

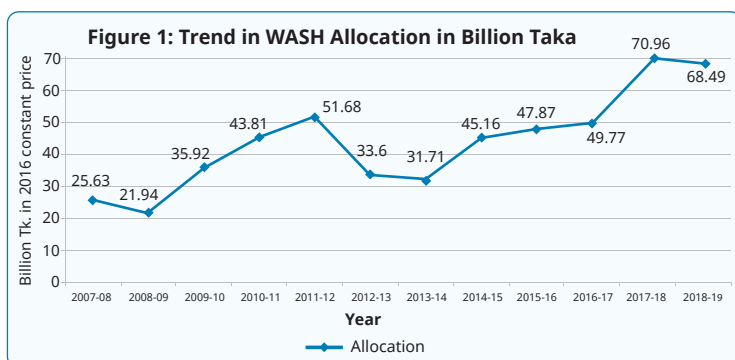
# Realising SDG 6 hinges on mainstreaming WASH and WASH financing



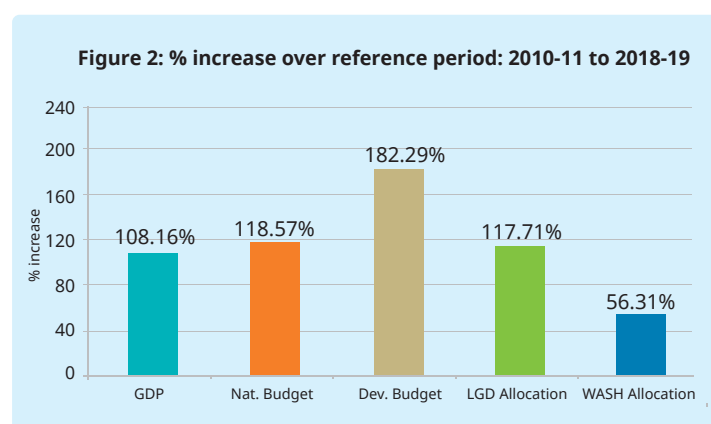
Bangladesh has strongly demonstrated its willingness and commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. The ruling party's election manifesto demonstrates strong political will to reach the SDG goals by 2030. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation plays an important role in the overall development of Bangladesh, and its progress hinges on prioritising the WASH sector with adequate, equitable budget allocation supported by proper utilisation.

## Positive trend in long-term allocation

Although there are fluctuations in WASH budget allocation over the years, the long-term trend is upward (Fig 1). WASH share of the ADP has been averaging 5% over the last three years.

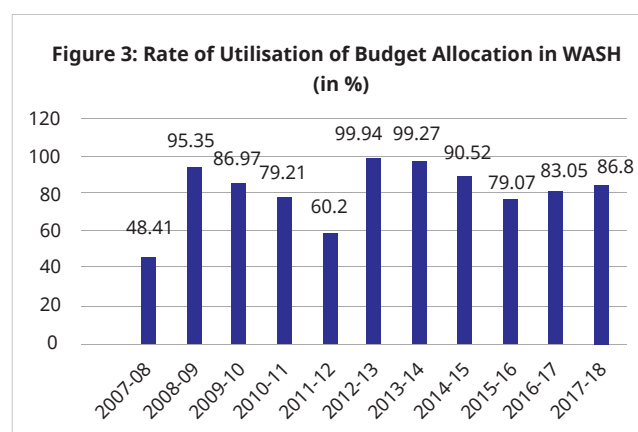


The current year's (2018-19) allocation has risen to Taka 68.49 billion from Taka 43.81 billion in 2010-11. However, against the substantial growth of GDP and the national budget over the last nine years, relative growth in WASH allocation is disproportionately low at only 56.31%. (Fig 2).



## But utilisation remains a challenge

The rate of utilisation of expenditure against allocation has been increasing over the last ten years. However, for the past three years it has been hovering around 80%, meaning allocated resources need to be utilised more effectively (Fig. 3).



## Gap in WASH financing for SDG 6

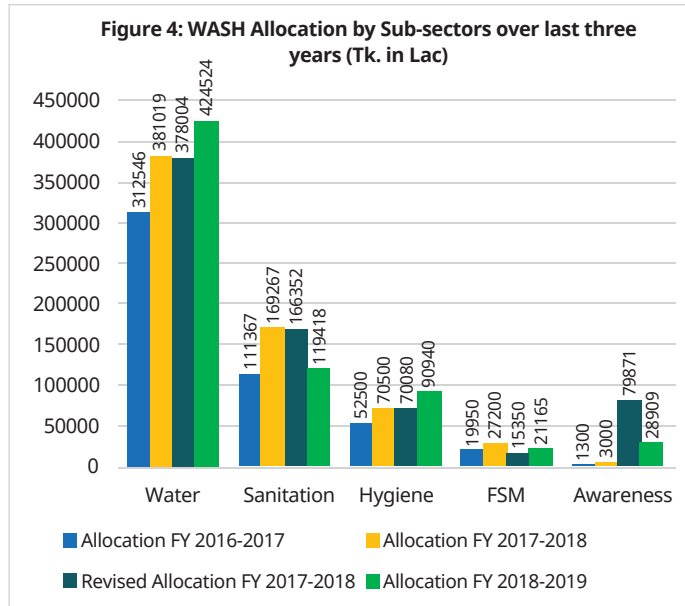
Achieving safely managed water and sanitation for all is a huge challenge for Bangladesh, and one that will require much greater attention towards financing. The SDGs Financing Strategy prepared by GED puts the estimate of additional costs for achieving SDG 6 over the period 2017-2030 at Taka 1,107.09 billion. While this figure is likely to be an underestimation considering the full scope of service standards set by the SDG 6 indicators, reaching even this level of financing will require a considerable increase from current figures.

