



USAID
আমেরিকার জনগণের পক্ষ থেকে



World Vision

“উন্নয়ন অগ্রযাত্রায় পানির ন্যায্যতা”



Convention Report

2nd Coastal Water Convention 2019

1-2 August, Khulna



World Food Programme
wfp.org







*“Strengthening governance,
enhancing private sector engagement,
protecting eco-system and adaptation
to climate change impact”*





2nd Coastal Water Convention 2019

Organized by:

2nd Coastal Water Convention 2019 Organizing Committee

Publication Support:

Nobo Jatra Project, World Vision Bangladesh

Lead Reporter:

Mehzabin Rupa, World Vision Bangladesh

Reporting and Documentation Team:

Rubayat Ahsan, Shrabanti Debnath, Tawhidul Alam, Faima Rahman & Mandira Guha Neogi of World Vision Bangladesh

Editors:

Mohammed Norul Alam Raju, World Vision Bangladesh
Saeqah Kabir, World Vision Bangladesh

The convention report includes the findings and photographs from 2nd Coastal Water Convention 2019 in Khulna

This convention report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of World Vision Bangladesh and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Photograph:

Falguni Mozumder, World Vision Bangladesh
Suborno Chisim, World Vision Bangladesh

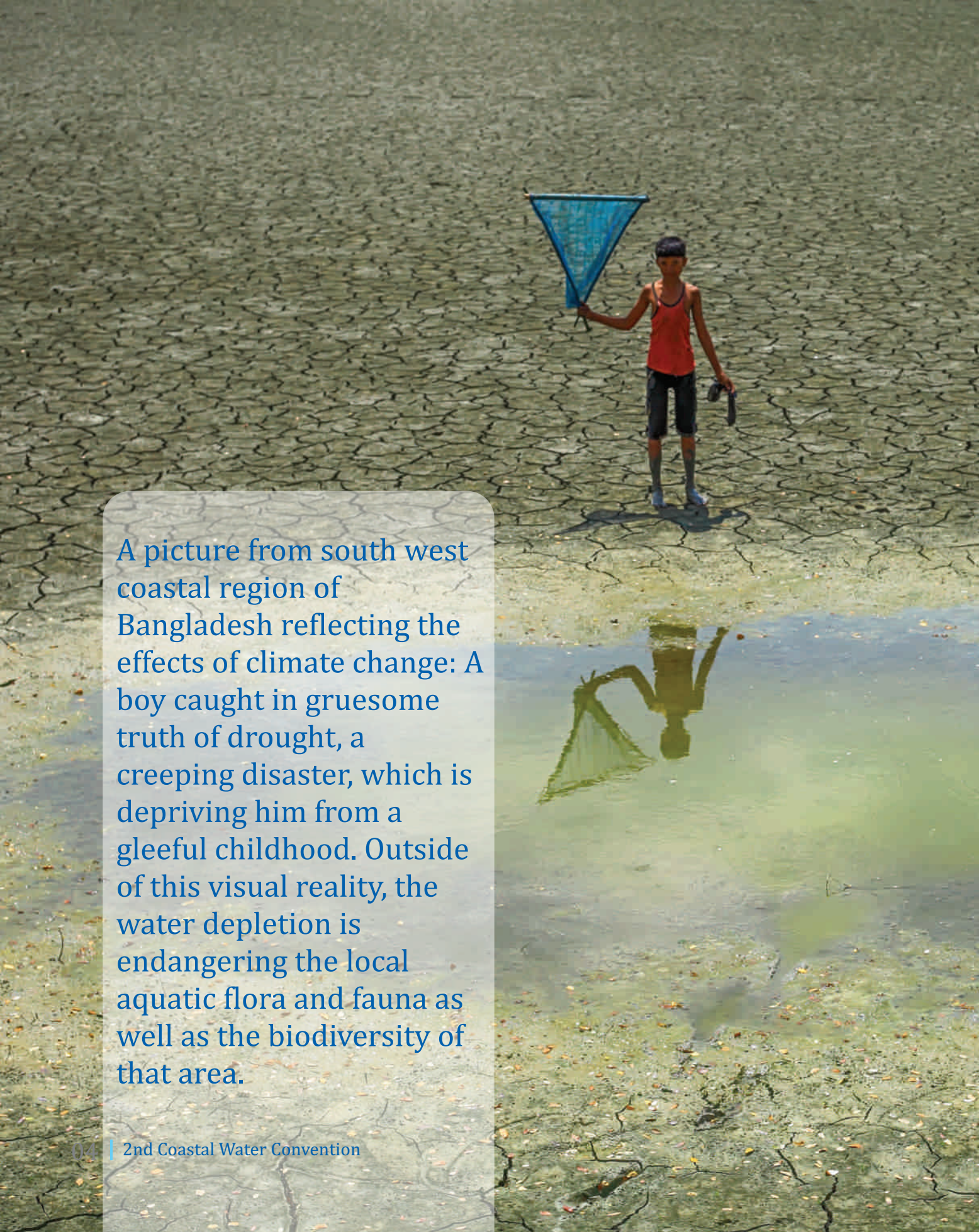
Cover Photo:

Mohammed Shajahan, Nobo Jatra Project
World Vision Bangladesh

For further info: Coastal Water Convention Secretariat:
secretariat.cwc@gmail.com

