

Strengthening WASH Climate Resilience in the WHO South East Asia Region

Faustina Gomez¹, Hussain Rasheed²

World Health Organization

Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO)



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**WATER
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FUTURES**

Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate



#WaWF23

Impact of Climate Change on WASH and Health

Climate Risks



- Drought
- Increased Precipitation and Flooding
- Cyclones and storms
- Heat Stress
- Rising Sea Levels

Impact



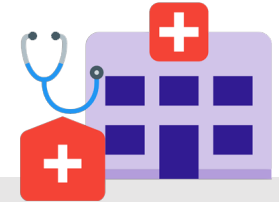
Supply and Provision of safe WASH services

Effects on Health



- Malnutrition and Stunting
- Poor Sanitation and Hygiene Practices
- Infectious and Diarrhoeal Diseases
- Salination of Drinking Water
- Vector Borne Diseases

Effects on Health Systems and facilities



- Poor adaptive capacity and Increased emissions from health facility operations
- Reduced capacity of health systems

Key Areas of Country Support- WASH

- Vulnerability and adaptation assessments
 - Strengthening institutional capacity to effectively integrate climate risks and adaptation options into WASH/health sector planning and implementation.
 - Advocacy and Capacity Building support to national government and partners for CR-WASH
 - Development and dissemination of frameworks and guidelines for CR-WASH programming
 - Promotion of risk based approaches – CR-Water and Sanitation Safety planning
 - Enhancing WASH Climate Resilience and environmental sustainability in health service delivery
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- WASH systems are **sustainable** and **safe** and **resilient** to climate risks
 - **Reduce vulnerability** and build community resilience to adapt to the impacts of climate change
 - **Reduce emissions** and move towards a low carbon WASH sector

Progress in the WHO SEA Region

BAN- Bangladesh; BHU- Bhutan, DPR- Democratic Republic of Korea; IND-India; INO-Indonesia; MAL-Maldives; MYR-Myanmar; NEP-Nepal; SRL-Sri Lanka; THA-Thailand; TLS- Timor Leste, ND- No data

	BAN	BHU	DPR	IND	INO	MAL	MYR	NEP	SRL	THA	TLS
Vulnerability and adaptation Assessments (including WASH)	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establishing Governance and accountability Mechanisms											
• Climate change integrated into WASH standards and guidelines	✓	✗	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• National climate change policies/ frameworks address WASH	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Climate change considerations integrated into risk based approaches e.g. WSP, SSP	✓	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Resources mobilized for adaptation and mitigation in the WASH sector	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring systems that integrate indicators for CR-WASH	✓	✗	ND	✗	✓	ND	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Awareness raising and capacity building of the health workforce and WASH/health sector partners	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WASH climate resilience and environmental sustainability in health care facilities	✓	✗	ND	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Establishing Governance and accountability mechanisms for CR-WASH

Inclusion of WASH in key tools for climate change

In a review conducted in 2021,

- 50% of all country-level climate change governance tools- NAP, NAPA, HNAP, NDC, etc. mention WASH

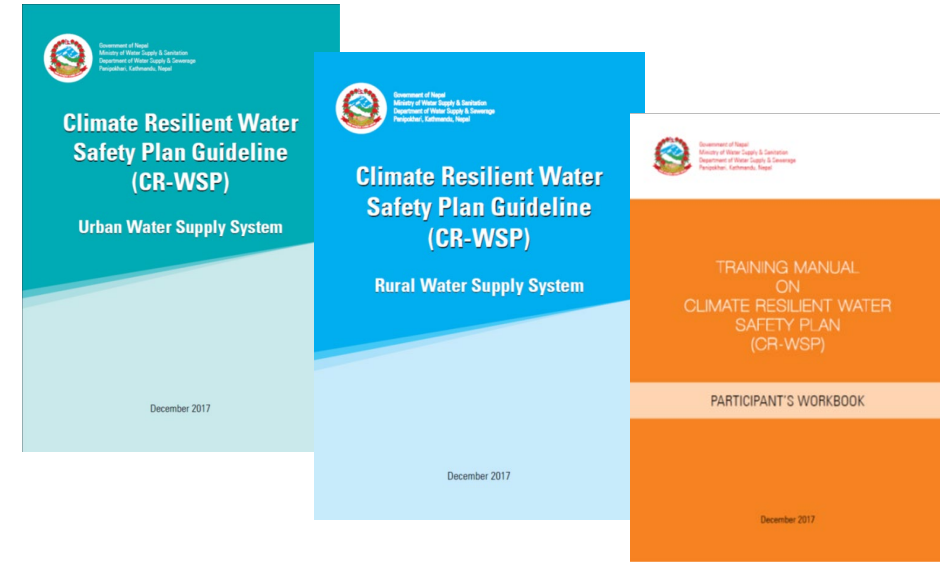
Climate change mainstreaming into WASH Governance tools

