



WaterAid/Habibul Haque

**WASH Budget-Tracking
Post-Budget Policy Brief on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene**

WASH budget allocation in ADP needs holistic approach to address spatial inequities at all levels

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Highlights

- Notwithstanding new crisis stemming from inflation, Ukraine conflict and continuing shadow of the pandemic, there has been commendable upward trend in ADP allocation on WASH though proportionately lower than overall rate of ADP increase. WASH ADP allocation increased 5.44% compared to overall ADP increase of 7.5%. This is concerning because as JMP 2021 underscores, percentage having access to ‘safely managed drinking water’ stands at 59% and percentage having access to ‘safely managed sanitation’ stands at 39%.
- Sub-sectoral WASH allocations in proposed budget shows a mixed picture with increased allocations for water, sanitation, hygiene and risk reduction but lower allocations for FSM, environment and capacity-building.
- Some positive trend in addressing spatial inequities – allocation for haor and hilly areas show some increase but not for chars and coastal areas. Proportionate allocation for rural areas also shows some increase – from 22.5% in FY 2021-22 to 27.7% in FY 2022-23.
- However, intra-urban inequities in WASH allocation persist with DNCC and Gazipur City Corporation being the big winners in FY 2022-23 allocation.

Pre-budget recommendations and reflection in proposed WASH ADP allocation FY 2022-23

Serial No	Pre-budget Recommendations	Status in FY2022-23 proposed budget
1	A change in the implementation mind-set and greater attention to selection of effective ADP projects by various agencies and implementing entities is essential to ensure on-track trajectory of SDG 6.1.1 and SDG 6.2.1	Implementation will take time. Follow up to be continued through WASH-budget tracking.
2	Despite rising WASH allocations in the budget, entrenched spatial inequities in allocation and implementation capacity continue. In the short-run, increased allocations for hard-to-reach areas are a priority. In the medium-term, redressing intra-urban allocation inequities, particularly among the four WASAs has to be a priority.	Allocation in hard-to- reach has been increased specially in haor and hilly region, however, slightly dropped in coastal area.

Serial No	Pre-budget Recommendations	Status in FY2022-23 proposed budget
3	To resolve the governance challenge of equitable allocation among the WASAs prioritize more effective utilization of WASH ADP allocations.	Though Dhaka WASA's allocation considerably reduced, Khulna WASA's allocation has not been increased.
4	Hygiene received a temporary boost in policy and budgetary attention due to the pandemic but is already at risk of losing this policy momentum. A fresh look at post Covid-19 hygiene agenda is a priority.	Allocation in hygiene and awareness building has been raised. Project in response to Covid 19 pandemic has been undertaken.
5	WASH ADP allocations to prioritize climate change and disaster risk reduction can be strengthened through mapping of emerging climate hotspots and development of customized micro-plans to address the WASH vulnerabilities specific to the hotspots.	More projects are coming up addressing climate change and disaster issues. Dhaka WASA for the first time has undertaken such project with considerable budget.
6	FSM allocations in ADP are important for achieving SDG-era WASH targets. No allocation for FY2021-22 for hygiene is not a good sign. Sufficient amount should be allocated in future budget for hygiene and waste management.	FSM allocation in ADP has further dropped.
7	Government has adopted a policy of expanding urban facilities in the villages to counter excessive migration to the cities. There is a need for an urgent plan to develop a WASH perspective for urbanized villages within the remaining years of the 8 th FYP.	Gap in WASH ADP allocation has further been increased.



