

METHODOLOGY FOR BHEAP DEVELOPMENT

The evolution of BHEAP was gradual and slow, but participatory in nature. The process was undertaken at the initiative of the DGHS and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A Coordination Committee (CC) was formed consisting of representatives from government, non-government and international agencies, working in this field from the health sector.

Two consultants were appointed when it was felt that none of the members of the CC felt that they would not be in a position to undertake the preparation of the CSR and BHEAP on their own, mainly due to time constraints. The consultants met with all the relevant agencies to seek their views, while preparing the CSR. All available documents were reviewed and evaluated. The draft CSR was circulated to the CC members and their comments incorporated.

The draft CSR was then presented to a National Workshop held in September, 1996, at Dhaka, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Amongst others, the Secretary, MoHFW, DG of DGHS, Bangladesh WR and CEH SEARO of WHO, and the Director (PHC), DGHS were present. A brief report on the workshop has been enclosed as Annex A.

The high-level inauguration was followed by a two day workshop, participated by about 50 representatives from various government ministries and agencies, NGOs, media and academic institutions. They worked in analyzing the CSR and identifying the important environmental health problems, prevailing in Bangladesh. They also suggested solutions to the problem and identified possible actors.

In brief, the following methodology was followed while preparing the BHEAP :

1. Review and analysis of available documents pertinent to the exercise from all ministries, concerned agencies, etc.
2. Meetings and discussions with concerned officials of related sector agencies, including the circulation of over 1000 questionnaires to thana-level for eliciting their comments.
3. In-depth study and analysis of specific priority areas for inclusion in the recommendations of the exercise, including incorporation of the comments from the questionnaire.
4. Inter linkages with the environment / development planning process, particularly the NEMAP, and incorporation of people's opinion.
5. National Workshop to present the Country Situation Analysis report, based on which suggestions were provided for BHEAP and its elements and recommended priority program areas.