- 45 tools reviewed, 76% of them included climate change.
- In 6 of the 11 countries, all WASH governance tools mentioned climate change (India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Timor-Leste)
- Bangladesh had the most WASH specific tools (12) but only 50% referenced climate change.
- For the remaining countries, 50% of the tools mentioned climate change.

Climate resilience reflected in WASH risk-based approaches

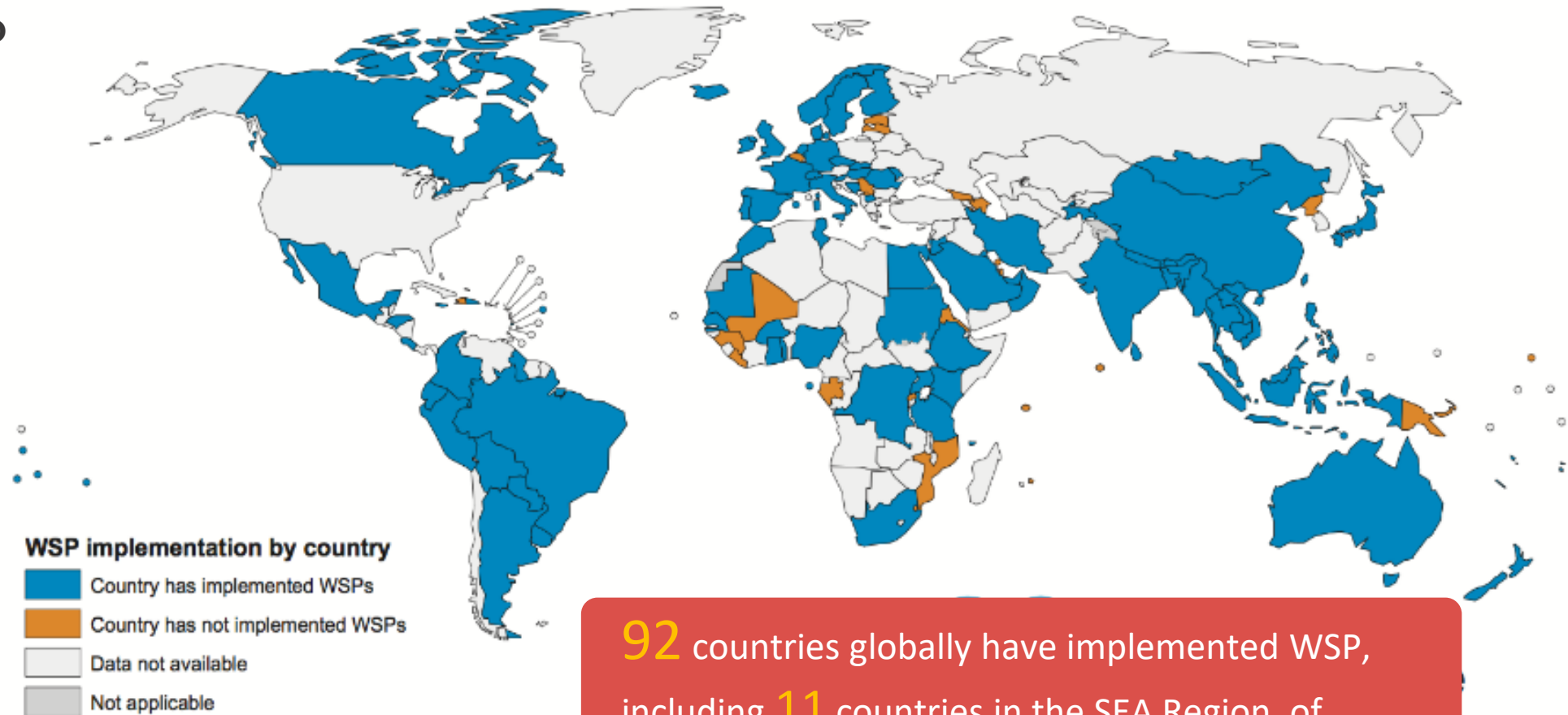
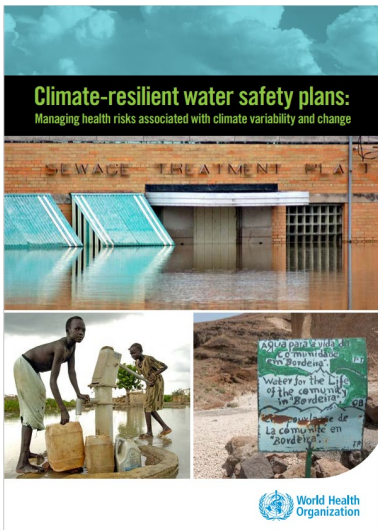
Climate-resilient Water Safety Planning (WSP) and Sanitation Safety Planning (SSP) approaches are increasingly being applied to safeguard drinking-water and sanitation quality and safety

