

The Bangladesh Water Integrity Network Brief

The Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN) is a multi-stakeholder network of water sector institutions at national and sub-national levels as well as individuals committed to promote integrity in the water sector on Bangladesh through research, projects, campaigns and advocacy engaging various stakeholders.

Background

In 2007, Berlin based Water Integrity Network Secretariat (WIN-S) organized a South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector in Dhaka, Bangladesh. As an outcome of the workshop, BAWIN was launched in 2009 with the involvement of TI-B, WIN-S and other organizations working in the water sector, where the major focus was promoting water integrity through policy brief, advocacy, institutional engagement etc. In 2014, WIN-S funding initiated a water integrity programme with BAWIN for 2014-2016.

The activities planned during the Year 2014-2016 are divided into two categories. Firstly, the overall activities that will be carried out by BAWIN with financial support from WIN-S and secondly, potential projects in partnerships with other projects or with funds from development partners contributing in the water sector of Bangladesh. Accordingly, the programme is designed in a manner that offers scope of leveraging BAWIN's own activities on water integrity with other projects such as the Climate Finance Governance Project of TI-B, and the Blue Gold Project and Delta Plan 2100 funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN).

The funds for the BAWIN programme are drawn from the DGIS (Directorate-General for International Cooperation) which supports five country programme on water integrity, of which Bangladesh is one. These country programmes will be mutually reinforcing through a multi-level approach combining advocacy, knowledge sharing, documentation of country cases and capacity building.

Vision

BAWIN's vision is a water sector in Bangladesh representing highest standards of integrity, transparency and accountability (TAP) so that the people at large, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, are ensured of their right of access to water for life and livelihoods.

Values

BAWIN's values are transparency, accountability, integrity, honesty and respect for equality of all. The network is committed to promoting equitable access to information and meaningful participation of all stakeholders within the Government and outside, particularly local communities, civil society and media as a means of achieving its goals.

Objectives

Created as an initiative of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), BAWIN's objectives are to:

- Stimulate public debate and support for integrity in the water sector in Bangladesh by promoting transparency and accountability in policies and actions affecting the sector;
- Help institutions in the water sector to measurably improve transparency and accountability in policies, programmes and operations through knowledge and fact-based advocacy, campaign and engagement; and

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- Facilitate change that improves content and quality of services in the water sector with particular emphasis on sustainable livelihood of all, especially the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society.

Strategic Programme Focus

The strategic focus is on building BAWIN as a strong autonomous initiative and independent voice for integrity that can provide support, advice, training and offer partnership or membership to other stakeholders not yet involved

Strategic Focus 1: Institutional Capacity Enhancement on Water Integrity

- Target different stakeholders, in the water and related sectors, to generate a pool of water integrity trainers, facilitators and Water Integrity (WI) ambassadors.
- Build capacity through module development and training.

Strategic Focus 2: Promoting Integrity in Water Management

- Promote integrity in water management through coalitions and partnerships.
- Undertake a country wide risk assessment of corruption in the water sector by conducting a water integrity baseline study and mapping stakeholders, risks, and opportunities.

Strategic Focus 3: National Advocacy

- Advocate with government agencies & policy makers to include water integrity in relevant laws and policies.

Strategic Focus 4: Research, Communications and Awareness-raising

- Develop knowledge on water integrity and sharing the knowledge/evidence generated with sector specific stakeholders and citizens
- Undertake communications and awareness rising on WI and WI tools.

Key Activities

BAWIN will undertake a series of activities which are detailed out in the BAWIN proposal. Below are some of the key activities that BAWIN will undertake on a priority basis:

- Integrity in Urban water management (joint project planned with Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority).
- Integrity approaches in WASH activities in Bangladesh (engaging with WASH Alliance and their local partners).
- Enhancing water integrity activities to strengthen participatory water management in the Dutch supported Blue Gold project and Delta Plan 2100.
- Strengthening integrity in water and climate change adaptation projects in conjunction with the Climate Finance Governance Programme, TI-Bangladesh.

Membership

The strength of BAWIN is in its membership, including institutional as well as individual members, who are committed to high standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in the water sector.

Secretariat

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