

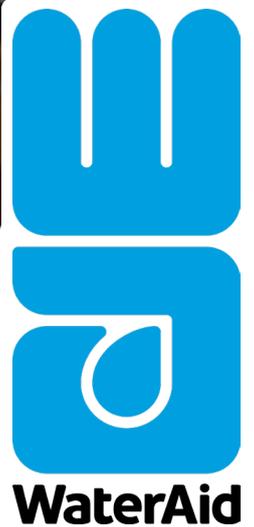


WaterAid/ Farzana Hossen



BANGLADESH
ANNUAL REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS

2021





Students next to a newly built inclusive WASH block at Fulbari Gate, Khulna, Bangladesh.



Note from Country Director

The year 2021/22 has been an exciting one for WaterAid, as we continued to beam our mission to reach more communities with water, toilets, and taps. We have once again seen that the courage and collaboration between partners and communities can bring transformational changes.

Bangladesh continued to demonstrate its progressive nature. Our celebration of the iconic 50 years of WASH journey is a testament for it and helps set a pathway of achieving universal WASH in the future. The year has been significant for WaterAid as we mobilised to bring water as a vital agenda at COP26 - sharing Bangladesh's plight as a result of surging climate events which affect WASH infrastructures and make lives difficult for the marginalised. While accentuating on the need for focused finances on essential resilient infrastructures and nature-based solutions towards adaptation.

We are resolute towards tackling challenges of WASH, emerging from unplanned urban growth pockets hindering the SDG 6 progress with innovative applications such as rainwater harvesting, CWIS approaches and better FSM uptake. Our effort and engagement on public-private partnership paved the way towards reducing groundwater use, equitable WASH access, and supporting development of the critical strategies remained a major focus in 2021/22. The impact we have collectively achieved this year is only through the generous support of our donors, supporters, the government, our partners, and the communities we serve.

Finally, I wish to share 2021/22 is the final year of our current country programme strategy (CPS) 2016-2022. In the coming year, we aspire to develop the CPS 2023-2028 based on our learnings from our past legacies and emerging needs of our communities.

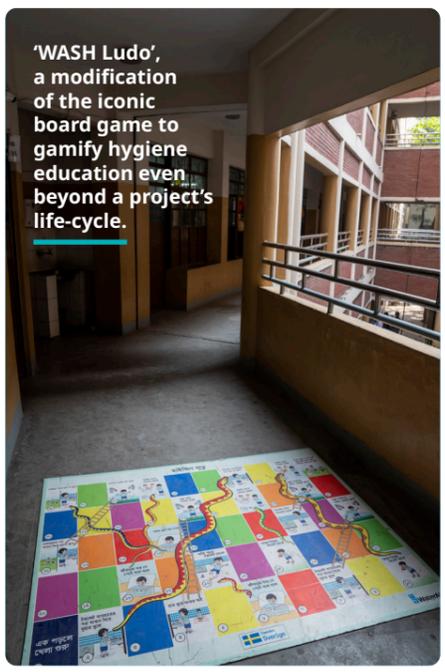
Hasin Jahan
Hasin Jahan



Shurjo is six-months pregnant and lives in Dholpur Slums in Jatrabari, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Access to convenient healthcare is always a challenge for low-income communities - considering which WaterAid mobilised a health-card initiative to help connect families with healthcare providers with great financing options.

