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## Improving community water access through Pond Sand Filters

Community-managed, sustainable, and resilient water solutions in coastal Bangladesh

### Our work

We installed a Pond Sand Filter (PSF) in 2021 to support the villagers of Sirajpur in accessing safe drinking water - consisting of a total of 144 households with 629 people. PSF, as the name suggest, **converts water from freshwater ponds into safe drinking water**. We also formed a management committee from the village for the upkeep of the facility. To support the future operation and maintenance (O&M), a WASH fund was developed and is operated by the management committee.

## Sirajpur, like many other villages of the Bhurulia union, suffered from scarcity of safe drinking water

Water sources in the Bhurulia union suffer from saline intrusion because of climate impact. Women used to walk for hours to fetch drinking water - which caused both physical and mental toil. To avoid long queues in water collection points, many used to collect water directly from the ponds to save time. This led to the onset of different water borne diseases.



## Spending long hours to collect drinking water seems like a distant memory

The PSF has become a reliable source of drinking, even for people from the adjacent villages. The overall health situation of the village as seen improvements. Most importantly, the community is trained with the knowledge and skill for the maintenance of the facility beyond the project period - ensuring sustainability.