



To create sustainable access to water and sanitation services, the Dutch WASH Alliance facilitates the development of functioning WASH markets and public sectors in the eight countries where we are active. To realise the latter, advocacy is an important element of our work. Together with our local partner organisations we work on keeping local and national governments accountable for adequate policies, laws and investments in WASH. Key priority on community level is increasing greater accountability between communities, service providers and (local) governments.

Budget Tracking

One of the approaches we use to increase citizen influence (voice) and to strengthen the response of local WASH service providers and decision-makers is Budget Tracking - a monitoring tool that helps making sure funds allocation for WASH from national level will reach the people at community level.

Our Budget Tracking approach is composed of 5 steps:

1 Mass campaign and promotion *At community level*



Mass campaigning proves to be a valuable method to raise awareness in the community on WASH budget allocation processes and meetings. In addition to putting up large banners in open spaces in the villages, our partners drive through villages with loud-speaking cars at the eve of important (pre)budget meetings. This enables villagers to attend these meetings and voice their demands.

A more direct approach used in Bangladesh, is setting up monthly WASH Budget Monitoring Clubs. These advocacy groups are made up of influential men and women from the community, such as local leaders, entrepreneurs and journalists. A Budget Club functions as a platform on which dialogue between the community and local governments can take place. Jointly, the members of the clubs can place demands at local WASH service providers.

2 Lobby and advocacy *At community, district and national level*

Raising awareness and empowering people at community level is one thing, but this should be supported by lobby and advocacy activities. On local and sub-district level, quarterly meetings are organised in which WASH budget spending is discussed, but focus on national advocacy activities via television and newspapers is as important.

In Bangladesh, senior government officials are invited as guests to appear in talkshows on national television to discuss WASH policies and budget allocation. The Right to Information Act helps putting pressure on these officials to engage in these shows. A National Sanitation Taskforce was set up to influence national policy and decision-making on WASH and health.



3 WASH service monitoring *Focused at WASH service providers*



The WASH service provider is an important stakeholder in the WASH service and value chain. To find out whether WASH service providers actually fulfil their responsibilities, such as managing water supplies or sanitation services, household surveys are used. In mobile surveys community members are asked to give insight in which WASH services they do and do not receive. At the same time, Budget Clubs use community-based monitoring tools to interview the service providers about the WASH services they provide, how they do this and which challenges they encounter during this process.

4 WASH budget monitoring *At community and national level*

In many countries, local governments are obliged to organise pre-budget and open budget sessions in which community members are informed about WASH budget spending and allocation. These sessions are also the perfect platform for the communities to enter into dialogue with the policy makers, voice their needs or lobby for better spending processes. After these meetings, the budget plans are displayed on large banners in open spaces in the communities, to make the process transparent and make sure governments can be held accountable. Collection and review of National Budget documents is also an integral part of WASH Budget monitoring.



5 Capacity building *At community level*



Capacity building is about the continuous process of coaching community members, WASH Committees and Budget Clubs. In addition to helping them to organise themselves or approaching governmental organisations or service providers, the groups are supported to formulate budget proposals. Another important capacity building element is sharing relevant information with the community groups during the complete process of Budget Tracking, for example national strategy documents.

TIPS & TRICKS FOR BUDGET TRACKING

- Make sure you always use existing structures and organisations, such as WASH Committees
- Pay special attention to involving women and girls: their voice needs to be heard as well
- Provide massive WASH (Budget) related information to increase the confidence and bargaining capacity of the community
- Build relationships with the key decision-making people within institutions, those who directly deal with WASH budget
- Use print and electronic media to reach large groups of people at micro, meso and macro level