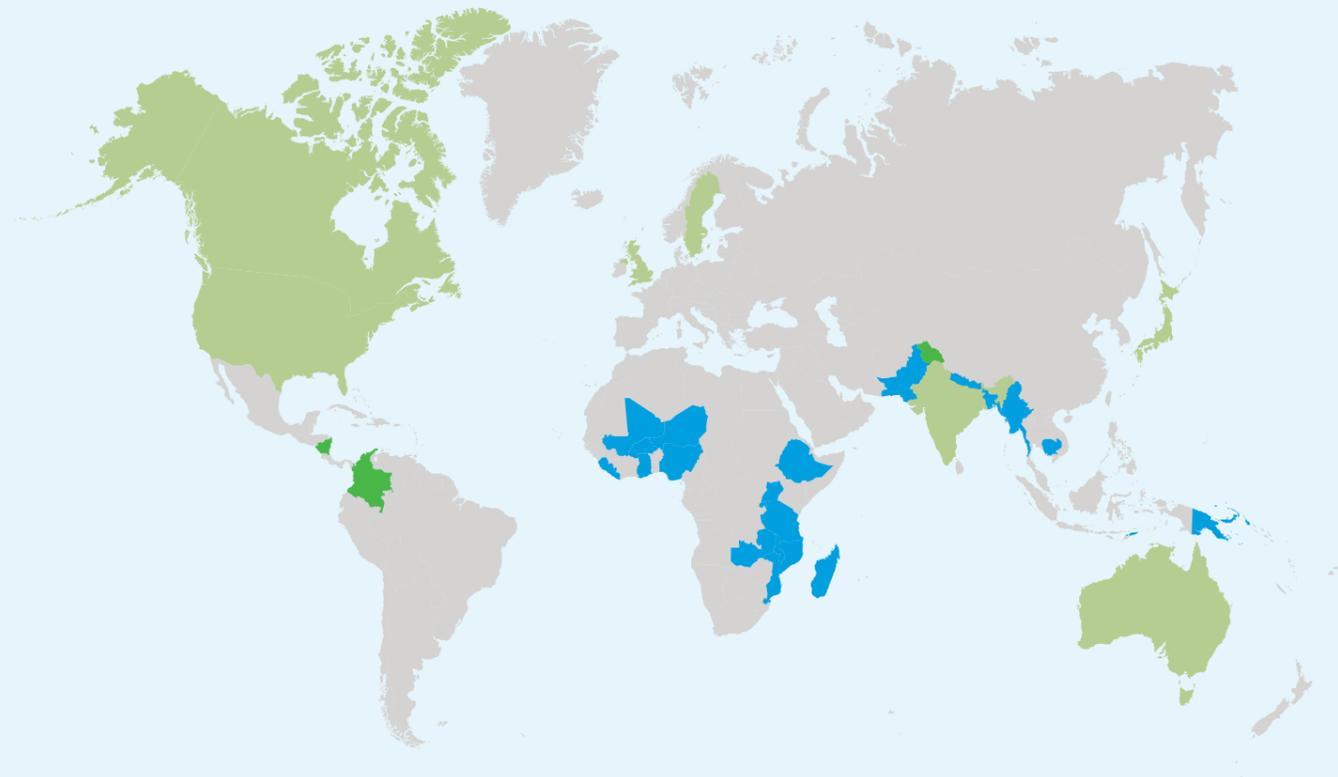
Content

About WaterAid	03
WaterAid Bangladesh at a glance	04
Our focus in Bangladesh	06
Urban WASH	07
Rural WASH	09
Climate resilience	10
Influencing & enabling	11



'WASH Ludo', a modification of the iconic board game to gamify hygiene education even beyond a project's life-cycle.





WaterAid is an international charity focused on helping people break free from poverty and change their lives for good through ensuring access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

We change millions of lives every year, with our global footprint spanning 27 countries.

LEGENDS

- Federation Members
- Country Programmes
- Country Programmes managed by Federation Members