Key Findings from WASH ADP Budget-Tracking

1. Commendable Upward Trend in ADP allocation on WASH though proportionately lower than overall rate of ADP increase

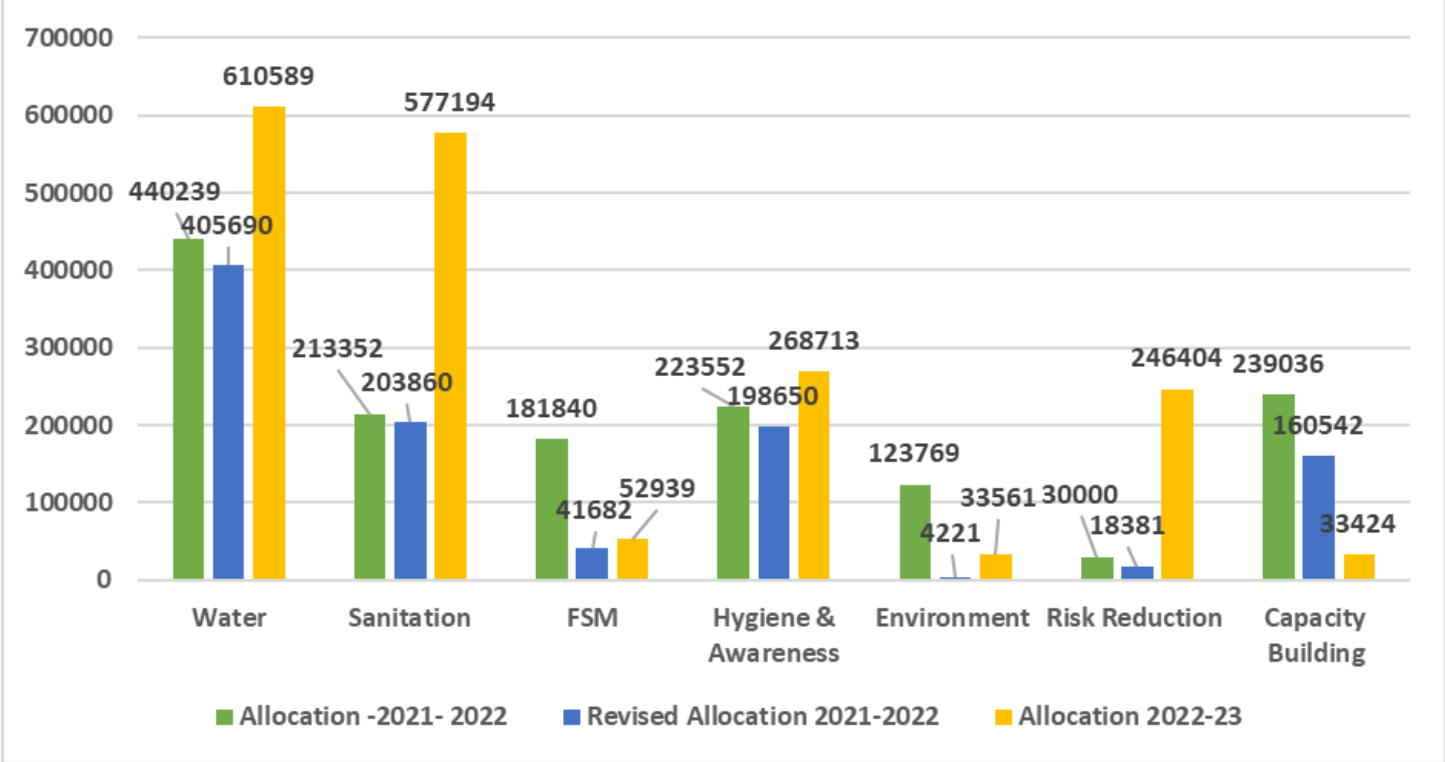
WASH ADP allocation has maintained its upward trend in the proposed budget for FY 2022-23 though the proportionate increase in WASH allocation over the preceding fiscal year is lower – 5.44% (of total Taka 2,46,066.09 crore of ADP budget) - than the corresponding rate of increase in the overall ADP size – 7.4% of National budget.



