



WaterAid/ Habibur Haque

Household rainwater harvesting system

Advanced, household-level rainwater harvesting system (RWHS) to support denizens of the Paikgacha municipality

Acute water crisis in Paikgacha

Paikgacha, situated in Bangladesh’s vulnerable coastal belt, grapples with frequent cyclones, tidal surges, and increased salinity in traditional water sources. The region receives a significant annual rainfall of 1800-2000 millimeters, with 115.27 rainy days.

While being dependent on rainwater as a source of freshwater, traditional rainwater harvesting methods employed are neither hygienic nor efficient, posing health risks to the community. While alternative water treatment methods exist, their feasibility is limited.

Our work

WaterAid took decisive action to address the community’s water crisis in Paikgacha, Khulna. **Leveraging the area’s significant annual rainfall, WaterAid installed 277 optimised RWHS, directly benefiting 1,108 residents.**

More than just a source of water, these systems embodied resilience. Designed with primary and reserve storage facilities on raised platforms, the RWHS are made to be **flood-proof for up to 25 years**, ensuring continued access to safe drinking water even amidst the region’s frequent extreme weather events. Our intervention has thus transformed Paikgacha’s water landscape, turning challenges into opportunities, and ensuring both immediate relief and long-term resilience against climate threats.

Safe water at arm’s reach

Apart from improvements in water accessibility and quality, the RWHS eliminates the need for long treks to fetch water. This saves time primarily for women who serve as the water bearer of a family.

The system’s resilience aspect provides a safeguard against frequent climate disruptions, ensuring reliable water access even during adverse conditions. The broader community also enjoys the health benefits of consuming clean water, reducing waterborne illnesses.