WaterAid Bangladesh at a glance



Decades of WASH service delivery and influencing for rights

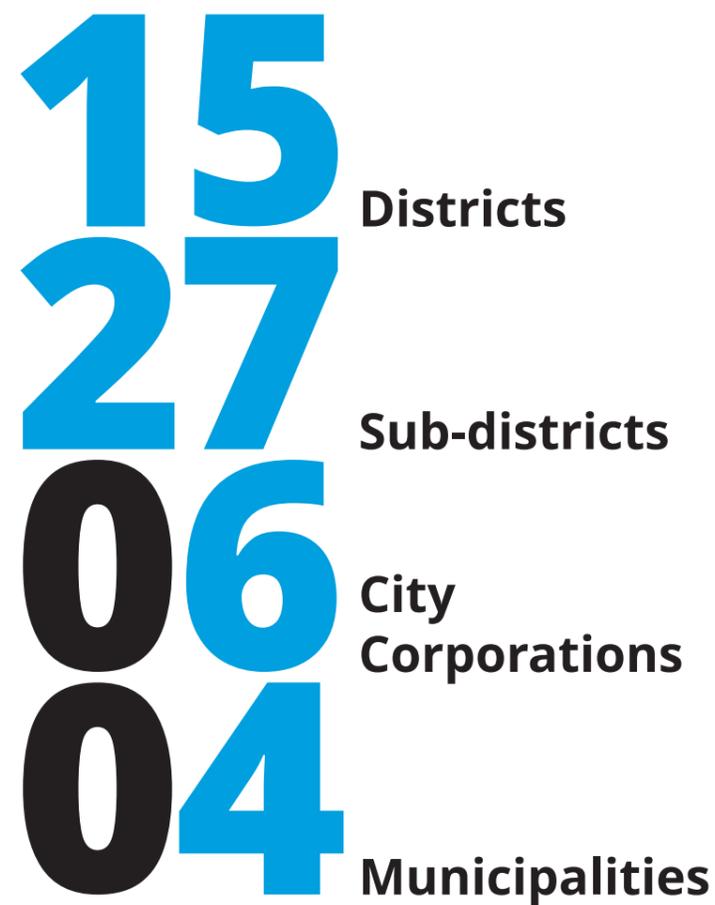
WaterAid Bangladesh was established in 1986 and has since been working with Bangladeshi communities to help them demand their rights for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and support the government and other duty bearers to respond to citizen's needs. We work with communities to design local and context-appropriate solutions, and implement them together.

Our area of focus is crosscutting - ranging from hard-to-reach, salinity and disaster-prone areas in Southern Bangladesh to urban slums, industrial districts and small towns. Our work reach a diverse range of people and institutions in different contexts. In this fiscal year, we have covered 15 districts, 27 sub-districts, 6 city corporations, and 4 municipalities.

WaterAid Bangladesh works through partner NGOs and also collaborate with several strategic partners to amplify our voice so that our message can be heard, and impact can be sustained and scaled.



WaterAid/ Tapash Paul





WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir

2021/22
PEOPLE REACHED

836,378
with clean water

879,601
with decent sanitation

2,050,842
with hygiene interventions including
COVID-19 response initiative

Minara has been working at Fakir Fashion for 11 years and also the very first woman supervisor in her section. Minara, who will go for pregnancy leave soon, emphasised how training session on hygiene and WASH facilities by WaterAid and local partners helped pregnant employees like her.

24.7 million

people reached with clean water, improved sanitation, and hygiene interventions since 2003.



Our focus

Our mission in Bangladesh comprise of four key thematic programme areas.

Urban WASH

Focus on city and municipality-wide approach to WASH service improvement.

Rural WASH

Works to improve WASH services in households, healthcare facilities, and schools in remote regions.

Climate Resilience

Works in climate-vulnerable regions with context-appropriate WASH technologies and coping strategies.

Influencing & Enabling

Strengthens WASH policies to steward national WASH agenda and advocate for WASH rights.



Geographic presence

Our work spans throughout Bangladesh with activities in districts of Dhaka, Bagerhat, Chattogram, Gaibandha, Gazipur, Khulna, Manikganj, Meherpur, Moulvibazar, Narayanganj, Nilphamari, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Sunamganj, and Tangail.



WaterAid/ Tapash Paul



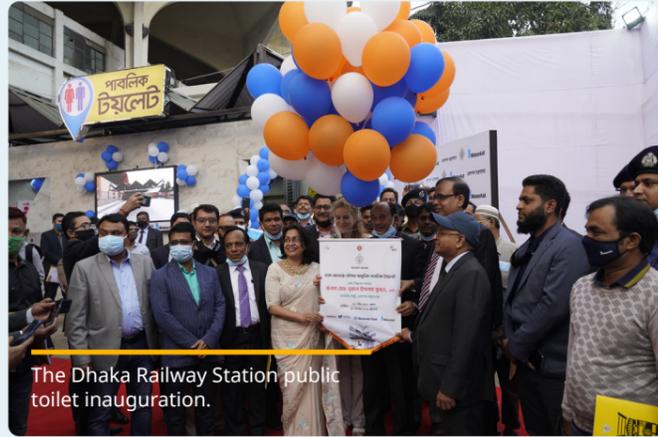
Abdullah, Nur, and Amina playing in the Sattar Mollah Slum in Dhaka where WaterAid deployed both hygiene promotion interventions and established WASH blocks to keep the community safe from diseases and improve health and wellbeing.

