

Improving public health, sanitation and dignity in major cities of Bangladesh

Public toilet convenience and facilities

Overpopulated city centers struggle with available and inclusive sanitation facilities

City authorities are struggling to provide adequate public sanitation services for the large number of people who commute in cities on regular basis. There are only **122 public toilets at Dhaka of which only 50 are usable**. These facilities are often unusable, posing a significant risk to commuters, and floating populations.

The situation is particularly critical for women, children, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals who spend hours on the road without access to proper restroom facilities, leading to serious health implications.

Besides, **open defecation increased due to lack to proper sanitation facilities** which has considerable impact on environment and public health.



WaterAid/ Jannatul Mawa

Our work

WaterAid has collaborated with **five city authorities, two development authorities and Bangladesh Railway** for construction and management of public toilets. A total of **45 public toilets have been constructed**. These toilets are inclusive and gender sensitive - having dedicated **menstrual hygiene management facilities, CCTV surveillance (outside toilets), female attendants, and childcare and convenience services**.

WaterAid complements its work on the ground with advocacy initiatives like supporting City Corporations to develop and endorse "**Public Toilet Operation Guideline**". Besides, WaterAid Bangladesh is actively advocating with the Ministry for endorsing the National Policy for construction, operation and management of public toilets.

Public toilets registered 24 million visits since 2014

WaterAid has been able to enhance overall standard of public sanitation facilities in Bangladesh. City Corporations and other government and non-government agencies are following our inclusive design - however, we have a ways to go to mainstream operations and maintenance (O&M).