Table of contents

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Preface | 5 |
| 2 | Background | 6 |
| 3 | Convention objectives | 8 |
| 4 | Inaugural session | 9 |
| 5 | Face to face discussion of MP's with coastal communities | 15 |
| 6 | Parallel session | 17 |
| | Parallel Session – 1: Governance for access to safe drinking water in the coastal area | 17 |
| | Parallel Session – 2: The role of private sector for assuring safe drinking water to coastal communities | 19 |
| | Parallel Session – 3: Appropriate and affordable sanitation technology for vulnerable communities in light of SDG | 21 |
| | Parallel Session – 4: Protecting eco-system and adaptation to climate impact | 23 |
| 7 | Concluding session | 25 |
| 8 | Khulna Declaration 2019 | 28 |
| | Side events | 30 |
| | Poster paper presentation | 30 |
| | Children's engagement in equitable access to safe water | 31 |
| | Stall by organizations | 31 |
| | Photo exhibition | 32 |
| | Participants' comments | 32 |

A photograph of a young boy standing in a vast, dry, and cracked landscape. The ground is covered in a dense network of deep, irregular cracks, indicating severe drought. The boy, wearing a red tank top and dark shorts, holds a blue triangular fishing net in his right hand and a small dark object in his left. His reflection is clearly visible in a small, shallow pool of water at his feet. The overall scene conveys the harsh impact of climate change on the environment and the loss of childhood activities.

A picture from south west coastal region of Bangladesh reflecting the effects of climate change: A boy caught in gruesome truth of drought, a creeping disaster, which is depriving him from a gleeful childhood. Outside of this visual reality, the water depletion is endangering the local aquatic flora and fauna as well as the biodiversity of that area.



Preface

Approximately 780 million and 2.4 billion people are deprived from safe drinking water and basic sanitation respectively; which is more than 32% of the total world population. Despite significant progress, 610 million people in South Asia still practice open defecation and more than 134 million people are deprived from safe drinking water.

Absence of clean water and safe sanitation facilities poses a serious threat to Bangladesh's future and to children under 5. Currently, in Bangladesh 36% of children under 5 are malnourished and 46% of children under age 5, are stunted. Approximately, 70 million people are climate affected in Bangladesh, many of whom are living in coastal area. Due to ongoing sea level rising, salinity infiltration and arsenic contamination on ground level, the sources of safe drinking water at an affordable market price are at risk.

To strengthen the right to water for coastal communities, the Second Coastal Water Convention was jointly organized on 1 & 2 August 2019 by a coalition of public, private and civil society organizations working in the southwestern coastal areas.



Background

World Vision Bangladesh, jointly with Khulna City Corporation, Department of Public Health Engineering, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology and 40 local, national and international organizations working in Khulna, Satkhira and Bagherhat areas, organized a divisional level coastal water convention took on 1st and 2nd August 2019 at Khulna University, Khulna. By convening decision makers and thought leaders, the convention drew attention to the pervasive water crisis in the southwest of Bangladesh and explored collaborative strategies to mitigate the crisis.

The event comprised approximately 1,200 participants ensuring representation of key stakeholders including Ministers/Secretaries of Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology/Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Co-operatives, other relevant GoB agencies, City Corporation, Local Government Institute representatives, Department of Public Health and Engineering, academicians, researchers and UN agencies. The audience further encompassed patrons from international and local NGOs, private sector, youth clubs/ groups, representatives from vulnerable groups, students, and the mainstream media.

With the theme “**Water Justice Towards Development**” the event had face to face discussions between community people and Members of Parliamentarian (MPs), 4 parallel sessions and addresses by the chief guests and special guests. A number of side events also took place including, hand washing demonstrations for children, a photo exhibition, poster presentations and stalls displaying water technologies. The honorable Minister, **Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, M.P.**,



Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh graced the event as the chief guest. The honorable Member of Parliament (MPs) from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat region- **Mr. Mohammad Mozammel Hossain**, Bagerhat-4; **Mr. Mir Mushtaque Ahmed Robi**, Shatkhira-2; Mr Mustafa Lutfullah, Shatkhira-1; and **Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman**, Khulna- 6 participated in a face to face discussion with coastal communities moderated by **Shyamal Dutta**, Journalist, Editor - the daily Bhorer Kagoj.

Fred Witteveen, National Director, World Vision Bangladesh; **Lokman Hossain Miah**, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna; **Md. Saifur Rahman**, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and **Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee**, MP, honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development & Cooperatives adorned the convention as special guest. **Talukder Abdul Khaleque**, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna served as chair of the whole event.

On the 2nd day, honorable MP and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Ms. Habibun Nahar** served as chief guest with, **Rakesh Katal**, the Chief of Party, Nobo Jatra Project- World Vision Bangladesh, **Md. Khairul Islam**, Country Director, Water Aid Bangladesh, **Shyamal Dutta**, Journalist, Editor - the daily Bhorer Kagoj and **Prof. Sadhan Ranjan Ghosh**, Treasurer, Khulna presented the Khulna Declaration 2019 – which was developed as an outcome of the convention. The 2 day mega event concluded with vote of thanks and closing remarks by the chair of the event **Talukder Abdul Khaleque**, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna.

Convention Objectives

- To bring all stakeholders under a common platform (among public, private and civil society actors) to overcome challenges in access to safe drinking water and affordable sanitation facilities in the coastal districts of southwest Bangladesh.
- To strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, and assist government to implement action plan complying policies.
- To share experiences and insights about sustainable financing mechanisms as well as technical standards for water infrastructure from both public and private sectors and identify ways to take actions both at policy and implementation level.
- To develop evidence based advocacy tools for policy makers and other relevant actors.