- CR-WSP implemented in 3 out of 11 countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- National guideline on CR-WSP released by Nepal (2017), Bangladesh (2019)
- CR-SSP initiated in Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia
- Global guidelines and tools have been adapted for use by 4 countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand)



Global WSP uptake

WSPs provide a **proactive approach** to effectively address & manage risks affecting the quality and supply of water, including current/projected climate-related risks



92 countries globally have implemented WSP, including **11** countries in the SEA Region, of which **3** have implemented CR-WSP

** Or equivalent risk assessment and risk management approaches.*

Strengthening of CR-WASH infrastructure and services in health care facilities

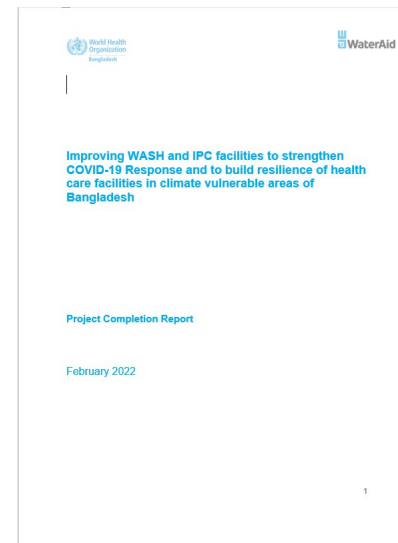
- Countries have made investments toward the safety and security of WASH infrastructure and services during climate event or disaster
- 6 out of 11 countries have committed to carry out baseline assessment of GHG emissions from WASH services in health care facilities
- Climate integrated disease surveillance and early warning systems for WASH and vector borne diseases being strengthened in 4 countries



Solar panels to ensure energy security of WASH Systems- **Maldives**



Water treatment systems for emergency preparedness and response- **Timor Leste**

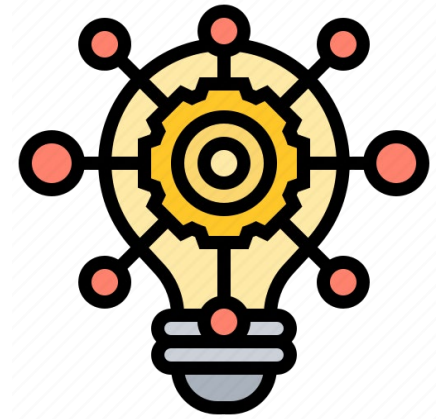


Report on strengthening the resilience of WASH systems in healthcare facilities – **Bangladesh**

