

Project brief

WASH SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Addressing systemic barriers to WASH access in Bangladesh's local governance



In Bangladesh, despite comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policies, systemic barriers persist at the Local Government Institution (LGI) level, including resource and capacity gaps, insufficient institutional arrangements, and a lack of sustainable service delivery models. There are also insufficient women's leadership within mandated institutions and service providers to undertake equitable WASH planning based on evidence from service monitoring. Technological limitations and poor management hinder safe and sustainable services. Moreover, the services are not climate resilient or tailored to the needs of women, girls, and people with disabilities. Without affordable and improved services, communities rely on self-supply; people's behaviours and hygiene practices are not aligned with adopting safely managed WASH services.

Recognising these challenges, WaterAid-SNV consortium, funded with UK International Development from the UK government, has launched the 'WASH Systems for Health' project to address critical sector blockages to address context specific WASH challenges at national and subnational levels in Bangladesh.



Impact

Progressive reduction in the number of preventable deaths of poor mothers, children, and infants due to WASH related disease in target areas of Bangladesh

Outcome

Increased access to safely managed rural water supply and small-town sanitation in selected geographies



Timeline

March 2024 – December 2027



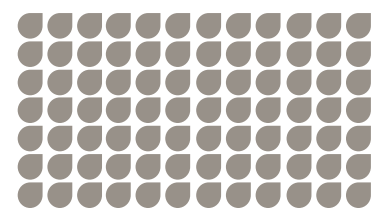
Donor

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



Location

Lalmunirhat Municipality, Paikgacha Municipality and two Union Parishads



The project is expected to disseminate and mainstream national policies in selected areas, encourage adoption in similar contexts, and influence policy improvements based on ground-level learnings. It will work with LGIs to establish sustainable, climate-resilient water supply and sanitation systems, with private sector engagement and promote behaviour change and community demand generation. Building capacity and networking with local entrepreneurs can help ensure professional service delivery in water and sanitation markets.



Highlights

- 1 Service Modelling:** Safe water supply network modelled in selected Unions and safely managed sanitation value chains promoted in selected Municipalities
- 2 Planning:** LGIs in selected locations develop and implement Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) responsive WASH plans, informed by active community participation and women's leadership
- 3 Monitoring** mechanisms system being used to inform policies, WASH development, operations, financing, and spending for gender sensitive water supply and sanitation services
- 4 Institutional arrangement and Regulation:** Established systems within local and national governments, including by-laws and guidance, to support resource, development and effective operation of safely managed water supply and sanitation
- 5 National system** for rural water supply and municipal sanitation integrates key learnings from the programme

Amplifying change through strengthening WASH governance



How?

- Incorporating climate resilience, gender and disability inclusion along with capacity building as precursors to local government planning (including community participation through standing and coordination committees) and implementation of safely managed water and sanitation leading to positive health outcomes
- Demonstrating the functional service delivery models financed and operated by private enterprises and provide a foundation for local governments at municipalities and union parishads to develop their own robust service delivery systems



Stakeholders

- **Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (MoLGRDC)**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)**



Scan the code to learn more about the project

Contact

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