

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme

The BRAC WASH programme brings water, sanitation and hygiene services to rural and isolated communities throughout Bangladesh, helping millions of people to break the cycle of contamination and live healthier, more productive lives. The BRAC WASH staff support communities to develop Village WASH Committees (VWC), as the first step on a journey to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. In this way BRAC supports the Government of Bangladesh to achieve the seventh Millennium Development Goal – reducing the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by half. To ensure the sustainability of its interventions, the programme develops community ownership, builds linkages with local government, and supports local entrepreneurs to develop a market in low cost water and sanitation hardware.



*Demonstration of proper handwashing technique during a cluster meeting for adolescents in Mymensingh.*

*Women collecting safe drinking water from a two-headed deep tube well in Chitalmari, Bagerhat.*



The programme aims to facilitate the access to sanitation services for 35 million people, safe water services for 2.5 million people, and hygiene education for 63.5 million people in 250 sub-districts (upazilas) of Bangladesh.

## Objectives

- Ensuring access to, and usage of, safe water and sanitation facilities at affordable costs
- Providing integrated and sustainable WASH services to underserved populations and hard-to-reach areas
- Building community

capacities and networking with local government and other stakeholders

- Contributing to Bangladesh and wider WASH sector, by carrying out action research on long outstanding issues such as safe and final disposal of human excreta

## Our Contribution at the National Level

As a member of the National Sanitation Taskforce, BRAC WASH has undertaken the largest project that supports the government's commitment to ending open defecation. BRAC WASH

also:

- Focuses on areas where the need for increased coverage is greatest, as indicated by the government
- "Puts the last first" in accordance with the government's pro-poor strategy and identifies the ultra poor for allocation of sanitation resources from the government
- Develops Village WASH Committees, with members from all walks of life, who represent the entire community including women, adolescent girls, the poor and ultra poor

- Builds separate latrines for girls in secondary schools and teaches them about menstrual hygiene to encourage girls to stay in school
- Trains rural sanitation entrepreneurs to develop their businesses and market high-quality latrine parts

### Impacts of First Phase (2006 – 2011)

- 25.9 million people gained access to sanitary toilets
- 1.8 million people gained access to safe water
- 38.8 million people learned about the importance of hygiene

### Coverage and Services

Our coverage (up to April 2014)

- 66.4 million people
- 13.9 million households
- 53 districts and 250 upazilas
- 2,487 working unions including municipal areas
- Sanitation for 28.6 million people
- 65,367 Village WASH Committees formed and active
- 89,966 VWC members provided with leadership training
- 6,017 deep tube wells, 1 three-headed and 9 two-headed tube wells, 5 piped water supply systems, 23 pond sand filters, and 647 arsenic removal filters
- 2,00,732 loans to the poor and 9,94,288 grants to the ultra poor to install sanitary latrines

- 2,442 loans provided to rural sanitation entrepreneurs
- 27,90,375 unhygienic latrines converted to sanitary latrines
- 4,812 secondary schools provided with separate latrines for girls
- 44,414 Student Brigades trained teachers trained on WASH issues and teaching methodology
- 18,555 imams trained to disseminate WASH messages during Friday prayers
- 49,723,668 cluster meetings on WASH issues

### Our Role in Making a Difference

BRAC WASH helps communities to achieve better lives, in line with the BRAC mission to empower those living in poverty. It does this by:

- Investment in safe water and sanitation to reduce disease and preventable deaths and to increase family income
- Ensuring equal access to hygienic and reliable sanitation services even in situations of poverty and inequality of power
- Reaching out to vulnerable groups and to those affected by climate change or living in areas of difficult geo-hydrological conditions
- Addressing the intrusion of saline and arsenic into ground water to restore safe water options
- Disseminating key messages on water, sanitation and hygiene to each household in the WASH areas
- Developing a business model to turn human waste from latrine pits into safe and valuable compost, while ensuring environmental safety