Urban WASH

Optimising public service delivery and ensuring WASH accessibility for vulnerable and marginalised communities are the crux of our Urban WASH programme in Bangladesh. We spearhead activities to promote pro-poor WASH outcomes through flagship projects, impactful partnerships, public toilets, and WASH in industries.

Highlights

- 1 Activated WASH as schools reopened after a long hiatus - supporting 173 schools encompassing 124,665 students with safe drinking water, handwashing provisions, inclusive toilets, menstrual facilities, and awareness messaging.
- 2 Supported Saidpur and Shakhipur municipal authorities to finalise 'By-Laws' on waste management.
- 3 50,650 patients, doctors, and attendants reached with improved WASH in healthcare facilities.
- 4 Partnered with Bangladesh Railway to energise their WASH imperatives - resulting in the development and inauguration of the Dhaka Railway Station's public toilet.
- 5 Collaborated with Dhaka WASA in awarding ideal customers from low-income communities for regular payment of water bills to recognise responsible citizenship.



The Dhaka Railway Station public toilet inauguration.



17%
increased use of WaterAid developed public toilets



In FY21-22, we logged 2.2 million use of WaterAid's developed public toilets which is a 17% increment from the previous year. Female representation stands at 283,907 - a 56%~ increase from last year. WaterAid has been working on improving public sanitation facilities in major cities since 2013 and helped construct 44 inclusive public toilets. In FY20-21, we partnered with Bangladesh Railway - an enabler to realise enhanced public toilets across railway stations. In December 2021, the Minister of Railways inaugurated a public toilet we built at the Dhaka Railway Station - a major undertaking.



NOT ONLY DID THE WOMEN REJOICE AT THE AVAILABILITY OF MENSTRUAL HEALTH PRODUCTS INSIDE THE COMMUNITY, THEY ALSO PARTICULARLY CELEBRATED THE FACT THAT THE POINT OF SALES FOR THESE WAS A WOMAN THEY KNEW AND LOVED.

Nirmala Maletti
Community Entrepreneur

07 Female Entrepreneurs
mobilised to expand access of MHM products at community level



Nirmala is one of the forerunners who is championing the use of menstrual pad in the Tengulu Cleaner Community at Dholpur Slums through initial investment and capacity development. Now, she serves as a nexus in her community to disseminate both menstrual hygiene messages as well as products.

WaterAid/ Tapash Paul

WASH in industries

The focus for Industrial WASH is in areas where apparel factories are based as well as their respective workers' communities. Worker communities are often WASH-vulnerable - lacking appropriate waterpoints, decent toilets, or not adhering to hygiene practices that can lead to negative health outcomes.

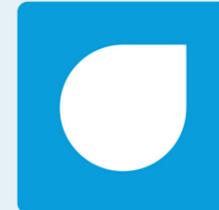
Highlights

- 1 145 handwashing stations and ancillary WASH infrastructures setup to improve access to WASH in RMG worker communities.
- 2 Four RMG-textile factories in Narayanganj district have rainwater harvesting system installed - having a collective capacity to safe 35,000 cubic meters of water per annum.
- 3 Partnered with seven readymade garment factories to reach 32,000 workers with hygiene awareness in factories inclusive of MHM and gender-centric activations.



WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir

341,255
people reached with different WASH services in the industrial WASH inclusive of COVID response portfolio



Zakia using WASH facilities WaterAid established in RMG worker communities in Narayanganj, Dhaka, leading to improved WASH conditions.

103,000
people can now practice good hand hygiene as a result of the 145 handwashing stations installed in worker communities

Large rainwater catchment area at Fakir Fashion in Narayanganj. Water is collected from the roof and travel to a water reservoir through a filtration chamber. The water is used in RMG production without any chemical treatment.



Faruque Hassan,
President of BGMEA, giving their Sustainability Report to the Country Director of WaterAid, Hasin Jahan.

