



INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF CSOs IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE

TROSA collaborates with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and also supports them to develop capacities and knowledge on transboundary water governance. In the GBM basin, TROSA is supporting a network of more than 30 CSOs known as Building River Dialogue and Governance –BRIDGE, which is working on transboundary cooperation, policy and legislation, research and knowledge, capacity-building, communication, outreach and advocacy. At the country level, the programme partners engage local CSOs and CBOs and work with riverine communities including women groups and youth network.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND INFLUENCE

Women play an important role in the livelihood systems of rural and riverine communities and loss or insecure access to water resources has a greater impact on them. TROSA works to create capacity as well as opportunities for women at the basin level so that they can raise their voice about their rights and entitlements, engage with the concerned stakeholders and demand action. It is also working to ensure an enabling environment for women leaders to participate in key regional level policy discussions and dialogues that are crucial to protecting their rights. A regional gender strategy guides programme partners to develop gender-focused activities that could contribute to ensuring more women leaders participating in key regional level policy discussions and dialogues that affect communities' and women's rights over rivers.



RIVERS

RIGHTS

RESOURCES



ENGAGING THE YOUTH

TROSA aims to bring in more youth voices and support their meaningful engagement in issues of river water governance. It organizes youth camps to build the capacity of the youth so that they can lead the movement in future. The programme is also working to build the capacities of the youth volunteers so that they can undertake initiatives on their own.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

TROSA aims to change things that keep people locked in poverty. We welcome your support to strengthen our work against poverty, injustice and inequality.

Please get in touch with our Programme Management Unit (PMU) hosted at Oxfam in Cambodia, Phnom Penh to learn more about the programme or contribute to it.

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS OF SOUTH ASIA (TROSA)

Supported by



<https://asia.oxfam.org/what-we-do/water-governance-transboundary-rivers-south-asia>

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OXFAM SUPPORTS THE WATER ACTION DECade



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THE CONTEXT

More than 700 million South and South-East Asians depend on the transboundary Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) and Salween river basins for food, water, and energy needs. Some of these transboundary river systems and the wide variety of ecosystem services they provide are under great threat due to unregulated infrastructure development, unplanned land use practices and climatic change. Conflict and lack of cooperation amongst the rivers’ stakeholders

leave the poor, marginalized riverine communities vulnerable and at a disadvantage. They also lack the capacity to claim their rights over water and related natural resources. Oxfam and partners are working to address some of the underlying drivers of poverty and marginalization among riverine communities and strengthen inclusion and participation of the poor, marginalized and indigenous communities in the water resources governance in these basins.



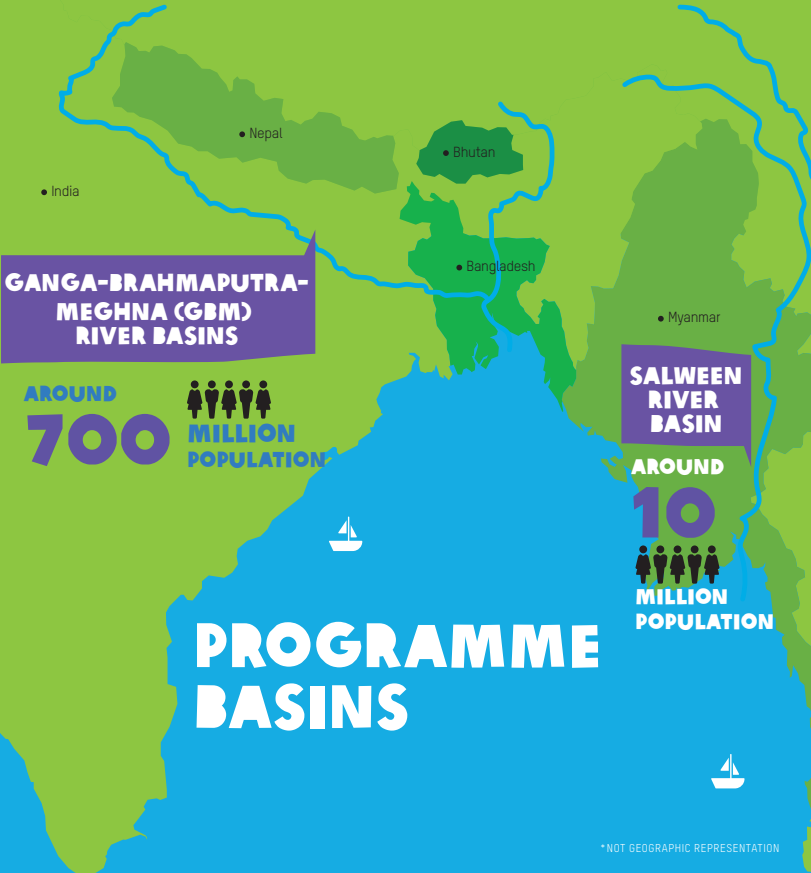
TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS OF SOUTH ASIA (TROSAS)

Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSAS) is a five-year (2017-2021) regional water governance programme being implemented in the transboundary river basins of Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) in Nepal, India and Bangladesh and the Salween in Myanmar. TROSA works with a cross-section of stakeholders involving river basin communities, including women groups and youth network, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) networks, governments, and the private sector at various levels. The programme seeks to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through partnership and innovation. As women from river communities are disproportionately affected by the way water resources are managed, TROSA is working to amplify

INCLUSIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

- Oxfam’s work on inclusive water governance is based on the following principles:
- **Transboundary scale:** Sustainable solutions for water governance and management require an approach that goes beyond provincial and national borders.
 - **Inclusive decision-making:** The voices of all users, representing all uses of water resources, need to be heard to ensure fair decision-making.
 - **Empowerment of women:** Women play a key role in water use, and their empowerment is critical for successful water governance.
 - **Rights and responsibilities:** Not only the rights of rural people are important, they also have their own responsibilities in water governance.
 - **Power of the people:** Oxfam and its partners do not speak on behalf of local communities, but strengthen their organizations and build networks so that their voices are heard.

their perspectives and participation to ensure these can influence decision-making processes. TROSA is funded by the Government of Sweden and managed by Oxfam.



TROSA APPROACH

TROSA adopts a human rights-based approach to facilitate river-dependent communities’ participation in water governance and help them uphold their rights to water for secured and resilient livelihoods thorough promoting dialogue, building an evidence base and contributing to policy reform and formulation. As part of this, it also supports and promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and collective action for inclusive water governance policies and practices at various levels. While working with the river basin communities the programme emphasizes participation of women in the transboundary water governance.



DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF THE RIVERINE COMMUNITIES

TROSA is building rapport with riverine communities to ensure more inclusive water resource governance. The programme is helping to build capacities of these communities so that they can identify, discuss and raise awareness on various river related issues that affect their lives and livings and collectively work to influence the duty bearers to solve those issues.



INFLUENCING POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNMENTS

Water governance requires that the administrative systems of a government be inclusive and responsive of the communities’ needs and demands for the effective use and management of water. In the South Asian region, water governance and water resource management is very challenging due to social, political, economic and administrative factors associated with it and TROSA partners are engaging with the local authorities to ensure access to water resources and control over it for the riverine communities.



ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR



TROSA analyses various private sector investments in the GBM and Salween basins and monitor their impacts on the river ecology and communities. Building on these evidence, the programme convenes multi-stakeholder dialogues with the investors and infrastructure developers to promote more responsible and inclusive business practices. Besides, regular interactions are held with potential stakeholders to identify entry points for engagement. The programme aims to ensure improved business practices and investments which recognise and respect communities’ rights.