Inaugural Session

The formal inauguration commenced with observance of one-minute silence commemorating the martyrs of the August 15, 1975 including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members followed by singing of the National Anthem of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Norul Alam Raju, convener of 2nd coastal water convention welcomed delegates to the 2nd coastal water convention. The opening remarks of the session was made by Taluker Abdul Khaleque, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation and a keynote presentation by Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, former VC, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) and Member, University Grant Commission (UGC). The session was facilitated by Shamim Arefeen, Member Secretary of 2nd coastal water convention.

The inaugural session also provided a unique opportunity for community people to directly talk with Member of Parliamentarians (MPs) of coastal region. Moderated by Shyamal Dutta, Journalist, Editor - the daily Bhorer Kagoj, honorable Member of Parliament (MPs) from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat region- Mr. Mohammad Mozammel Hossain, Bagerhat-4; Mr. Mir Mushtaque Ahmed Robi, Shatkhira-2; Mr. Mustafa Lutfullah, Shatkhira-1; and Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Khulna- 6 actively participated in the face to face discussion with coastal communities.

Inaugural speech

Shamim Arefeen

Executive Director-An Organization for Socio-Economic Development & Member Secretary of 2nd coastal water convention

Mr. Arefeen reminded a verse from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Water, water, everywhere. But not a drop to drink” to describe the deeply worrying WASH situation of southwest Bangladesh and emphasized the need for long-term sustainable solutions to potable water in the coastal belt. He also introduced the convention theme “Water Justice Towards Development”, objectives of the two-day gathering and expected outcomes with the participants.



Welcome address

Mr. Md. Norul Alam Raju

Director - Program Policy and Advocacy, Nobo Jatra Project, World Vision Bangladesh & Convener of 2nd coastal water convention

Mr. Raju welcomed delegates to the 2nd coastal water convention and thanked the esteemed guests, organizations, private sector and community people to attend the event. The welcome address focused on the ever increasing WASH crisis in southwestern Bangladesh and concerns that despite taking remarkable initiatives by Government, the people in Khulna and Satkhira region are still facing serious challenges in water issues. On behalf of the organizing committee, Mr. Raju also expressed an expectation to the Member of Parliaments that, they will form a parliamentary CAUCUS to advocate on WASH



issues in parliament and that the government will take initiatives to prevent water commercialization and enable the leasing of government owned water bodies to resolve the water crisis in this region.

Welcome address

Professor Dr. Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman
Vice Chancellor- Khulna University

Professor Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman also welcomed the special and chief guests to Khulna University and conveyed greetings to the audience. He emphasized the need for excavation of many large ponds as tube-wells and other water sources are not functioning in the region. He also requested to implement practical and feasible projects through collaboration of government and NGOs.

Opening remarks

Talukder Abdul Khaleque
Mayor, Khulna City Corporation

The Mayor briefly talked about the current water conditions in Khulna and Satkhira region, described the government initiatives and successes on WASH issues. By referring to the Prime Minister's plan for the next 100 years, the Mayor expected enormous development of Bangladesh in all sectors including water and sanitation. The Mayor also emphasized Bangladesh's heritage as a delta country surrounded by water and urged on protection and conservation of our water traditions. He also mentioned Bangladesh will be a developed country within 2041 for which everyone should render their responsibilities in the respective areas with proper planning and coordination in all activities.





Keynote:

“Coastal Water Management in the Southwest of Bangladesh”



Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir

Former VC, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) and Member, University Grant Commission (UGC)

The keynote speaker briefly discussed core messages and provided valuable global to local overview on water and sanitation issues. Major points:

- Only 1% of the Earth's water is available for extraction and use
- 12% population of Bangladesh are using arsenic-contaminated water
- 42% source of drinkable water contains microbial contamination
- 35% coastal households can obtain drinking water in less than 30 minutes (round trip)
- 36% of children under 5 endure from chronic malnutrition partially caused by the lack of access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The speaker also detailed current Government efforts around availability of water and sanitation, recommended climate resilient eco-friendly adaptation technology, formation of an “adaptation centre” to overcome the effects of climate change and urged good governance for combating WASH challenges. The combination of recommendations are a catalyst to attain the Bangladesh government's recently approved the “Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100” to tap the huge potential of Bangladesh as a delta country through water resource management, ensuring food and water security and tackling present and future disasters.

Comments from Special Guests

Fred Witteveen

National Director, World Vision Bangladesh



Mr. Witteveen set the scene for the two days coastal water convention, highlighting the deeply worrying WASH conditions of the southwest region and Bangladesh as whole. The southern region was referred to as “ground zero” for climate change vulnerability and emphasized World Vision projects to address change through system strengthening. Towards that change, the organization and its Nobo Jatra Project¹ invested considerable time and energy to build relationships with the local government stakeholders at Upazila and Union level. Mr. Witteveen urged unified efforts to solve the water crisis in southwest Bangladesh.

Md. Saifur Rahman

Chief Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)

“100000 Rain Water Harvesting Systems have got approval today and by next three months we will go for implementation”-. He also mentioned DPHE installed many PSFs in the region, 26% of which has been affected by widespread salinity. He stressed the need to preserve rain water and emphasized reverse osmosis technology and nanotechnology filter. Finally told the government has special attention on the issue because the comprehensive socio-economic development of the country partially depends on its southwest coastal areas.



