

February-July 2018

COUNTRY PROGRAMME UPDATES

Bangladesh

Water security for an urban river (Dhaka)

- Dr Abed Hossain (BUET) is working closely with the Department of Environment (DoE) to support the enhancement of the water quality monitoring systems for Greater Dhaka rivers. Following the approval (May 2017) by the Greater Dhaka Watershed Restoration Workstream of a concept note prepared by BUET and DoE, the BUET team has been assisting DoE in preparing the Preliminary Draft Project Proposal (from December 2017). As part of the latest field visit in May 2018, new sites of monitoring for DoE were identified.
- Dr. Abed Hossain and colleagues, have met in February with the Director General of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) to discuss areas of collaboration, in particular around the Water Quality Monitoring Systems (WQMS) with DoE. In March 2018, Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director General of DoE met with Dr. Abed Hossain and colleagues.
- The Dhaka observatory team has completed both quantitative and qualitative surveys in March 2018. MPhil student Shamima Prodhan (Dhaka University) has conducted six focus group discussions and twelve key informant interviews on health expenditure and poverty as well as water uses and poverty.
- Three sets of monitoring field visits led by Dr Abed Hossain took place in February, March and April, with participation from teams at BUET (Mahabub Arefin Chowdhury, Shammi Shawal, & Md. Mynul Islam) and Dhaka University (Shamima Prodhan & Abdul Khaleque).



Photo taken in March by Shamima Prodhan (M.Phil student, Dhaka University) during her field research exploring water use behaviours along the Turag river. The photo here shows two men navigating on the highly polluted river.

Coastal water security (Khulna district)

- Research Associates Maheen Naz and Sharif Tanjim Arif (BUET) conducted a Water Audit of tube-wells in the southern part and some sections of the north in Polder 29 in March 2018. They measured salinity in the lab using water samples shipped from Khulna, as in-situ measurements were incorrect. The research is a collaboration with UNICEF funding linked to wider interests in responding to water quality risks.
- The water diary method is expanding to Polder 29. Training, led by Dr Sonia Hoque (University of Oxford), Sk. Rabiul Islam, and Sk. Helal (BUET), has been completed for 250 members among 120 households (sampled from 2000 households previously surveyed as part of quantitative household survey) in March 2018.
- PhD Fellow Mohammad Saif Uddin (BUET) has completed his first target of bio-physical monitoring work during pre-monsoon period (March 2018), measuring river bathymetry, discharge and velocity along the Shibsra-Bhadra-Gangrail-Hari river system. Saif has also engaged with the Bangladesh Water Development Board who provided help in conducting field measurements.
- PhD Fellow Md. Mostafizur Rahman (BUET), has developed a risk based system dynamics model using Vensim.
- M.Phil student Sabrina Zaman (Dhaka University) has done an analysis of household survey data. She also conducted qualitative field work recently in three different villages at Polder 29 (including focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in-depth interview).

Universal drinking water security (Matlab, Chandpur district)

- A Data Logger Consultation meeting was held on 15th January, 2018 in Matlab South and North Upazilla with 160 headmasters, District Primary Education Officer, Upazilla Educations Officers, DPHE Upazilla engineers, Upazilla Chairman.
- 100 of 500 data loggers have now been installed in schools and households; icddr,b is leading the water quality analysis which will be presented to government partners in July.

Ethiopia



In May, Dr Catherine Grasham conducted field work in the Awash basin, where she led focus group discussions with rural communities. Here the photo shows the dwelling of a pastoralist family in Afar region, located in the lowest and driest part of the Awash basin.

Sustaining growth through water security (Awash basin)

- Dr Catherine Grasham (University of Oxford) led three weeks of field work in the Awash basin to explore the vulnerability of different water users to floods and droughts by collecting risk perceptions through focus group discussions with rural communities (irrigating and pastoralist), a business survey with industrial water users and urban water utilities, and semi-structured interviews with government organisations involved in managing water-related risk.
- Dr Meron Teferi Taye (WLRC) gave a presentation 'Climate change impact on water resources in the Awash basin, Ethiopia' at the European Geoscience Union General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, on April 12
- A second round of data collection was conducted in February 2018 as part of the surface water-groundwater interaction study, led by Dr Seifu Kebede (Addis Ababa University).

Urbanising water security in small towns (Wukro town)

- The water diaries method is being piloted in Wukro, and in May, Dr Marina Korzenevica-Proud (University of Oxford) led a pilot study with the team from Mekele University leading the Exploring Inequalities grant in Ethiopia.
- In May, Dr Katrina Charles (University of Oxford) and Dr Meron Teferi Taye led a session on climate resilient Water Safety Plans, as part of a Water Safety Plan training provided by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and UNICEF for the utility's Water Safety Plan team.
- On 17 April 2018, Dr Katrina Charles, and Dr Samuel Godfrey (UNICEF Ethiopia), led a Rural Water Supply Network webinar on Small town WASH services: meeting the needs of the urban poor. You can access a recorded version of the webinar in [English](#), and in [French](#).



Photo taken in May by Dr Marina Korzenevica-Proud during her field visit in Wukro town, Ethiopia, as part of the water diaries pilot.

Water security in fragile environments (Abbay basin)

- Field experiment looking at soil moisture and led by Berihun Mersha (Addis Ababa University) is ongoing in Aba Gerima watershed, and started in Debre Yakcob watershed in June. Berihun is also measuring runoff at both Aba Gerima and Debre Yakcob watershed.
- Two papers led by Kato Edwards and the wider IFPRI team on the effects on sustainable land management on (1) poverty and (2) gender are currently under internal revision.
- A paper led by IRC reporting on baseline groundwater development in the SLM Observatory is currently under internal revision.

Kenya

Building water secure institutions (Kitui county)

- In May 2018, water diaries kicked off in Kitui with a training of the team involved followed by a pilot exercise, led by Dr Sonia Hoque. Field data collection will continue for the next one year, until May 2019.
- A water user evaluation is ongoing in Kitui (Mwingi North) to determine households welfare status, water use behaviour, water infrastructure availability and performance, water affordability and policy preferences. The survey was designed and administered in March 2018 and reporting is underway.



Rural households in Kitui, Kenya, attending water diary trainings in May, led by Dr Sonia Hoque.

Small towns in fragile environments (Lodwar town)

- Training of enumerators and households for piloting of water diaries was carried out followed by focus group discussion in selected villages in Turkana Central in May. The team involved included Dr Maggie Opondo, Ong'ech Dennis, Wanguba Bonface, Ms Elizabeth Gatwiri (University of Nairobi) and Dr Sonia Hoque.
- The first Women in Water Stakeholders forum was held on 17 May 2018, with 71 participants. The team involved included: Dr Maggie Opondo, Wanguba Bonface and Dennis Ong'ech.
- Dr Dulo Simeon and Maxwell Odira (University of Nairobi) carried out a detailed assessment of infrastructure and networks with a view to optimise and sustain services under current and future uncertainties.
- Reconnaissance geological mapping and groundwater quality assessment were carried at regional scale in February 2018. This was followed in May by a focused geological mapping and groundwater quality assessment. The University of Nairobi team involved included: Prof Olago Daniel, Dr Ouma Gilbert, Ms Florence Tanui and Mr Wanguba Bonface.