## Challenges of measuring progress on SDG 6

Alongside the financing gap, another challenge around achieving SDG 6 is understanding and tracking the new service levels and definitions introduced by the SDGs. For example, according to the Joint Monitoring Progress 2017 report, which is the globally recognised baseline for SDG 6, safely managed water coverage in Bangladesh is just 56%, as opposed to a common perception of 97% access. Similarly, in sanitation, achieving safely managed coverage as defined by the SDG indicators requires each household to have a private sanitation facility, where the full sanitation chain is ensured – up to treatment and/or safe disposal. According to JMP 2017, only 32% of the rural population is currently

using safely managed sanitation, and there is insufficient data for urban estimates. Another critical issue is that this definition discounts shared latrines from safely managed or even basic sanitation levels.

## FSM, hygiene and awareness-raising remain under-addressed in sub-sectoral allocations



## Positive steps in addressing spatial inequities

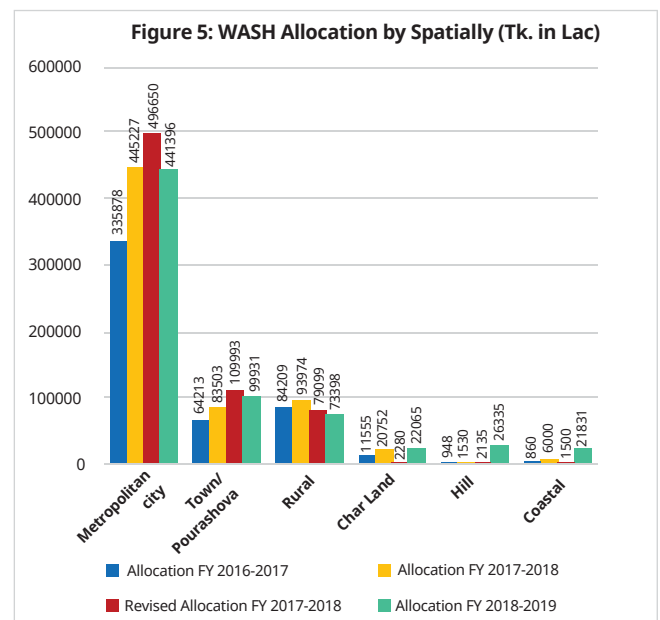
While the budget allocation for DPHE, the focal institution for WASH in rural areas and secondary towns, has risen by 52% from the previous year, in absolute terms it is still less than one-third the budget allocated to just 4 WASAs, indicating high levels of rural-urban disparity.

Table 1 (in Lac Taka)

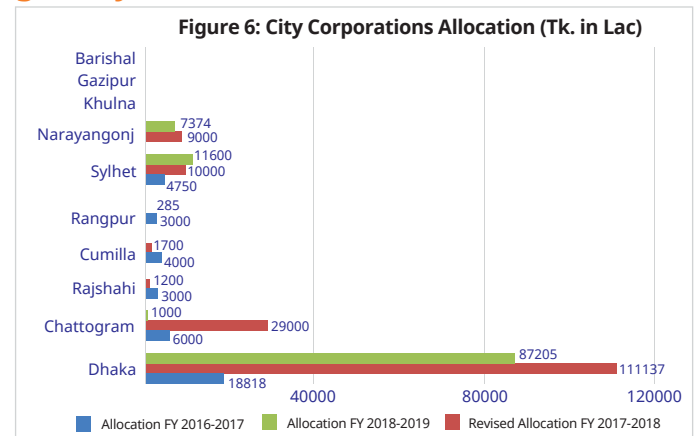
Institution	2016-17	Revised 2017-18	2018-19	Total 3 years
<b>4 WASA</b>	296,310	376,022 (27% increase from 16-17)	334,217 (11% decrease from 17-18)	1,006,549
<b>Metro city</b>	39,568	124,352 (214% increase from 16-17)	107,179 (14% decrease from 17-18)	271,099
<b>DPHE</b> (covering all rural areas and municipalities)	61,571	70,080 (14% increase from 16-17)	106,847 (52% increase from 17-18)	238,498

## But significant spatial inequities remain

Hard-to-reach areas require more attention, with char, hilly areas and coastal belt still neglected. Scarcity of drinking water is an ongoing crisis in the coast. Despite block grants for char development in the past few years, there has been no actual utilisation even in pressing areas such as WASH, because of lack of initiative and prioritisation (Fig. 5).



**Khulna, Barishal, Gazipur, Rangpur, Cumilla, Rajshahi City Corporations did not get any WASH allocation in 2018-19 ADP**



## Recommendations for mainstreaming WASH

Recommendations	Outcome
1. Enhance rural and secondary towns' allocations through DPHE.	Reduce spatial inequity
2. Ensure WASH allocations for un-funded city corporations and hard-to-reach areas	
3. Ensure priority focus on FSM, hygiene and awareness-building in sub-sectoral allocations	Address emerging challenges
4. Overcome HR deficits and strengthen work culture in implementing agencies	Enhance capacity for utilisation of budgets
5. Establish WASH budget utilisation monitoring unit in Ministry of Finance to under Public Money and Budget Management Act, 2009	Strengthen mainstreaming of WASH
6. Build policy awareness on the complexity of the SDG 6 challenge	
7. Reduce financing gap for WASH	