2. Mixed picture in sub-sectoral allocations

Disaggregated data (Figure 2) shows increased allocations for water, sanitation, hygiene and risk reduction in proposed budget for FY 2022-23 compared to the allocation in the preceding fiscal year. But allocations for FSM, environment and capacity-building shows surprising decline. This is concerning because as the pre-budget WASH budget-tracking policy brief underscored, emerging climate hotspots and FSM in secondary towns and urbanized villages represent newer WASH challenges.

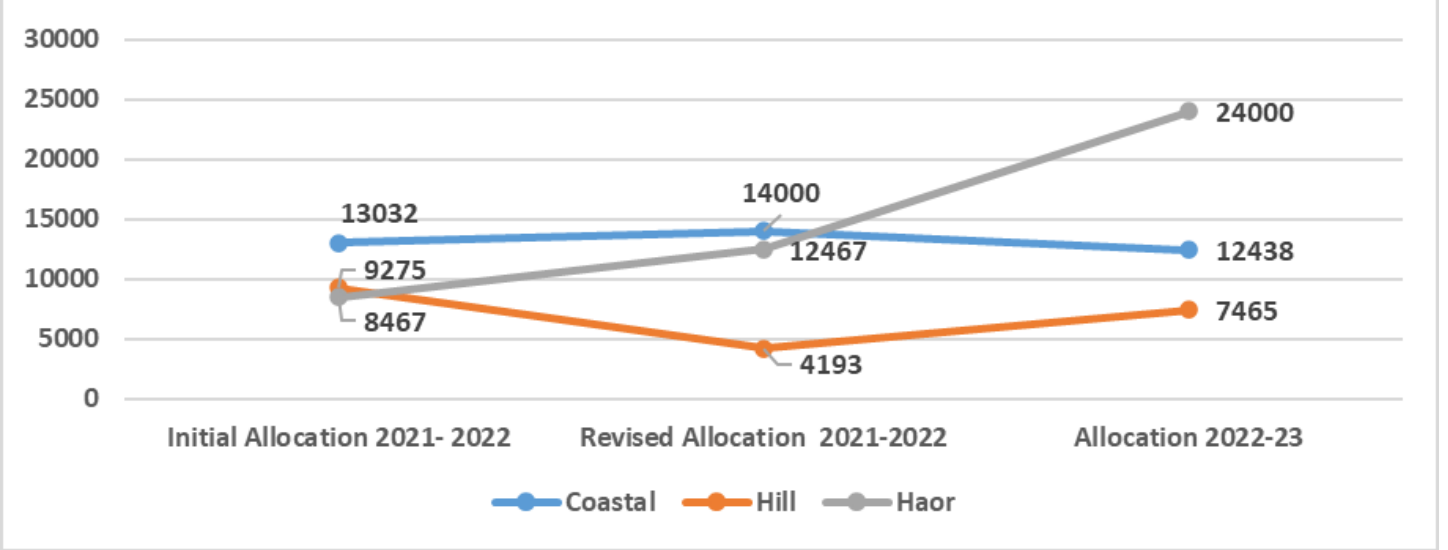
Figure 2: WASH Allocation by Sector (Taka in lakh)



