



Follow-up Conference of the International Year of Sanitation (IYS)



"Sanitation in society - How can we sustainably embed sanitation in social, economic and cultural systems?- A Case of Bangladesh"

*Md. Shariful Alam
Project Director, PSU
Deputy Secretary, LGD
MoLGRD&Cos*

1

Background

- ❖ International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade 1981-1990;
- ❖ International Conference on Water and Environment (January 2002);
- ❖ MDG in 2000;
- ❖ WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002;
- ❖ International Decade for Action-Water for Life, 2005-2015.

2

Situation at present

- ❖ 2.5 billion people still lack access to basic sanitation—of whom 1.2 billion open defecators, almost 900 million people lack access to basic water supply;
- ❖ Achievement of MDGs by 2015 would have an annual economic benefit of \$38 billion to non-OECD countries;
- ❖ If universal coverage is achieved, the economic benefits rise to \$171 billion annually;
- ❖ WatSan is not well targeted. OECD study reports that only 23% of aid for the sector went to the countries mostly in need;

3

Situation at present

- ❖ Reaching sanitation target by 2015 implies that additional 450,000 people per day have to be reached;
- ❖ Connection between hygiene and disease not widely known. Simply washing hands can reduce diarrhoeal disease by a third;
- ❖ Simple achievable interventions can reduce, for example, diarrhoeal diseases by 391 million cases per year ;
- ❖ For every \$1 spent on sanitation, the return on investment is around \$ 9.

4

Issues and challenges

- ❑ Quantitative expansion of sanitation facilities versus negative impacts on environment (pollution, over use of water etc.);
- ❑ Sanitation and economic gains (recovery, reuse, energy saving etc.);
- ❑ Sanitation and socio-cultural systems and social institutions (gender perspective, families, schools, societal networks etc.);
- ❑ Low-cost technology and on-site sanitation ---- potentials and threats

5

Issues and challenges

- ❑ Social taboos often act as deterrent to make efforts sustainable;
- ❑ Sanitation and religious practice, rites and rituals;
- ❑ Centrally managed sanitation versus locally managed sanitation facilities; scaling up remains a major challenge
- ❑ Technologies: operation and maintenance.
- ❑ Sanitation in institutions and public places in dire condition (one latrine to 152 pupils, worst case-479)

6

Strategic consideration

- Sanitation issues should be addressed in the context of IWRM supported by advocacy, mass awareness and community education;
- Sanitation could be seen gradually as economic good (polluters pay principle, on-site sanitation, resource recovery, creation of market for sanitation etc.);
- Socially, culturally, institutionally sensitive strategies should focus on gender, dignity, prestige, security etc. along with health;

7

Strategic consideration

- Smart social mobilization campaign coupled with school curricula can do miracle overcoming taboos;
- Promoting champions, movers and shakers for sanitation from both government and non-government sector;
- Bringing private sector in the scene;
- Mobilizing funds, and building capacity to utilize them;
- Coordination and sector monitoring-managing for results and ensuring accountability;

8



Thank you for your kind attention

Further information:

www.psu-wss.org