Opportunities

- **Increase institutional capacity to support climate integration in WASH programmes** especially at the local government level
- **Increase funding especially at the local government level** for the implementation of improvement plans
- **Strengthen coordination between key actors-** WASH, Health sector and other actors e.g. Meteorological dept, etc.
- **Ensure the sustainability of interventions-** moving beyond pilots
- **Mobilise funding** for CR-WASH programming
- **Update governance tools** to accommodate rapidly changing evidence, data and response mechanisms, **ensure that all aspects of WASH and climate resilience are comprehensively covered**

Expand the focus from WASH availability and access to improving climate resilience and environmental sustainability.



Regional support

1

Building a strong evidence base- **Tools and guidelines** to inform CR-WASH standards and national health adaptation planning

- **Regional level mapping and assessment** of climate variability and change, risk and vulnerabilities affecting WASH and health systems and adaptation readiness of countries
- **Recommendations to mainstream climate change into WASH and health sector policies and governance mechanisms**

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Creating platforms for Improving knowledge, skills and capacity of the health workforce



Regional support

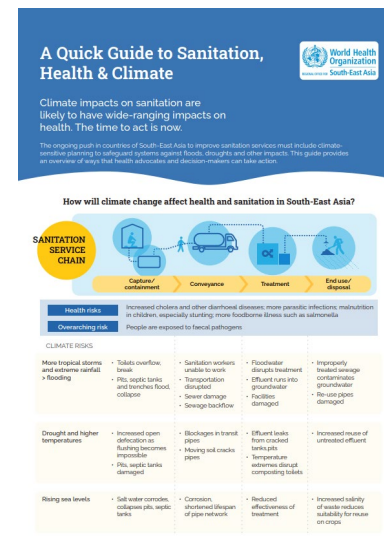
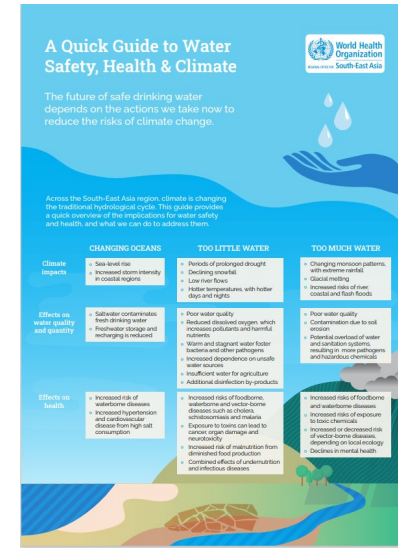
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Raising awareness on the importance of CR-WASH programming

Advocacy Toolkit with resources to support member states in CR-WASH programming

<https://apps.searo.who.int/WSH/>

Country	Policy summary	National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and/or Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP)	Related policy documents
Bangladesh	Bangladesh has invested substantially in making the country climate-resilient, with attention to the health sector in recent years. Climate change adaptation priorities have been guided by the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP, 2009). Both the development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the draft Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) align with the vision, goals, and strategic implementation in Bangladesh's broader development planning, as well as on the BCCSAP.	NAP: In development NDC: • Bangladesh NDC (2015) • Bangladesh NDC Roadmap and Sectoral Action Plan (2018)	Bangladesh HNAP (2015 draft)	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) (2009) (currently being updated) Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program, 2011 - 2016
Bhutan	Bhutan is currently developing a NAP. Although the development of an HNAP is in its early stages, there is a framework to both integrate climate into health planning and create a HNAP in the future.	NAP: In development 2015 update 2019 update	HNAP in early stages of development Pilot project on climate and health	Pilot Project - Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health (2010) Implemented by WHO and UNDP, funded by GEF and Special Climate Change Fund/Green Climate



For more details, contact:

Faustina Gomez

Technical Officer

Water, Sanitation and Climate Change

Dept. of Healthier Populations and

Noncommunicable Diseases

WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia

Email: gomezf@who.int

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