Governments Budgeting

Article 87 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh stipulates that a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in respect of each financial year is required to be laid before Parliament. Constitutionally it is called the Annual financial statement and commonly it is termed as budget. Budget is a comprehensive blueprint of the annual estimated receipts and expenditure of the government. The budget is prepared for every financial year. It starts on 1st July and ends on 30th June. Each year, the Finance Division has to supply budget estimate forms with relevant instructions within 31st August; departments are to return the estimates to Finance Division within 31st October. Ministries and departments use previous year’s actual expenditure for preparing expected budgets for the next year. Administrative Ministries/Departments and different directorates prepare their budget estimates in prescribed format and send those to Finance Division.

The Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) has been introduced to attain the targets by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure. The tenure of MTBF of Bangladesh is three years which includes estimating the ensuing financial year and the projections for the two further years. Excluding budget year, the allocations of other years are based on projection. Every year it is updated in order to maintain the continuation of three years future expenditure plan.

The figure shows that WASH budget allocation percentage of total budget in consecutive years of 6 Upazillas. Though the absolute amount of WASH budget has increased in all six Upazillas but the percentage decreased in three Upazillas in relation with total budget of the Unions. These budgets have been allocated after receiving the demand of Ward and pre-budget sessions held at Ward and Union level during annual budgeting process.

3%–19% WASH budget has been increased in four fiscal years through Budget Tracking process where community was engaged and local government structured i.e. Union standing committees were revitalized. Availability, accessibility, sufficiency, equity and quality are the five major pillars of right to water and sanitation while investing in WASH is an underlying pre-requisite for strengthening those pillars. It is found from all unions that budget increased as per local need and involvement of the institutions.

The percentage share of total Union Parishad (UP) budget spent for WASH sector is in most cases higher than the percentage of national budget spent for WASH sector for the country as a whole. Referring to the above figure which shows that the average percentage share of UP budget spent for WASH in project UPs is higher compared to the national average. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector as part of the overall development, still remains as one of the most neglected area although it is one of the social determinants of health.

In terms of policy formulation, planning and implementation, budget allocation, and understanding the link of WASH with overall economic development, the government has not yet been building that much active though water and sanitation is considered as the basic human rights. The progress of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will be accelerated by promoting access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene. Item seven of the MDG states: The proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (to be) halved by 2015. However, this target has now shifted to attain Sustainability Development Goal (SDG)-6.

**Impact of Budget Tracking**

1. Peoples Participation in Budgeting process increased;
2. Annual both (revenue Tax and Development) budget increased;
3. Resources duplication avoided;
4. Multi stakeholders involvement increased;
5. Use and Practice of Union Parishad Operational Manual in place;
6. Regular Open Budget sessions is happening by their own budget;
7. Overall WASH Governance improved.

The facts envisage that budget will increase in all areas where community people’s involvement in the budget process is more and Union Parishad open their budget substantially. Significant achievement observed on improvement of access to water and sanitation in the Unions through per capita allocation of WASH budget is one of the new measures for enhancing WASH services and community participation in the budgeting process.

**We want to future**

- Increase WASH Budget Allocation
- Involve Community and introduces government’s commitment on WASH, so that demand/need can be initiated
- Massive awareness on various policies and Strategies of Government into operational level at ground
- Separate WASH Budget at National level and fund allocation directly to the Union Parishad
- Operationalisation of Union parishad Operation Manual.