

# 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

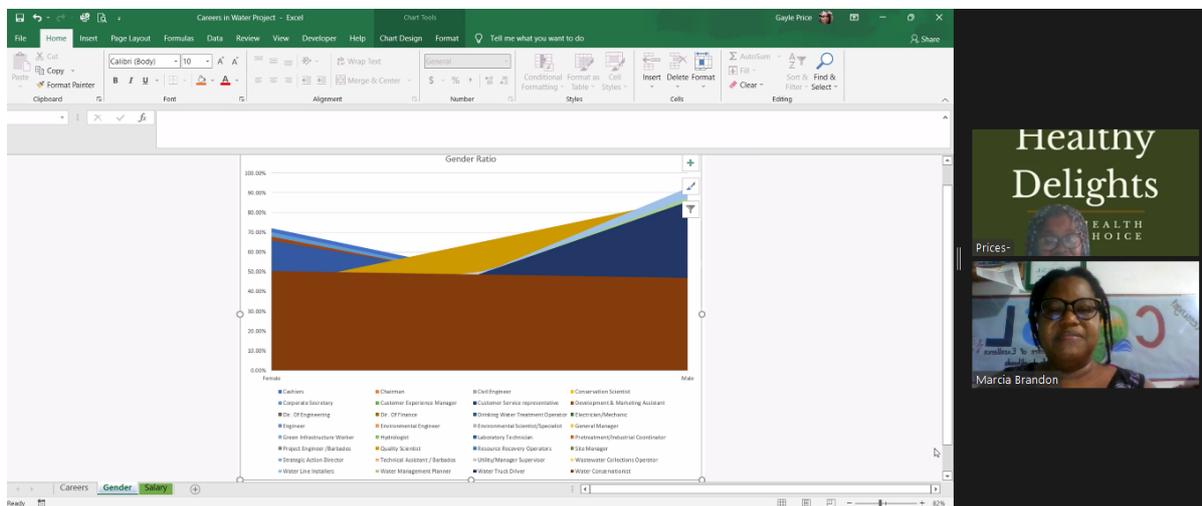


Figure 1: Virtual capacity building.

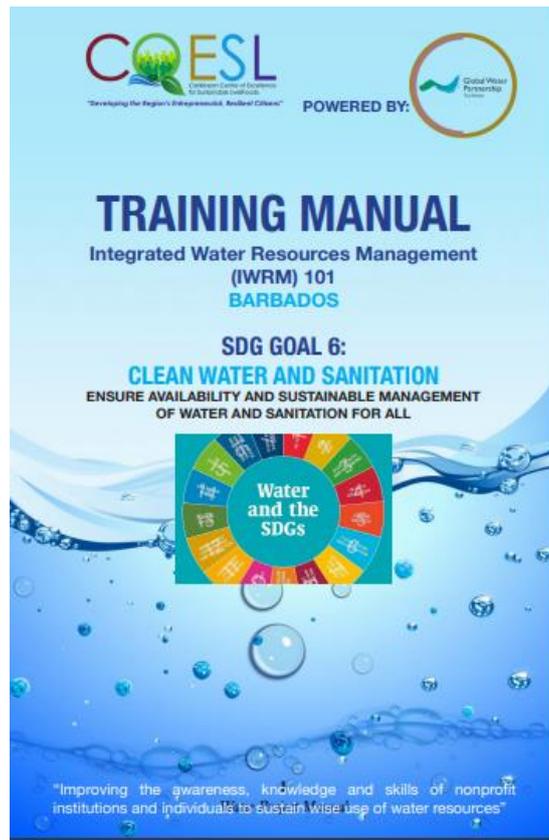


Figure 2: Cover COESL training manual produced as one of the outputs of the project.

## 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."*

Author: Persis Ramírez | Programme Officer GWP-C

### **Global Water Partnership-Caribbean**

c/o The Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF)

St. George's University (SGU)

True Blue Campus

Grenada

Email contact: [info@gwp-caribbean.org](mailto:info@gwp-caribbean.org)

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