Lokman Hossain Miah

Divisional Commissioner, Khulna

Mr. Lokman Hossain Miah highlighted two major problems in Khulna region- the embankment and safe water crisis. Mothers and children are the main victims of water scarcity resulting in stunting and underweight babies. Recommendations include:



¹ Nobo Jatra Project is a USAID Food for Peace Title II Development Food Security Activity implementing in 4 sub-districts of Southwest Bangladesh.

- Preserve and excavate ponds
- Train households in using Rain Water Harvesting Systems
- Install Reverse Osmosis plants
- Increase DPHE resources and budget allocation for coastal region.

Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee

MP, honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Govt. Rural Development & Cooperatives,

Honorable State Minister emphasized the Prime Minister's concern about the water problems faced by communities in southwest coastal Bangladesh and reemphasized that every sector will work together to solve the WASH issues.



Comments from Chief Guests

Mr. Md. Tazul Islam

M.P., Honorable Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives



The Honorable Minister illustrated that need based projects are being implemented to ensure safe water for communities by 2030. Mr. Islam also called government and non-government organizations to take collaborative action, voicing support for achieving the sustainable development goal. He further promised to establish water treatment plant in Satkhira through WASA, assured the easy access of potable water for the coastal saline prone communities through ensuring Rain Water Harvesting System and Reverse Osmosis. Finally the

Minister mentioned that the government of Bangladesh is working to improve the water, sanitation, energy, education, and employment sectors on priority basis.



Face to face discussion between Members of Parliament and Coastal Communities

The coastal water convention provided a unique opportunity for community people to directly interact with higher level political personnel, pose queries and pursue solutions. Moderated by Shyamal Dutta, Journalist, Editor - the daily Bhorer Kagoj, honorable Member of Parliaments from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat region actively participated in the face to face discussion with coastal communities. A glimpse of the questions raised by community people and parliamentarian remarks are presented below:

Questions



1. What are the specific solutions of the problems related to the water in Khulna and Satkhira? What steps have been taken by government?
2. Despite having availability of water why water commercialization is frequent, what can we do to overcome these?
3. Open lakes are being shown as closed lake and are being leased out by administration in the districts and sub-districts. What can government do to avert forceful pond possession?
4. In Dhaka people are spending BDT4-5 for 1000L of water but, in Khulna people are spending more. Why there is discrimination and what are the solutions?
5. Do members of parliament have any long lasting plan for the development of mothers' and their children's health in the coastal region?



- “The safe water crises in the southwest coastal areas are anthropogenic. The water bodies have been leased for fish farming. Arsenic contamination has also compromised access to pure drinking water. Therefore, our future planning should be in a proper and coordinated manner with proper reflection of the community people living in coastal areas”.
- “According to the policy, one can only lease the close canal but not open canal, however, this law is being violated. We will try to take those pond and give open access to people.”
- “In future we will take more initiatives to ensure people can get water with affordable price. We will reduce the price of bottle water in Satkhira. Water treatment plant and canal water recycling could utilize to reduce water commercialization and transform the saline canal water into fresh drinking water”.

- **Mostofa Lutfulah**, MP, Satkhira-1.



- “To eliminate the water crisis in Satkhira and Khulna districts, we have to select different kinds of safe water options. We hope to overcome the situation in near future. However, we need to change our mind-set and promote moral values in every respect”.

– **Mir Mostaque Ahmed Robi, MP,**
Shatkira-2.



- “For permanent and sustainable solution we need a long term policy and we could excavate large pond to reserve rain water”.

– **MD. Mojammel Hossain, MP,**
Bagerhat-4.



- “Unplanned shrimp culture, and women are collecting the water by spending 6 hours is right, still poor people are drinking contaminated water as they cannot afford the cost of buying water”.
- “The impact of the water salinity primarily falls on children’s health. We certainly need to adopt a long lasting plan; we have to excavate a great number of ponds and canals, and prevent the saline water from intrusion into the water bodies.”

– **Akhtaruzzaman Babu, MP**
Khulna- 6.





Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session – 1

Governance for access to safe drinking water in the coastal area

Moderator: Professor Dr. Mustafa Saroar, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET).

Budgetary challenges for WASH in coastal areas

Presenter: Zarif Iftekhar Rasul, WaterAid Bangladesh

There is a large financing disparity between urban and rural areas. Urban allocation increased by 20.34% to BDT 85.3 billion in 2019-20. In contrast, rural allocation decreased by 13.14% to BDT 21.5 billion. This urban-rural divide further limits the flow of public funds to hard-to-reach areas.

Drinking Water Insecurity: The Crisis in coastal Bangladesh

Presenter: Quazi Wafiq Alam - Community Development Center (CODEC)

Water scarcity in coastal areas affects the agricultural production, livestock, fisheries, forestry, soil health and overall human wellbeing. We need to reduce dependency on ground water and enhance ground water recharging facilities through afforestation, reforestation, and creation of water reservoirs.

State of water and sanitation in south west Bangladesh: pitfalls and prospects

Presenter: Rubayat Ahsan - Nobo Jatra Project, World Vision Bangladesh.

Application of World Vision’s social accountability model “Citizen Voice and Action” by the USAID funded Nobo Jatra program with 40 Union WatSan committees shows both positive and negative trend in their service provision. After applying CVA, 30% of Union Parishad’s incorporated budget for PSF construction, 50% provisioned for PSF repair and 73% incorporated budget for water tanks and sanitary latrines.