Partnering with BGMEA to accelerate adoption of industrial rainwater harvesting

Garments export industry is a major contributor to the Bangladesh's GDP. However, industries are resource intensive - putting significant pressure on groundwater and affect surface water quality. WaterAid and the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporter Association (BGMEA) joined forces to bring water as a central issue of discussion for factories with aims to prioritise water efficiency, promote environment-friendly models such as rainwater harvesting, and setting up a sustainable water management cell to improve sustainability of factories.



WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir



Rural and small town WASH

Rural and small town WASH works to increase inclusive and resilient WASH access of the poor at hard-to-reach areas. Key focus areas include empowering local government institutions especially municipalities for faecal sludge and solid waste management along with enhancing capacity of community members, service providers, and institutions to promote sustainable WASH services.



WaterAid/ Rakibul Alam Khan

27 youth volunteers comprising of adolescent girls who promote WASH and MHM at tea garden colonies

Enhanced resilience of flood vulnerable at remote 'char' areas through resilient-WASH structures

Potential to reach 1.08 million+ patients per year enabled through integrating WASH in healthcare facilities

Hawa is a student of Bangla Bazar Siddiquiya Dakhil Madrasa at Gaibandha, Rangpur who, along with other students, now enjoy improved WASH conditions as a result of WaterAid's interventions.

WASH in Madrasa

Madrasas are Islamic religious schools which supports around 13 million students. Madrasas at remote regions are often observed with limited WASH infrastructure. WaterAid is working to establish a model WASH programming for this parallel education system - developing evidence for replication by the Government across all Madrasas.

Innovation: Low-cost, coin-operated sanitary pad vending machine

We operationalised two coin-operated vending machines in schools that students can use to access on-demand sanitary pads during menstrual periods. The electric vending machine we have deployed throughout our project area relies on power - an inconsistent resource in the grassroots. This machine bypasses the need for electricity and is fit-for-context.



Invested on FSM

The programme is deeply invested in creating the model for faecal sludge management (FSM) to address second generation sanitation challenges and curate a complete sanitation value chain. The Saidpur faecal sludge treatment plant was developed to do just that, a critical infrastructure to institutionalise FSM. In 2021, the plant was visited by the Ambassador from the Embassy of Sweden, along with overseeing our WASH interventions in schools.



HE Alexandra Berg von Linde, Ambassador of the Embassy of Sweden being guided through the entire process of waste treatment to co-compost generation at WaterAid's iconic Saidpur Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant.

Climate Resilience



Climate resilience programme supports climate change-affected communities with resilient WASH interventions - especially in the coastal belts and northern arid regions of Bangladesh. These facilities not only remain functional amidst disasters but also accelerate the process of overcoming its setbacks. The programme also provides livelihood support, health services and capacity building initiatives to strengthen adaptability of communities.

Highlights
503,723
climate-vulnerable people reached with WASH

57 clean water facilities installed
30 sanitation facilities developed
267 hygiene promotion activations

Representation at COP26 and climate campaigning

We took part in COP26 to call governments to recognise WASH as an integral factor to make communities resilient to climate shocks. Climate impact regularly pushes vulnerable communities to the brink and affects essential water resources - something we portrayed through mobilising a big-ticket communication campaign showcasing the grim reality of climate events at the coastal belt and north-eastern Bangladesh.



WaterAid/ Farzana Hossen



Women and girls at Barek Tila, Tahirpur have to travel 5-6 times a day for collecting water. Cases such as these were covered to elaborate on COP26.

WaterAid/ Tapash Paul



Innovation: Solar-powered PSFs

Pond sand filters (PSFs) enable people in saline-prone regions to access essential drinking water. However, it requires hand pumping to bring water from a source to the PSF - a physical activity that has high time-costs. In 2021, we developed two Solar PSFs that automate the hand pump function and extract water from the source without human intervention.