3. Upward trend in allocation in haor and hilly area

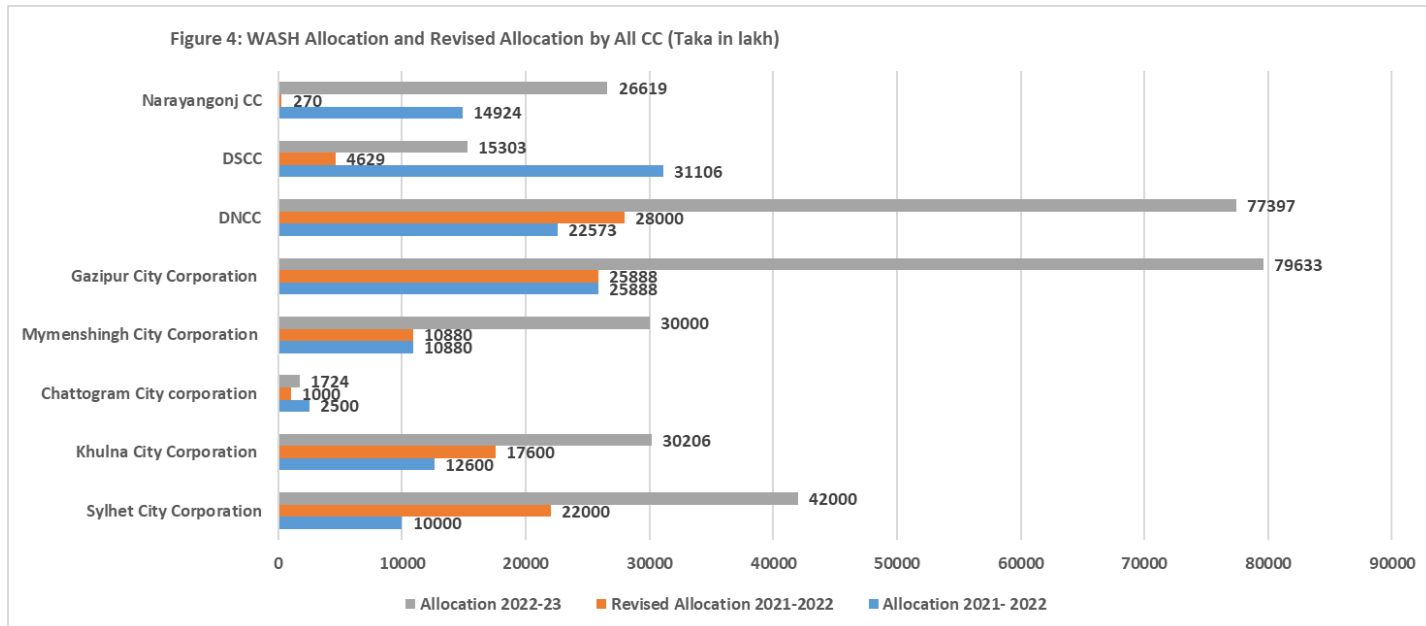
Repeated calls in the past were made through WASH sector actors to ensure WASH programmes in the hard-to-reach area for realizing SDG 6 and government’s commitment in adopted plans and policies. The proposed budget of FY2022-23 finds an upward trend (Figure 3) in allocation in haor and hilly region. This spirit should be scaled up in coastal and char lands to ensure no one is left behind. However, the current unprecedented flooding in haor areas of Sylhet area makes it inevitable to prioritise these areas with much more attention.

Figure3: WASH Allocation in hard to reach area (Taka in lakh)



4. Intra-urban inequities in ADP WASH budget allocation

The WASH budget-tracking exercise has repeatedly brought into focus the deeply rooted problem of intra-urban inequities in WASH allocations. Unfortunately, proposed budget for FY 2022-23 shows a continuation of this problem of intra-urban inequities (Figure 4). In the proposed budget of FY2022-23, allocations are disproportionately tilted towards DNCC and Gazipur City Corporation. Clearly, a more rational and equitable intra-urban distribution of the WASH ADP allocations has not been in focus.



5. Some positive changes but inequities continue in WASH allocations for the 4 WASAs

There has been some positive changes in intra-WASA allocations with proportionate allocation for DWASA somewhat reduced in FY 2022-23 budget and corresponding allocations increased for CWASA and RWASA (Figure 5). However, allocations for KWASA continues to languish at the bottom. This intra-urban inequity is of course a governance challenge and should be resolved at the policy level by equitable distribution of resources keeping upward trend and timely completion of projects. Interestingly, combined WASH ADP allocation for all four WASAs has declined to 30% from 36% in allocation for the preceding fiscal year of FY 2021-22 (Figure 6).