Women leadership in water and sanitation: a community perspective in the south west of Bangladesh

Presenter: Mehzabin Rupa - Nobo Jatra Project, World Vision Bangladesh

Leadership roles of women in community Water Management Committees (WMCs) and WatSan committees are making them more knowledgeable regarding WASH issues. Committees led by women are active and women leaders are leveraging resources for operation and maintenance of water points through collecting tariffs and advocating Union and Upazila Parishad to allocate WASH budget.

Terwisscha van Scheltinga (Catharien), Delta expert, Researcher/Lecturer Climate Change and Adaptive Land and Water Management, Delta Alliance International Secretariat

Collaborative efforts to solve WASH problems and people's awareness and knowledge on the subject was highlighted as a determining factor in mitigating challenges.





Parallel Session – 2

The role of private sector for assuring safe drinking water to coastal communities

Moderator: Anawarul Quadir, Adviser – Rupantor

Keynote: Private sector in water management: Services versus business

Presenter: Professor Dr. Hamidul Haque, Director – IDS and sustainability, United International University (UIU)

Water pollution has compelled us to move towards water privatization. As we have limited sources of safe drinking water, we need to depend on private investors. The Government is also supporting the private sector investment and the public private partnership model in today's globalized world, can be leveraged to solve the water crisis.

Making WASH projects more market-led

Presenter: Mahabubur Rahman, ASWAS Project Consortium, Khulna, Bangladesh

52% people in Bangladesh are still using unhygienic latrines. We can support business ecosystems and capacitate entrepreneurs. We need a market maker, who will lead the process

of conducting market building and create an enabling environment for markets to grow. Relationship between the market maker and the local entrepreneur is crucial for real domestic market growth.

Women WASH entrepreneurship: barriers and opportunities in Bangladesh

Presenter: Md. Mahiul Kadir, Hope for the Poorest (HP), Sister Concern of ASA.

Traditional cultures, child care, domestic responsibilities and fear of failure are identified as barriers for women to become entrepreneurs. Access to finance and technical skills are also significant determinants. Given women's role as custodians of water there is major opportunity to capacitate women entrepreneurs and facilitate access to finance for sustainable businesses.

Involving the private sector to ensure affordable WASH services in coastal region of Bangladesh

Presenter: Towfiqul Islam khan, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

Cross country evidence reveals the role of private sector in delivering WASH services. In the 7th five-year plan of Bangladesh an additional USD 3.64 billion is estimated to finance SDG 6 of which 30% is estimated to be financed by private sector. International financing tools "Blended finance" can be included in the policy of Bangladesh and private sectors participation can be brought into CSR policies to encourage private investment.





Parallel Session – 3

Appropriate and affordable sanitation technology for vulnerable communities in light of SDG

Moderator: Hasin Jahan, Country Director, Practical Action moderate

Appropriate and affordable sanitation technology for vulnerable community in light of SDG

Presenter: Syed Hafizur Rahman - Department of Environmental Sciences, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

WASH involvements have usually been applied to reduce communicable diseases, and improve nutritional conditions. The changeover from traditional sources to piped or improved sources has been considered as a significant achievement in ensuring safe drinking water. Open defecation has been reduced from 42% in 2003 to 3% in 2012.

Innovations in water, sanitation and hygiene behavior change: a framework for increased behavior change sustainability

Presenter: Mike Poustie - Social Impact Movement Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Low-cost WASH technologies at the individual, household, institution and community level alongside hygiene promotion are key steps in addressing the detrimental implications of diarrheal diseases. This can make a significant improvement on public health. A greater consideration of behavior change will help WASH practitioners to see increased, sustained hygiene behaviors adopted and embraced.

An analysis of safe drinking water supply system: a case study on Shyamnagar Upazilla of Satkhira district

Presenter: Kamrun Nahar- Department of Geography and Environment, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka

Scarcity of safe drinking water is an acute problem in the coastal regions of Bangladesh that is mainly caused by salinity intrusion. Surface water bodies dwindle and get degraded due to intensive use and this is the main reason for the scarcity of safe drinking water. Collaborative efforts is recommended with climate smart technologies to enhance the WASH scenario.

Pipe line water supply and its treatment facilities to rural household- a social business approach

Presenter: Imam Mahmud Riad, MaxWater Social Business Bangladesh LTD, Mohammadpur, Dhaka- 1217, Bangladesh

Average 66% of coastal people have access to safe, much below the national average (87%). The solution requiring appropriate technology, financing and implementation of appropriate government policies with awareness creation among people. The recent idea of investing in “Social Entrepreneurship” has strong potential to ensure water services with a business modality.



Parallel Session – 4

Protecting eco-system and adaptation to climate impact

Moderator: Professor Dr. Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, Department of Environmental Science, Khulna University

Water Rights- an integrated approach to find out relationship between ecology and social equity

Presenter: Nazia Hassan-Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University.

The availability and accessibility of clean water is a key to sustainable development and an essential element in health, food production and poverty reduction. There is a need to establish proper waste management systems to prevent contamination and pollution.

Salinization in coastal river: emerging eco-hydrological and socio-ecological problem in the southwest coastal region of the Bengal Delta in Bangladesh

Presenter: Simu Akter, Tropical Hydrogeology and Environmental Engineering, Institute of Applied Geosciences, Technical University Darmstadt, Germany.

