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. Mr. S.M.A. Rashid, Executive Director was also present at the ceremony.



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