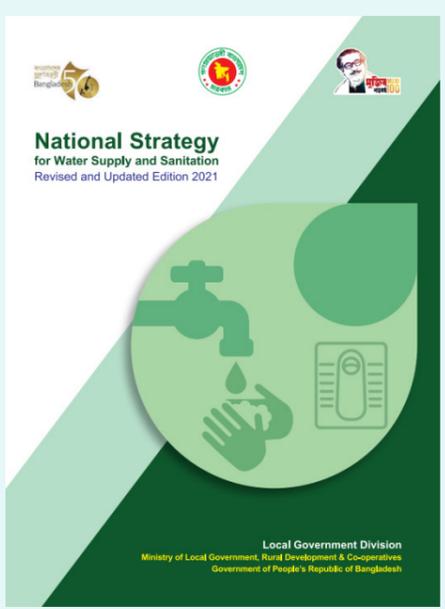
COP26 outcomes

Relevant outcomes from COP26 were the signing of the Glasgow Climate Pact, agreeing the Paris Rulebook, and launching of the Resilient Water Accelerator (RWA). The RWA enables financing mechanisms and aims to ensure water security to 50 million people in water-stressed areas with sustainable water sources by 2030.

Influencing & Enabling

The programme works to influence government policies, strategies and plans, support sector strengthening and coordination, and work on key themes such as SDG 6, WASH financing, and pro-poor, inclusive and functional WASH. We do this through showcasing evidence, and building awareness of CSOs, NGOs and networks, and relevant ministries.

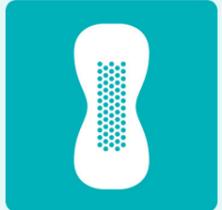
Highlights



National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation which was pending update and was finalised in 2021 - enabled through the leadership of the Local Government Division and their openness to WaterAid's recommendation.

Finalisation of the National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation 2021

The strategy was championed by Local Government Division (LGD) with WaterAid serving as the member secretary of the working committee - providing technical leadership. The strategy is divided into three thematic sub-sections that entail WASH coverage and service quality, perennial and emerging WASH challenges, and strengthening sector governance, coordination, monitoring, and reporting.



Our influencing efforts through the MHM platform led to a VAT/Tax exemption on MHM materials in the national budget of FY21-22

The exemption applied to the **total local manufacturing stage of sanitary napkin production**, which was previously applied to only imported materials or factories with large production capacity.



Celebrating 50 years of WASH

WaterAid and Local Government Division, MoLGRD&C celebrated 50 years of WASH in Bangladesh - highlighting milestone successes in the WASH sector and way forward to achieve SDG 6 by 2030.

This was organised as part of the national celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.



Contributing to different national policies and strategies

WaterAid is contributing to update, revise, and develop the National Hygiene Promotion Strategy, National Policy for Public Toilet Construction, Operations and Maintenance, National Water Supply and Sanitation Operations and Maintenance Guidelines, and National Strategy for Managed Aquifer Recharge. Finalised drafts of these policies, strategies, and guidelines are presently awaiting approval and rollout.

National budget of FY21-22 allocated BDT 119.55 billion for WASH

WaterAid, with partners and collaborators, organised both pre- and post-budget press conference online - highlighting WASH gaps, inequalities and pandemic priorities in existing allocation, which translated to this outcome.

Featured nature-based solution Co-composting

We use and advocate for green technologies in our interventions, contributing to **reduce carbon emissions, preserve biodiversity, and meet global target of net zero by 2050.**



Our very first faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) is operational since 2016 and treating faecal sludge and solid waste to produce co-compost used as a soil conditioner by farmers. Faecal sludge is collected from opted households through municipality-owned vacutugs. A single composting cycle from collection to packaging takes an average of 60 days. FSTP at Sakhipur recovers around 50% of its operational cost from faecal sludge and solid waste collection, and compost sales.

FSTPs also function to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by handling the wastes safely and from a sustainability point of view, the plants contribute to the government's emission reduction targets. Studies found that per ton waste recycling results in 0.28 ton CO₂ reduction, 0.44 kL water savings, 0.61 ton reduction in safe handling of organic wastes, and 0.05 GJ lower heat value energy savings.



We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the support of our donors and partners, and the communities we serve





Contact us

WaterAid Bangladesh, House 97/B, Road 25, Block A,
Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh

E: wateraidbangladesh@wateraid.org

T: +88 02 58815757

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