Climate change associated hazards aggravating tidal inundation and salinization in the coastal rivers and salinization is an urgent eco-hydrological as well as socio-ecological issue. There is a need for advanced and interdisciplinary research to identify the active factors in the increase of river water salinity and its impacts on the regional environment and also the possible mitigation measures to lessen river water salinity in the coastal area.

Temporal trend analysis of rainfall in coastal region of Bangladesh

Presenter: Md. Nurul Hoque Upal, Water Resources and Environment Division, Development Design Consultant Ltd. (DDC), Bangladesh

The rainfall amount decreases rapidly up to a distance of 300km from the coastline over both the land and the ocean which increases salinity and decreases agricultural productivity. Agricultural production further dropped due to water scarcity, thus exacerbating salinity intrusion. Heavy rainfall can lead to coastal flooding and the biodiversity and ecosystem of Sundarbans can be affected due to the rainfall variability. There is a need Ecosystem Based Approach to address the problems of the coastal region.





Concluding Session

Welcome address

Mohammed Norul Alam Raju, Convener of 2nd Coastal Water Convention 2019



‘Development is not possible without the participation of community people’. To address the safe water crisis, stakeholders need to work together and formulate specific plans. A draft “Khulna declaration” has been developed encapsulating discussions from the convention -which is a prime example of collective action to advocate on WASH challenges. Discussions and dialogue have shown common themes and solutions put forth – and the aim is to escalate these to decision makers at the central level to ensure that enduring changes come forth.

Comments from Special Guests

Rakesh Katal - Chief of Party of Nobo Jatra Project- World Vision Bangladesh,



Mr. Katal appreciated the diverse range of participants joining the convention and acknowledged the organizing committee for tremendous contribution and collaborative efforts. The follow up of commitments made by senior Government leadership is critical to ensure that the momentum achieved through the convention translates into tangible changes in the lives of the most vulnerable. Mr. Katal further detailed the USAID funded, World Vision led Nobo Jatra project's experience working around WASH by highlighting

the challenges facing poor communities, and Nobo Jatra's efforts in supporting the vulnerable coastal communities to ensure their food security.

Md. Khairul Islam, Country Director, Water Aid

Mr. Khairul Islam emphasized on having a standard, methods and process in place for planned shrimp culture. Also counselled the importance of digital mapping of rivers, canals and other water bodies, to ensure proper management and utilization. Mr. Islam commended the diverse representation of Government, NGOs, private sector and academia at the convention. Future dialogues could also be inclusive of the chairman of District council, District Commissioner and the AC land office – to further strengthen collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable results. He also highlighted the



discernment between urban vs. rural areas with clear indication of potable water price discrimination. People in the coastal region have to buy water at a rate 87 times higher than that of Dhaka or in other big cities. People of Bangladesh will soon turn into climate refugees if safe water cannot be ensured. Finally, Mr. Khairul recommended a rights based movement to ensure citizen rights of coastal communities and accentuated sensitization of the 14 MPs about the WASH needs of vulnerable people.



Shyamal Dutta, Journalist, Editor - the daily Bhorer Kagoj

Mr. Dutta emphasized the importance of having a Caucus in parliament as an emerging need to advocate at national level to solve the crisis in the coastal districts. The need for harmonization in planning and implementation as each Upazila

in coastal areas has different problem and also highlighted the plan should include climate change issues and ways to combat those. The role of media in advocacy efforts was also acknowledged and assured.



Prof. Sadhan Ranjan Ghosh, Treasurer, Khulna University

Presented the significance of divine principle - violation of principle could bring disasters and manmade disasters have brought sufferings in human life. Encouraged to tackle the anthropogenic catastrophe in WASH sector to solve this long lasting coastal water problem.

