



Participatory Ward Vulnerability Assessment (PWVA)

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Participatory assessment of WASH vulnerabilities through a climate lens

Drive change in communities with the community

Lack of ownership, poor operation, and inadequate maintenance frequently pose challenges to the sustainability of WASH practices and facilities. In addition, climate change is a pressing issue that is posing a threat to the progress and sustainability of WASH practices and coverage.

Community involvement is essential to ensure sustainability. In fact, community involvement is frequently overlooked in the planning, developing, and implementation of the solutions, which is why operation and maintenance become challenging. It can be difficult to establish accountability if the problem and demands are not recognised and generated from the communities. In absence of any mechanism or platform to bring the right holders and duty bearers together, the community participation cannot be ensured.

Our work

The PWVA is an assessment tool for analysing local-level vulnerability in climate-stressed areas originally developed by WaterAid Bangladesh in 2013. The tool collects information at 'ward' level (lowest tier of administration) to understand the vulnerability of the community through the community in a given area - ending with a development of an action plan to overcome WASH challenges. In 2022, the PWVA process was deployed at Krishnanagar union, Shyamnagar.

This mixed-method process involved collecting quantitative data through household surveys as well as qualitative data through community consultation events. The survey collected information from all 4,853 households of the union. A total of 30-40 participants, with near-equal gender representation.

PWVA is a useful and systematic way forward to address a multitude of challenges outlined above, to highlight local demands, issues and experiences, and feed those into planning and programming cohesively.

