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(I)NGOs Gender Working Group – Bangladesh

Knowledge Sharing Meeting, 10th July 2014, Washington DC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Presentation Overview:

- **Section 1:** The Story of the Gender Working Group (GWG) in Bangladesh
- **Section 2:** Key Achievements for the Group and Our Forward Plans
- **Section 3:** Lessons from the GWG Experience and Recommendations for Setting up a CoP



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SECTION 1: OUR STORY – THE GWG IN BANGLADESH



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SECTION 1: OUR STORY – THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH IN EARLY 2013



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Advancing Gender Equality in Bangladesh

- Gender is crucial across development areas, from child marriage to disabilities and emergencies.
- Existing groups such as the LCG-WAGE focused on representing only donors' priorities to government.
- **Opportunity** to create a gender Community of Practice (CoP) for Bangladesh that represents the wider sector, particularly implementing organizations.



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SECTION 1: OUR STORY – SETTING UP THE GENDER WORKING GROUP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



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Task

HKI and WorldFish set out to create a gender CoP for Bangladesh. The CoP would represent implementing organizations and seek to identify spaces for collaboration and the sharing of best practices.

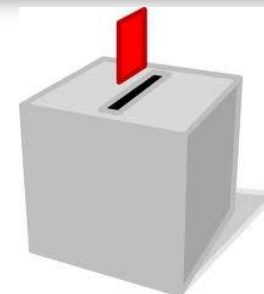
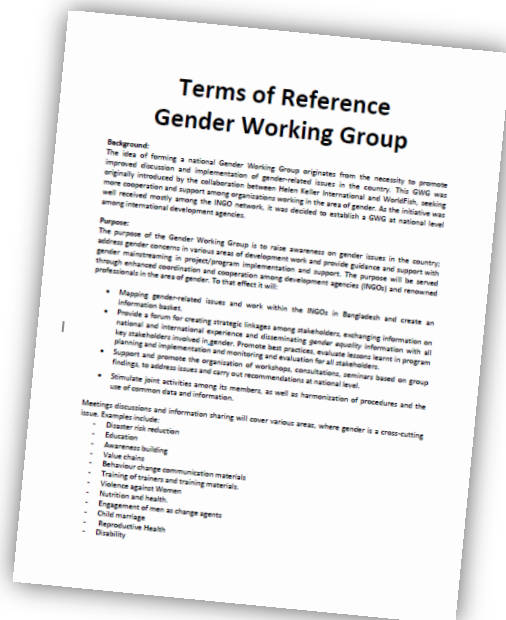
Actions



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WorldFish



Jan 13

Feb 13

March 13

April 13

SECTION 1: BUILDING OUR MEMBERSHIP



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15 Members at inception

31 members within a year.

SECTION 1: HOW THE GENDER WORKING GROUP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE OPERATES



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Institutional Structure

- **Chair and Co-Chair** arrange and facilitate the meetings.
- **Secretary** is the host organization of the meeting.

Meeting Content

- **Gender** is always the focus – Membership generates the content: initially “first in best dressed”, now groups of organizations present on agreed themes.
- **Topics:** Gender Analysis tools, M&E, Ag-Nutrition, Political Campaigning and Advocacy, Child Marriage mapping, Behavior Change tools, Humanitarian Aid.

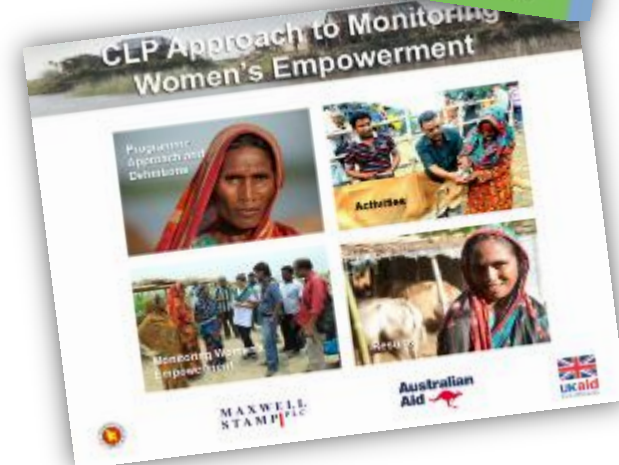
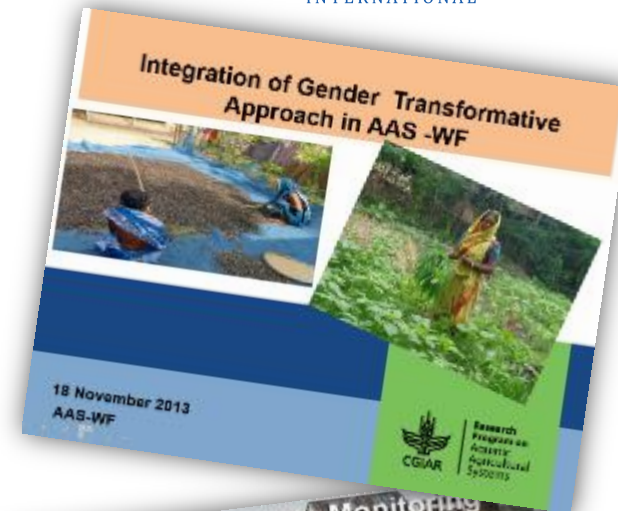




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SECTION 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FORWARD PLANS



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SECTION 2: SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/2014