Humayun Kabir Bobby,
Secretary, Pani Adhikar
Committee

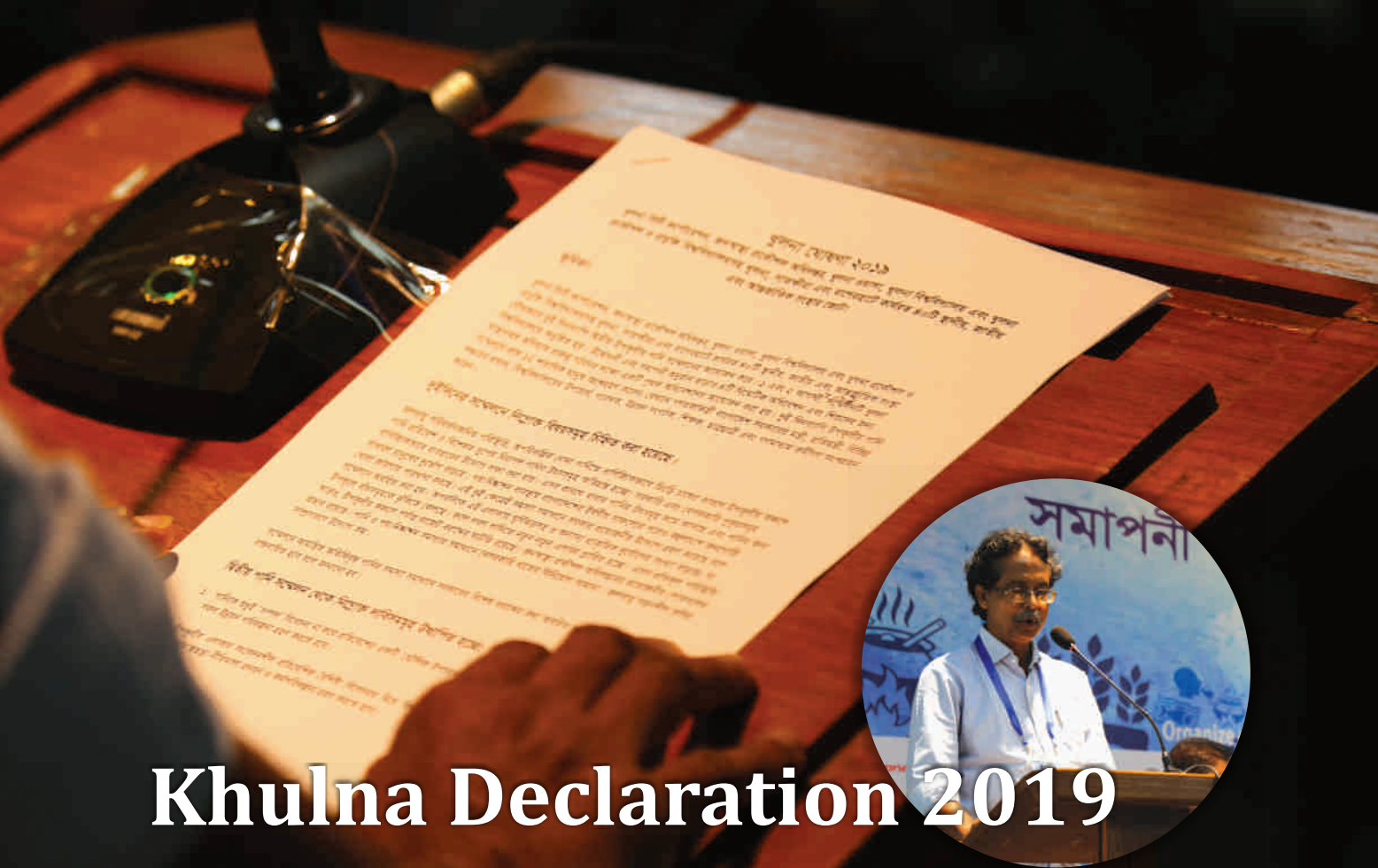


On behalf of the convention organizing committee Mr. Kabir expressed thanks and gratitude to all the organizations who were involved to make the water convention successful.

Comments from Chief Guests

Begum Habibun Nahar, Deputy Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, reconfirmed the severity of the water crisis in southwest Bangladesh. Historically, past experiences and local context are not factored into WASH planning, which affect the sustainability of water options. A caucus of MPs can be formed, however, strong leadership will be required to ensure the caucus are able to bring about tangible changes. Ms. Nahar stated that no pond should be leased in the rural areas and requested all Deputy Commissioners to take note and stop leasing the ponds. The members of parliament should come forward in this regard and follow up the issue. Maintenance is a major factor to sustain water technologies and urged the audience to consider that “if we don’t protect our environment, our lives will become unbearable on this earth.”





Khulna Declaration 2019

Professor **Dr. Dilip Dutta** read out the Khulna declaration 2019 which was made on the basis of the findings from the technical sessions under the theme of “Strengthening governance, enhancing private sector engagement, protecting eco-system and adapting to climate change impact”. The declaration is:

1. All kinds of development plans for coastal areas should be developed considering water as a ‘basic element’ instead of only a ‘resource’.
2. To reduce existing water crisis, a separate policy and work plan should be formed considering the sensitive environmental situation of mentioned area in a long term basis so that the present and future generations get sustainable benefits.
3. Existing laws and practices of leasing the natural and District Administration owned water bodies for surface water should be amended and to be preserved as the sources of drinking water, agricultural irrigation, household works etc. Relevant and necessary law, act and policy should be formed in this regard and implementation of those policy should be ensured under an integrated management of respective ministry of government.
4. A detail and sustainable work plan should be initiated considering the integrated and overall water management in coastal area, tidal flow, environment and surroundings, biodiversity, lives and livelihood of coastal people, culture and tradition. Necessary human resources should be engaged and active participation of local people will have to be ensured to implement the plan.

5. Nature of water flow and environmental as well as climate change facts should be taken into consideration while building all kind of infrastructure in these areas.
6. Effective measures should be taken by Local Government Division (LGD) for ensuring safe drinking water supply in these rural areas. Considering the disasters, these areas are continuously affected by, more than adequate allocation should be ensured in national budget. DPHE should increase the capacity of human resource through increasing it. Union and village level WATSAN committee and capacity building of caretakers of water sources should be under the direct supervision of DPHE.
7. Manmade water logging and initiative to preserve saline water sources should be completely stopped and necessary government initiatives will have to be ensured to protect drinking water sources safe from saline water pollution. Water-focused unplanned commercialization; especially shrimp cultivation should be stopped.
8. River flow should be free and swamp and canals should have a fluent and clear connection with rivers to prevent water logging.
9. A 'Parliamentary CAUCUS Group' should be formed consisting 14 Members of Parliament of Khulna, Shatkhira and Bagerhat, who will continue discussion in parliament as well as other relevant networks for effective solution to coastal water crisis.
10. Initiatives and necessary measures should be taken to bring the poor people of coastal areas under sanitation coverage. Program should be planned and implemented to discourage open defecation. Allocation for toilet should be increased by Union Parishad for poor and extreme poor people. Access to low price sanitation should be available.
11. Non-government organization should take one step ahead to deal with this coastal water and sanitation crisis. Business organizations working in coastal areas should allocate budget for water and sanitation as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR).
12. 'Faecal Sludge Management' should be emphasized to protect water sources and environment from pollution.
13. Above all, a coordination team should be formed consisting state representatives, government, non-government sectors to protect water and surrounding environment. Through this team proper plan should be developed and effective measures should be taken for its implementation.