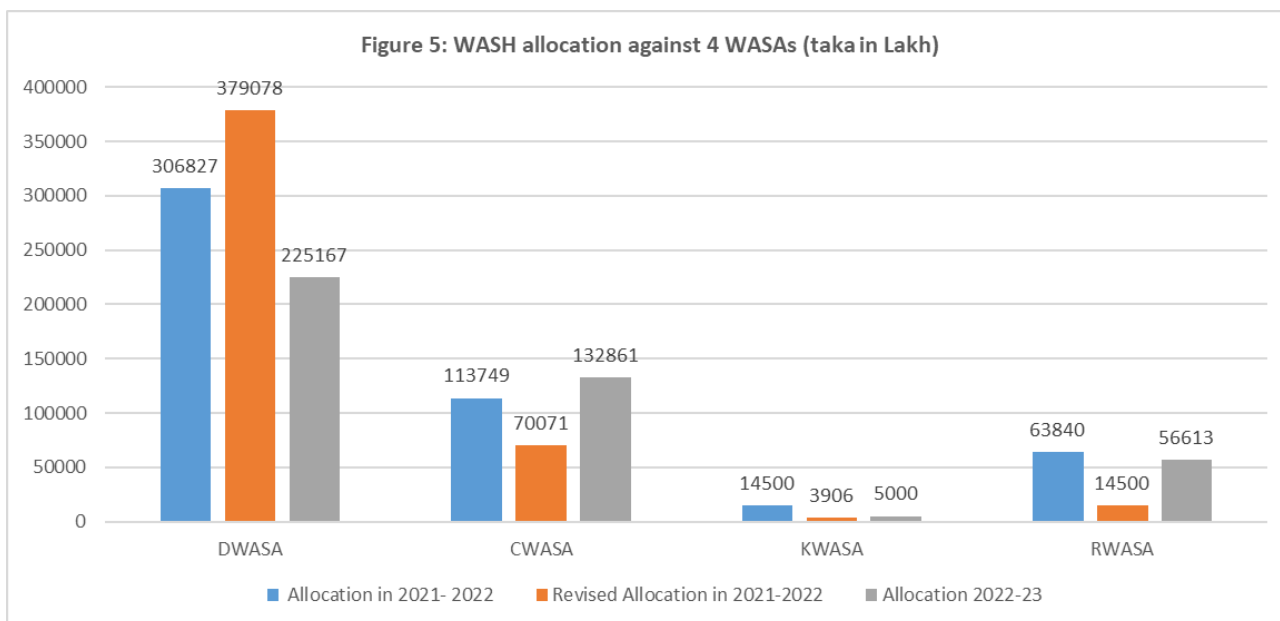
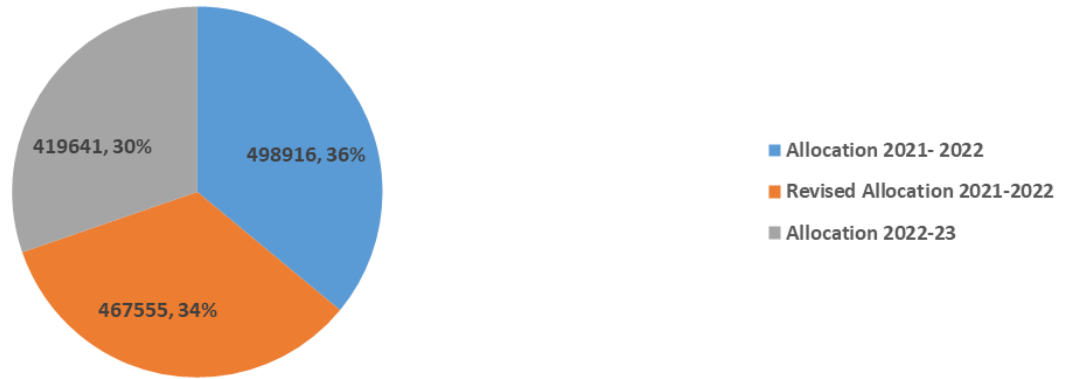


