



A VISUAL JOURNEY

towards enabling universal access to effective water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Bangladesh by Sweden and WaterAid



Partnership began in November 2011, from implementing the Promoting Environmental Health for Urban Poor (PEHUP) project

intervening in 176 slums and reaching around 350,000 low-income population with access to WASH services

Initiation of Phase I of the flagship WASH for Urban Poor (WASH4UP) project

that enabled access to WASH services in 150 slums, 70 schools, 78 public/mobile sanitation and 6 healthcare facilities. Collectively our different interventions reached 620,390 people with institutional and household-level WASH and over 16 million through public sanitation facilities.

Phase II of WASH4UP project started

with an aim to reach over 9.7 million people.

FEATURED INTERVENTIONS

Inclusive WASH for the differently-abled in Ershadnagar, Dhaka

Challenge

All residents in low-income communities in Dhaka used unhygienic hanging toilets close to their house. The danger it poses magnifies for people with disabilities. One such community is in the Ershadnagar slum in Dhaka.

Solution

We constructed an inclusive WASH block in the community of people with visual, auditory, and physical impairments. The WASH block is operated and maintained by the community people through funds they generate themselves; with an initial investment made through WASH4UP. It reduced disease and caregiver, economic burdens of the community while promoting personal dignity, safety, and alleviating social stigma - leading to amplifying inclusivity. Through these efforts, we have charted a pathway for creating a more equitable society.



Enhancing hygiene, and inclusivity in Mohakhali Model High School

Challenge

The lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools impact health, education and wellbeing of students - especially girls. 40% girls miss about three school days during menstruation. Mainstreaming sustainability of project activities are often faced with resource limitation.

Solution

We developed facilities that enable access to safe water and gender-segregated and disability-friendly sanitation in the school. The school caters to students who come from surrounding slums. With a focus on empowering students to drive change beyond school and within their households, we conducted regular hygiene sessions - empowering students and hygiene champions to democratise knowledge in their communities. The WASH interventions reduced absenteeism among girls during menstruation days. Lean project services are maintained from WaterAid's unrestricted fund during post-closure of the project to ensure effective and sustainable exit.



Availability of sanitary pads in my school helped me to attend my classes regularly.

#gendertransformativeWASH #biodiversity
#environmentalsanitation #antimicrobialresistance

PHASE II TARGETS

In this new phase of WASH4UP, we will enable WASH in three city corporations and three municipalities across Bangladesh to render:

50,000

people having access to safe water

46,000

people having access to improved sanitation facilities

90,000

people to be motivated to adopt good hygiene behavior at communities and institutions

9.5m

uses of public sanitation facilities

18,000

sanitation and waste workers and their families having access to better health services

15,000

people to receive safely-managed sanitation services through faecal sludge treatment plants

16,500

people to receive door-to-door solid waste management support



Children playing in the Sattar Mollah slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Before WaterAid established its WASH facilities with the support of Sweden in the area, people frequently witnessed outbreaks of water borne diseases with children and the elderly being the worst sufferers.

THE FUTURE

WaterAid's partnership with Sweden opened a world of possibilities in escalating the mission of enabling access to WASH.

Sweden is a leader in sustainable water and wastewater management, and in recycling and waste management - critical areas for WaterAid to explore in Bangladesh. In the coming decade, WaterAid Bangladesh aims to facilitate actions that can encourage relevant private sectors to engage in trade activities with Sweden.



Technology transfer Water and food nexus
Waste to energy Wastewater treatment
WASH services commercialisation

