

BRAC Internship Description

Programme/Enterprise: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Project/Unit: Equitable & Sustainable WASH Services in Bangladesh Delta Plan Hotspots (Community Stream)

Duration: 3 Months

Application Deadline: 26 September 2026

Starting Date: 4 October 2026

Location (Office & Floor): Tanore BRAC Regional Office, with regular field visits across the Barind area

Working Hours: 8 Hours

Monthly Stipend: BDT 8000

Programme/Enterprise Description.

BRAC's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme has worked alongside communities across Bangladesh since 2006. It supports people to secure safe water, improved sanitation and better hygiene, with a focus on rural, hard-to-reach and climate-affected areas. The programme contributed to national gains in safe water access, improved latrines and open-defecation-free communities, and has aligned its work with Sustainable Development Goal 6 since 2016. With internal displacement and rapid urbanization, WASH is critical for public health, and our community-led model ensures sustainable impact that protects lives and promotes wellbeing for future generations.

Project/Unit Description

The Barind Tract in north-west Bangladesh is semi-arid: 1,100–1,300 mm of rainfall a year, hard clay soils and erratic monsoons. Long-term groundwater use for irrigation has lowered water tables by five to six metres, leaving the area highly drought-prone.

Following the 2025 government direction, the project supports a shift towards community-based Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Water user groups, women, farmers, Union Parishads, NGOs and agencies like Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) plan and monitor together.

Interventions include managed aquifer recharge (MAR), rainwater harvesting, pond and catchment restoration, community piped water systems, reduced groundwater abstraction, and stronger water governance with transparent monitoring and maintenance funds. Rajshahi University, Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET), Acacia Water and Dutch research institutions provide research and technical partnership. The aim is to secure safe drinking water while restoring and sustaining the wider water ecosystem.

Purpose of Internship

This internship offers hands-on experience of community-based water management in one of the most water-stressed regions of Bangladesh. Interns work under the guidance of the project

team, community engagement, field data collection, documentation, and follow-up on completed water facilities.

Learning outcomes

By the end of three months, an intern will have:

- taken part in fieldwork on a live water management project, and seen how technical and community work fit together;
- practiced collecting, organizing and checking data to a standard the team can use;
- produced written outputs such as field notes, survey summaries and draft reports and draft technical drawings;

Intern's Responsibilities:

1. Help bring community members together for project activities and meetings.
2. Help organise community meetings and awareness sessions on climate risks and catchment-based water management.
3. Help the technical team stay in touch with community representatives and local water user and supplier groups.
4. Support the participation of water user groups, particularly women and farmers, in planning and monitoring.
5. Support community members during data collection visits, and record their views on water availability and local water management practices.
6. Help check that completed project facilities are being used and cared for properly, and pass what the community reports back to the technical team.

Requirements

- Educational Background
 - Level: Bachelor's degree/ Master's Degree. Final-year students may also be considered.
 - Subject: Sociology; Anthropology; Social Work; Development Studies; Economics; Gender and Development
- Language Proficiency
 - Bangla: fluent or native, written and spoken
 - English: good working proficiency
- Skills: MS Word, Excel, SPSS, PowerPoint
- Competencies: Clear writing and reporting; time management; coordination and communication; teamwork; planning and prioritising; analytical thinking; initiative and a willingness to learn.
- Others: Willingness to travel and work in field conditions across the Barind area, and a genuine respect for the community members the project works with.