

WASH in school and madrasa

Climate resilient WASH services at educational institutes

Educational institutes without safe water and inclusive toilets negatively affects education, health, and dignity

Dargapur NDS Fazil Madrasa is located at Bhurulia union of Shyamnagar upazila - a climate hotspot characterised by a severe water crisis. The school has a total of 326 students, 40.2% of whom are female.

There was no safe drinking water and improved sanitation facility in the Madrasa. As a result of not having proper sanitation facility, girls used to miss school during their menstruation. The students used to carry water to school which was often inadequate to meet their drinking water needs. In many cases, they used to buy water bottles from nearby shops - paying a high price. Water is essential for an educational institute where students spend around six hours everyday.



For more information, please visit www.wateraid.org/bd
For correspondences, please email SaiefManzoor@wateraid.org



WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir

Our work

Water sources which aren't saline was difficult, if not impossible, to find due to the region being a climate hotspot. To address the water crisis at the Madrasa, we built a rainwater harvesting system with a capacity of 15,000 litres which supported access to safe drinking water for students and teachers.

We also improved the sanitation facilities with four chambers for girls and two chambers for boys. The girl chambers also feature sanitary pad disposal facilities to optimise menstrual waste management. We worked with the school management to deploy hygiene sessions on menstrual hygiene management and handwashing to enhance hygiene knowledge and practices - influencing girls to not miss school during menstruation and that it is normal.

Context is crucial to design resilient WASH systems

These context-specific initiatives in the Madrasa ensured easy access to WASH services - addressing climate-induced vulnerabilities. Girls' school attendance has increased as a result. The management authority is also equipped with the capacity and mechanism (WASH fund) for efficient operation and maintenance (O&M) of the facilities. The school serve as a cyclone shelter where our facilities take care of WASH needs during crisis.