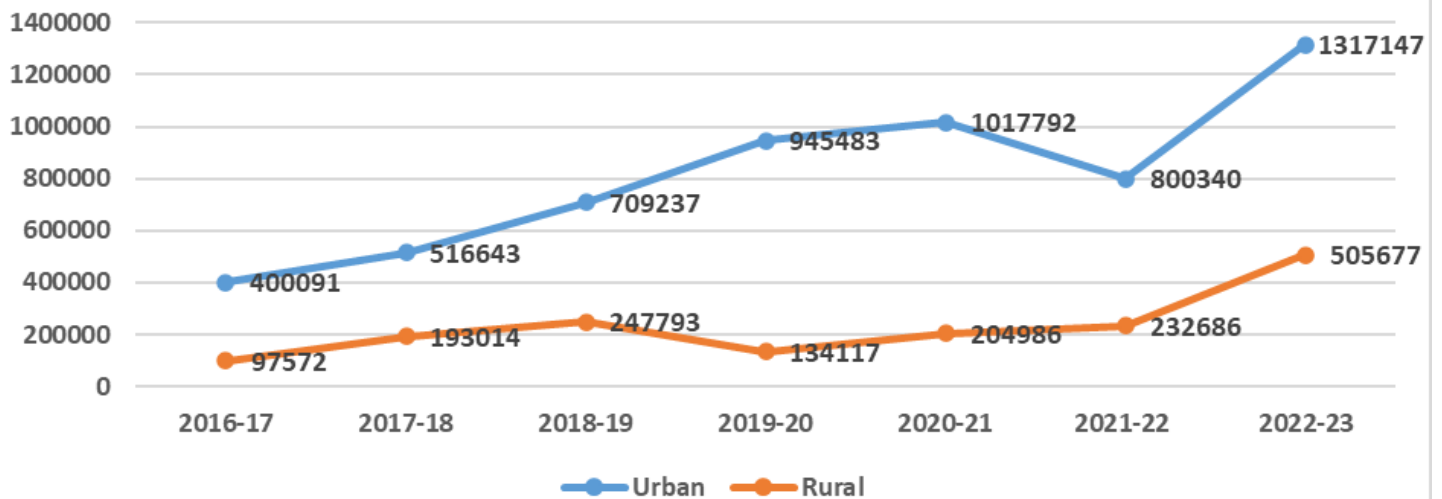
Figure 6: WASH Allocation by All WASA (Taka in lakh)



6. Urban-rural inequities in WASH ADP allocations

Urban areas continue to receive the lion share of WASH ADP allocations but the urban-rural disparity has marginally declined with rural allocation in FY 2022-23 at 27.7% compared to 22.5% in FY 2021-22.

Figure 7: Trend in Spatial Allocation by Urban and Rural (Taka in lakh)





Recommendations



Though there have been some positive steps to address spatial inequities, there is little consistency across the sector. Haor and hilly areas have received positive attention but not chars and coastal areas. Intra-urban inequities too persist. There is an urgent need to bring more consistency to the spatial allocation of WASH ADP.



The decline in allocation for FSM runs counter to the rising needs of this sub-sector particularly for secondary towns and urbanized villages. Review of the proposed budget should examine this issue more closely and ensure increased FSM allocation to address the emerging WASH challenges.



Increased allocation on hygiene sub-sector is a positive step but implementing through Ministry of Health alone will not achieve the required results. For this sub-sector SDG6 is to be realised. A multi-agency policy approach should be adopted as a priority.



The less-than proportionate increase in WASH allocations in FY 2022-23 budget compared to the rate of increase of overall ADP puts a question mark on the prospect of accelerated realisation of SDG 6 by 2030. Stronger advocacy to ensure higher policy prioritisation of WASH has to be continued.