

United
Purpose

Out of
poverty



Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance and Technology

The Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance and Technology – **SWIFT** – project (2018 – ongoing) started its journey in May 2018 after successfully completing a feasibility study between January – May 2018. Funded by the Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund and implemented by United Purpose and local partner NGO, Sheba Manab Kallyan Kendra (SMKK), the project aims to enhance the capacity of Water Management Groups to initiate small-scale water management work through community resource mobilisation.

Goal : To enhance the capacity of communities on sustainable participatory water management for improved lives and livelihoods.

The project works directly with 36 existing Blue Gold Water Management Groups (WMGs) in the district of Patuakhali, south-central Bangladesh. Working to develop community-led co-funding mechanisms to strengthen WMG and local government capacities to generate funds for ongoing small-scale water management and maintenance, the project is supporting communities to move beyond aid dependency and find sustainable funding solutions.

Building on United Purpose’s project in Khulna working with community-based organisations to develop and implement disaster risk reduction and

prevention action plans, SWIFT has scaled up interventions to Patuakhali.

Key Impact

It was anticipated that WMGs and Union Parishads would contribute 20-30% funds for small-scale flood control and drainage infrastructure (FCDI) schemes, however, through sensitisation and community mobilisation, more than 50% contributions have been mobilised and 18 FCDIs schemes have been completed. Through improved water management in the project area, WMGs and local farmers are able to utilise the available land for production. Linked to government extension officers, farmers are accessing agricultural training, services, inputs and technology for diversified and improved livelihoods.



Specific Objectives

1. To build on WMG organizational capacity and inbuilt mechanisms to enable WMGs to be able to collect additional funds for the sustainable management and maintenance of flood control drainage infrastructure (FCDI)

To increase incomes and diversify livelihoods for WMG members, through collective water management, production and market access in order to add value to existing water management

Expected Outputs

1. WMGs are capacitated to sustainably implement and maintain FCDI not already being effectively covered under the Blue Gold Programme or Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
2. WMGs are capacitated to network with local authorities and NGOs for information sharing and better access to official resources and funding sources
3. Diversified and improved livelihoods of WMG members are achieved through collective water management, on-farm climate change adaptation trials and market access by Farmer Groups

SWIFT is implementing three sustainable finance models to build WMG capacity and lobby to local authorities and institutions, such as the Union

Parishad and BWDB to release funds and resources for water management. By building community capacity to access and mobilise funds, the project is supporting communities to reduce their aid dependency and empower them to implement their own plans for water management.

“**We have insufficient capacity to cover the whole area and it is very difficult to reach farmers with the services they need. United Purpose and Blue Gold’s SWIFT project has helped us to access farmers to offer technologies, knowledge and expertise who, because of improved water management, have more capacity to use the land for production.**”

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