

Global Water Partnership South Asia



South Asia is categorised as a poor water security hotspot – adversely affecting its populations and economies and resulting in social instability. This has been aggravated by growing global trends in population, economy, urbanisation and climate change-induced extreme and frequent weather events. Therefore, a mechanism that promotes coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources is crucial for South Asia as it experiences the full implications of increasingly strong interconnections between water insecurity, food insecurity, climate change and regional integration.

The Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) was launched in 2002 in Pakistan to nurture the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in South Asia. It is one of thirteen Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs) of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) network, which has worked on many regional thematic issues related to water and its allied sectors. The GWP SAS network is linked through Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with nearly 700 partners across the region.

GWP SAS milestones

Up to 2016

- Formulated an **IWRM plan** for Wainganga River Basin in Maharashtra, India
- Developed an **urban flood risk management framework** for Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Raising awareness on IWRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)** in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Implementing **school hygiene and sanitation programmes** in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- Connected **bankable, village-level CCA projects** with **micro-financing facilities** in Bangladesh

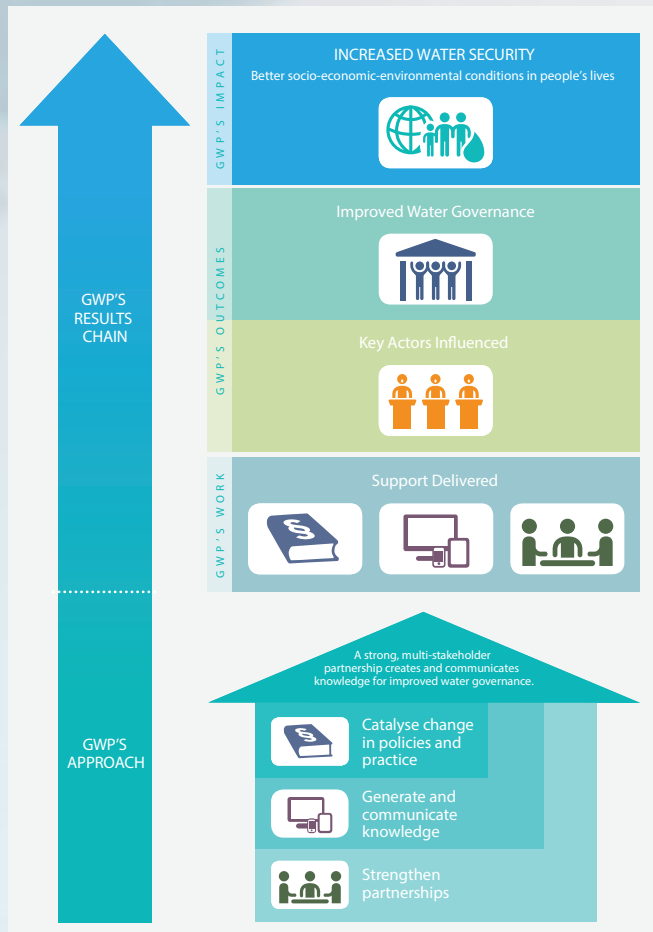
2016 to 2017

- Integrating CCA into local planning processes through **Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPAs)** in Nepal
- Reviewed **state water policies** for building climate resilience and aligning with India's National Water Policy
- Developed a **detailed project report and an investment plan on IWRM** for village Garhi Harsaru, India
- Introducing **locally produced water filters** for vulnerable communities in India and Pakistan

2017 onwards

- Lay foundations for **South-South collaboration** in Pan Asia Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) and Learning Deltas Asia Initiative (LDAI)
- Providing country level support to **accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**
- Producing **knowledge products and training tools on CCA** in Sri Lanka
- Contributing to **develop a multi-stakeholder platform** for Hindon Rejuvenation in India
- Prepared a **Wetland Management Plan** for five villages in Maharashtra, India

HOW GWP WORKS



Our vision is "A water-secure South Asia".

Our mission: "Promote water security and climate resilience in South Asia as a key part of sustainable regional and national development for economic growth and human security keeping Integrated Water Resources Management intact".

GWP South Asia is carrying out its activities based on a well-established framework of three strategic goals as outlined in the GWP Strategy Towards 2020:

- Catalyse change in policies and practice,
- Generate and communicate knowledge
- Strengthen partnerships

The three goals are interdependent and ensure a coherent approach to GWP South Asia activities at all levels.

GWP welcomes the aspirational 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The recognition given to Integrated Water Resources Management in the SDGs gives momentum to GWP's approach to progress toward sustainable development and a productive and dignified life for all.



GWP South Asia's Regional Project Portfolio

Core Programme is aimed at delivering the GWP as a global public good by reinforcing the network and developing the decentralised knowledge management system. The activities are aimed at fostering and catalysing the governance process, which is pursued across the GWP SAS mission.

As part of the **Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)**, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) supported by GWP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) developed the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS). Development of SADMS is in its third phase of capacity building, customisation for national needs and dissemination. It is expected that the new drought monitoring system would provide a clear understanding of drought risk and guide decision makers in taking preventive action.

GWP South Asia is taking the lead in the **GWP Youth Programme** visioning to integrate the initiative at regional as well as national level and to take concrete steps for supporting youth-led project development and implementation.

Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) is a flagship initiative of GWP SAS implemented under the global WACDEP. The CWPs team up with respective governments, agencies and strategic allies to play a catalytic role in developing integrated "no/low regrets" water security and climate resilience investment plans, and to raise awareness and build capacity among stakeholders.

Learning Deltas Asia Initiative (LDAI) was launched by GWP in operational cooperation with parties of the Delta Coalition. The process follows a phased approach, which started with a pilot knowledge sharing between Bangladesh and Myanmar. The lessons learnt will benefit in upscaling delta management in the Asia-Pacific region and other Delta Coalitions and GWP affiliated deltaic countries.

Pan Asia Water, Climate and Development Programme (Pan Asia WACDEP) is projected for four GWP Regional Water Partnerships - GWP South Asia, GWP South East Asia, GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (CACENA), and GWP China. The programme aims to support countries to align implementation of water-and climate-related priorities with the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



GWP SAS value addition

- Advanced South Asian cooperation in climate change adaptation (including disaster risk management), water-food-energy security, and transboundary issues through increased data sharing, exchanging best practices and identification of alternative technologies to enhance regional economic development.
- National-, state/provincial-, district-, local- and river basin-level governments will integrate water security, climate resilience, rural/urban water management and environmental sustainability into development planning and decision-making processes.
- All boundary actors, strategic allies and institutions will develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive 'no/low regrets' investments and financing strategies for addressing critical water security challenges, climate resilience and food security.
- RWP, CWP and allies have enhanced capacity in resource mobilisation and sound stakeholder engagement in water governance.

Donor and partner support

GWP's diverse multi-stakeholder network consists of governments, nongovernmental organisations, academic institutions, community based organisations and the private sector. Some states and international organisations (including Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Hungary, Jordan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden, The World Bank and WMO) appointed by the GWP Chair have been sponsoring GWP's work.

In South Asia, collaboration and generous contributions of local governments, nongovernmental organisations and the private sector are highly appreciated. These locally raised funds mutually strengthen the efforts carried out to accomplish "A water-secure South Asia".



Global Water Partnership South Asia
Tel: +94 11 2880000
secretariat@gwpsas.org

www.gwp.org/en/gwp-south-asia