Closing remarks

Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation

Talukder Abdul Khaleque, also the chair of the session assured that the Delta plan is still in the initial stage and all concerned will be consulted to reflect their opinions before finalizing it. Bangladesh wants to achieve the status of a developed nation by 2041 for which collective efforts are required. We will be able to achieve our goal if there is proper planning and coordination in all the activities.



Side Events

Poster paper presentation

Apart from the key technical sessions, there were poster presentations in the venue campus throughout the days. The renowned academicians and development workers' findings were highlighted in those poster. The posters presented were:

1. Sustainability of Reverse Osmosis technology in south west Bangladesh: barriers and enablers by Md. Tawhidul Alam, Nobo Jatra project, World Vision Bangladesh.
2. Alternative water resource for southwest coastal region of Bangladesh by Asma Safia Disha, Shubarna Akter, Sharif Mutasim Billah, Ptofessor Dr. Abdullah Yousuf Al Harun, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University, Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.
3. Governance of investment in pumped drainage in waterlogged polders by Authors Stijn Reinhard, Toine Vergroesen, Femke Schasfoort.
4. Effectiveness of Local Water Governance in accessing safe drinking water: Insights from the Coastal district of Bagerhat in Bangladesh by A.T.M Zakir Hossain & Palash Kanti Haldar.
5. Water crisis in the southern Bangladesh: A planning and implementation gap for leveraging

and developing a business model through community partnership (PPCP) by Khan Mohammad Elyas.

6. Climate Service for Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Decision-making in Peri-Urban Khulna by Uthpal Kumar, Saskia Werners, Dilip Datta and Fulco Ludwig.
7. A concept note on needful to confront potable water crisis due to salinity intrusion by climate change by Zia Ahmed, Coordinator-JJS.

Children's engagement in equitable access to safe water

An estimated 1.9 billion school days could be gained if the SDG related to safe water supply and sanitation are achieved and the incidence of diarrhoeal illness is reduced (WHO). With the aim of achieving this, an engaging side event with children to participate in hand washing demonstration, quizzes related to water, sanitation and hygiene issues was organized. Children from 3 higher secondary schools with more than 100 students attended the session to learn about hygienic sanitation, safe water, superior water quality and appropriate hygiene behavior. The children engagement session further aims to improve the health and learning performance of school-aged children – and, by extension, that of their families – by reducing the incidence of water- and sanitation-related diseases.

Stalls by organizations

30 stalls were placed according to the themes. Participating organizations (Christian Social Service-CSS, An Organization for Socio Economic Development-AOSED, Nabolok, Rupantar, Smart Water Technology, RFL, Max Foundation, World Vision Bangladesh, Pani Adhikar Committee, Department of Public Health and Engineering-DPHE, Khulna City Corporation, Water Development Board Khulna, Khulna Water and Sewerage Authority, Blue Gold, Community Development Centre-CODEC, Citizen's Platform for SDG, NGO Forum for PH, Bangladesh Environment and Development Society, Jagrata Jubo Songho, Bangladesh Medical Samity, Khulna and University Press Limited), working on the particular theme exhibited their WASH activities in the stalls. Stalls were decorated with products and services to showcase relevant water technology and practices applied in water sector, sanitation and climate sector.



Photo exhibition

A photo exhibition was also organized as part of the two-day long convention where photographs on the scarcity of water, sanitation scenario and impact of climate change was displayed.



Participants' comments

"The convention was a great collaborative platform for the WASH sector researchers to exchange their views and research findings regarding coastal WASH situation."

"I came to know a lot on water development issues from the event."

"The convention gives us a chance to come together to share our thoughts and experiences on coastal WASH issues."

"It was one of the biggest event in Bangladesh which brings both the government and non-government organizations at the same standpoint, I believe this will enhance the collaboration between government and NGOs to solve WASH crisis in coastal areas."

"The 2nd coastal water convention encouraged community, government and private sector to work together with their combined knowledge to find out viable solutions to the WASH challenges in southwest Bangladesh. It was a great medium for collaboration, networking and partnership development."

"Through the convention Bangladesh found a crystal clear direction to solve the coastal water crisis."





RSVP:

01730037099, 01711840913, 01709673795
secretariat.cwc@gmail.com

actionaid



care



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh
গণতান্ত্রিক বাংলাদেশের ন্যায়সঙ্গত প্রাতিশ্রুতি, বাংলাদেশ



CONCERN
worldwide



cpf



DeltaForum
Collectively Build a Sustainable Bangladesh



giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
গণতান্ত্রিক বাংলাদেশের ন্যায়সঙ্গত প্রাতিশ্রুতি, বাংলাদেশ



JJS
Jagrata Juba Bangladesh
জাগ্রত জুবা বাংলাদেশ



NGO FORUM
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

OXFAM



Practical
ACTION



রূপান্তর
RUPANTAR

Save the Children
100 YEARS

SoDESH
Satkhira

SNV

UNITED
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WaterAid

Woord
en Daad

World Vision

This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
The contents are the responsibility of World Vision, Inc. and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.