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Context and rationale for intervention

Before the Blue Gold Program (BGP)'s intervention in the program polders:



Men worked in agriculture and women worked in domestic roles



Homestead production, such as rearing poultry, growing vegetables, and post-harvest work were viewed as domestic tasks, not productive work



Women had little to no income



Women were reserved and absent from public spheres



Men dominated at home and in public

Challenges and opportunities

These traditional norms hindered active participation of women in BGP interventions. Quotas to enable and encourage the active participation of women in BGP were crucial to the success of the initiative:

- BGP aimed to have 40% of all Water Management Groups (WMGs) composed of female general members

- The government requires 30% of Executive Boards of WMGs to be composed of women
- Both targets were met, enhancing opportunities for women.

Gender mainstreaming and gender activities in BGP

- Women encouraged to actively participate in WMGs, including in important positions as chairperson, secretary and cashier (9% in 2018/ 2019)
- Women and men as participants in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) (63.8% women)
- Integration of gender issues in FFS sessions
- Women encouraged to participate in all BGP training (36.7% women)
- Women and men as participants in horizontal learning (56.8% women)
- Women and men in Collective Actions (CA) for economic activities (36.5% women)
- Gender and Leadership Development training for men (945) and women (3,750)
- Specific activities for women, such as training on development of market linkages and women's empowerment

Women now have the knowledge, skills and capacity to contribute more to production and household income. This contributed to overall BGP goals.

BGP interventions to enhance membership of women in WMGs

- Emphasis on both men and women becoming members through BGP information, motivational meetings, and door-to-door visits
- Special gender courtyard sessions to motivate women's membership. These included awareness-raising topics on women's participation in productive/ income-generating activities, and playing vocal roles in decision-making processes



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Summary[[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Women's empowerment and gender equality contributing to overall well-being


empowerment is a process, enabling people to make choices and convert these into desired actions and results. In doing so, people take control of their own lives, improve their own position, set their own agenda, gain skills, develop self-confidence, solve problems, and develop self-sufficiency. Empowerment leads to genuine participation of all actors as it is a process of gaining self-confidence for individual development as well as to contribute towards development of others.

Gender equality exists when men and women, boys and girls are attributed equal social value, equal

rights and equal responsibilities; and men and women have equal access to the means (resources, opportunities) to exercise those rights and responsibilities. This does not mean that women and men will become the same, but rather that rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether someone is born male or female.

File history

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Blue Gold Program Wiki

The wiki version of the Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold program, documents the experiences of a technical assistance (TA) team working in a development project implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

over an eight+ year period from March 2013 to December 2021. The wiki lessons learnt report (LLR) is intended to complement the BWDB and DAE project completion reports (PCRs), with the aim of recording lessons learnt for use in the design and implementation of future interventions in the coastal zone.

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