

IWRM CAPACITY BUILDING

The Barbados Experience



Global Water
Partnership
Caribbean

Case Study

IWRM CAPACITY BUILDING IN BARBADOS

BACKGROUND

Barbados has been classified as a country with a severe water shortage. Climate change issues, population growth, new developments, as well as increased chemical use and irresponsible waste management, have all contributed to a decrease in water quality resulting in reduced water availability for the population. In an effort to address knowledge gaps that have contributed to inefficient water consumption, this capacity-building initiative was implemented by the **Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods (COESL)**, from January to March 2022, and funded by the **Small-scale Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Grants** from the **Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C)**. The project highlighted the link between IWRM and the SDGs in Barbados, and built capacity by "improving the awareness, knowledge, and skills of non-profit institutions and individuals to sustain wise use of water resources."

ACTIONS TAKEN

In order to achieve the desired results, the collaborators at COESL took the following actions:

- Established a baseline understanding of water knowledge among project participants Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) operating in Barbados.
- Created a survey to capture existing best practices in communities, in which NPOs and MSMEs work in areas of water management and use, including grey water, storm water and fresh water.
- Created an accessible and socially-inclusive listing of regional and global career opportunities available in the water sector.
- Designed and implemented a practical workshop over 3 days. This workshop utilized the analysed information gathered from the survey to transfer the relevant knowledge and learning, appropriate for the project participants

- As a response to the survey conducted, an "IWRM 101" community-based manual was developed based on the workshop material; thus bridging the existing knowledge gaps identified within the NPOs and MSMEs.

OUTCOMES

The main outcomes from this project were:

- Target audience enrolled and engaged in the workshop.
- A listing of career opportunities available for professionals in the water sector.
- Target audience better equipped to understand and achieve the SDGs in relation to IWRM

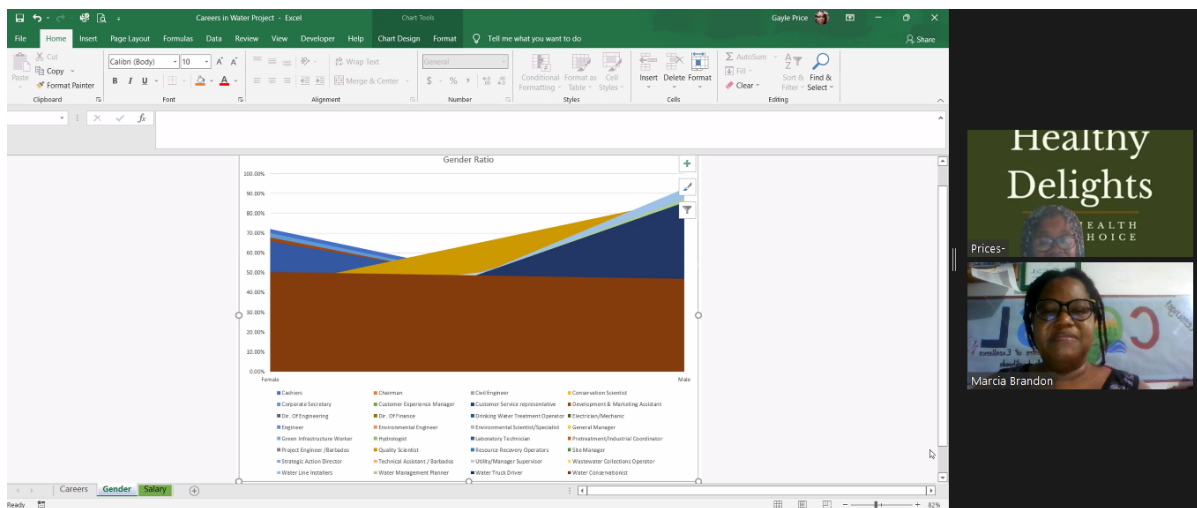


Figure 1: Virtual capacity building.

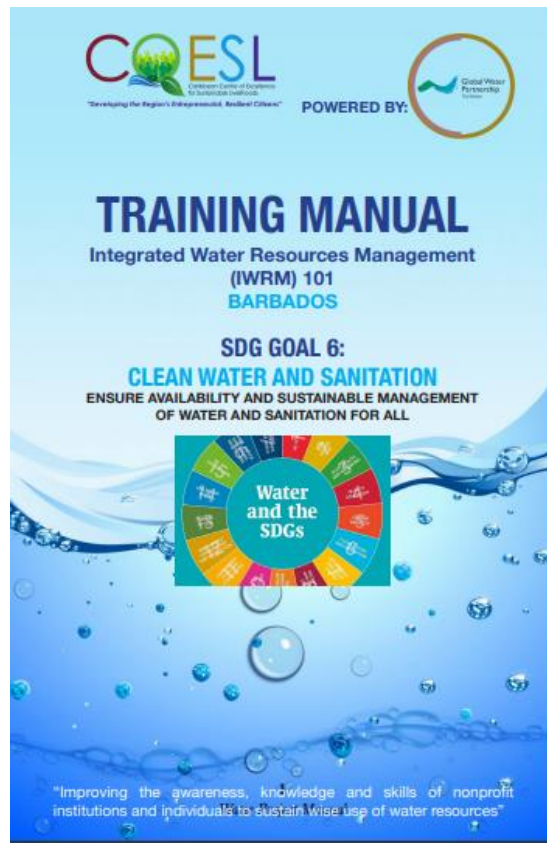


Figure 2: Cover COESL training manual produced as one of the outputs of the project.

LESSONS LEARNED

According to the collaborators at the Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods, the main challenges encountered were based on the fully virtual nature of the activities:

"The workshop took place over three half-days and some persons found it difficult to attend all three days. We believe that having a full day of training would have been a better option as persons were no longer fully home, but were trying to negotiate going out to undertake their activities amid the curfew restrictions."

This setback, however, did not prevent the successful implementation of the project as Dr Marcia Brandon reports:

"This type of project is not very common in Barbados, undertaken by NGOs and so many persons were interested to be a part of it. They mentioned that usually

it is a government initiative, and it was good to see an NGO implementing a water project."

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Key Themes: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – Capacity Building – Barbados - SDGs