Some Examples of the GWG CoP in Action



1. Representing the sector for the GoB's consultation on its draft Women Development Policy



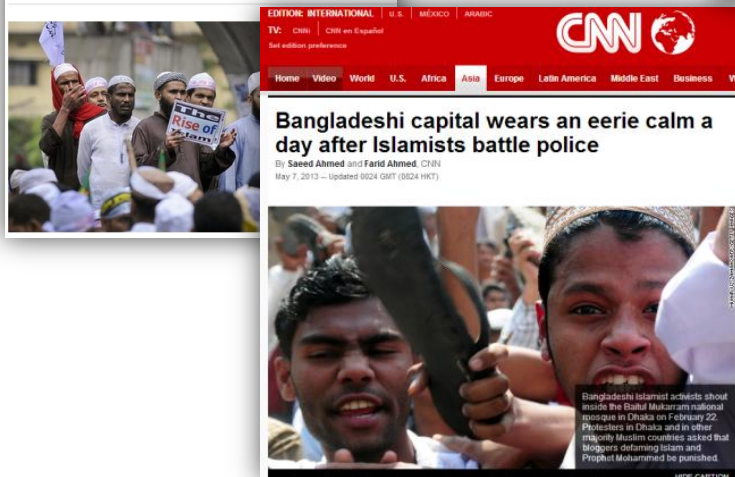
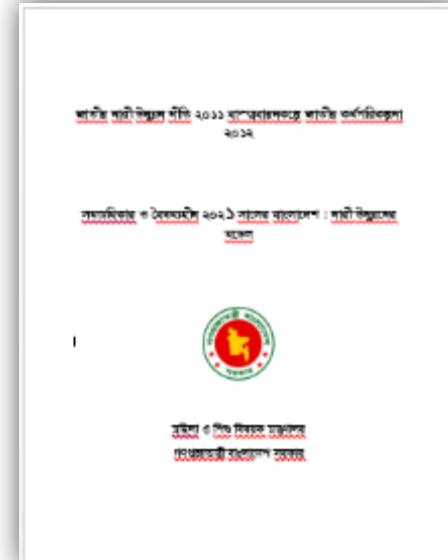
2. Disseminating best practices amongst implementing organizations.



3. Informing the development of the EU Gender Country Profile for Bangladesh

SECTION 2: SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/2014

Representing the sector for the GoB's consultation on its draft Women Development Policy



SECTION 2: ACHIEVEMENTS – FSN-RELATED



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Dissemination of Best Practices amongst Implementing Organizations.

International Women's Day 2014

HKI and WF event on *Institutionalizing Gender in Nutrition and Agriculture Interventions*.

- WF's new *Gender Transformative Approach* in Aquaculture programs
- HKI's newly developed behavior change tool for gender and nutrition *Nurturing Connections*



SECTION 2: SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/2014

Informing the development of the EU Gender Country Profile for Bangladesh



Moringa Oleifera, known locally as sajna pata (picture on the cover page), is a tree with numerous nutritional properties that has the potential of making significant contributions to the challenges of malnutrition in the Bangladesh. However it is barely used in its full potentials in the country. Similarly, Gender is essential to the achievement of development outcomes across sector, but poorly understood and integrated.

EU focus areas in the Profile:

- 1. Gender Democratic Governance and Human Rights**
- 2. Gender in FSN**
- 3. Gender, Education and Skills Development.**

SECTION 2: ACHIEVEMENTS – FSN-RELATED



Other Achievements Inspired by the GWG CoP:

Creation of other initiatives for collaboration on gender:

- USAID-DFID **NGO Health Service Delivery Project (NHSDP)** is forming a GWG to ensure gender integration in their strategy and activities;
- Implementing **partners in the USAID FtF zone** are forming a GWG, with a focus on creating one common strategy for behavior change communications that includes gender and women's empowerment messages.

FORWARD PLANS FOR 2014/2015



- Maintain same meetings pace every 6-8 weeks.
- Grow more, but mostly better.
- Hold workshops aimed at building the cohesiveness of the group.
- Meetings driven by topic:
 - Gender in Emergency Response; Child Marriage; Gender in Education; Gender in Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition; Gender-Based Violence vs Violence Against Women; Transformation/Leadership/Women in Politics; Gender and Behavior Change/Men's involvement; Gender in Livelihoods, IGAs and Market Development; Engendering Organizations; Gender in the Media.*
- Continuous support to members' initiatives, events and seek potential for collaborations.
- Increased relationship with the LCG-WAGE.



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SECTION 3: SOME LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SECTION 3: LESSONS



Some Lessons from the experience of setting up the GWG CoP:

- Even though the organizations within the group regularly compete for development resources, and therefore have a disincentive to share knowledge, **appealing to the common interest** of furthering the gender agenda provides a strong incentive to collaborate.
- **Look out for competition and beware of politics!!!** Once something of value was created, other interests sought to capture the space. Although the GWG is open to everyone, it is vital that the group retains the focus on the synergetic nature of the collaboration.
- **Keep up the pace of communications** and new ideas. It is important that they are generated from the group, everyone has a space. (priority to whom hasn't presented yet).

SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATIONS



Key Recommendations for engaging in setting up future CoPs:

- ✓ **Establish** the mandate and framework early on. This manages expectations for the CoP and clarifies the value to the organizations involved in the initiative.
- ✓ **Focus** on areas where the group benefits from working together: consultations, sector representations, 'growing the pie' for resources shared in gender where everyone benefits.
- ✓ **Ensure** that there is an open, fair and democratic process for electing leadership.



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THANK YOU.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” -Helen Keller