



FLOWING FORWARD:
**A REVIEW OF WASH
INITIATIVES AND IMPACT**

ANNUAL REPORT: VOLUME 2022

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMME

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August, 2023

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMME

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ABOUT BRAC

The journey began in 1972 in the newly sovereign Bangladesh, and over the course of our evolution, we have been playing the role of recognising and tackling the many different realities of poverty. We have, therefore, developed support services in the areas of human rights and social empowerment, education and health, economic empowerment and enterprise development, livelihood training, environmental sustainability, and disaster preparedness across Asia and Africa.

VISION

A world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.

MISSION

Our mission is to empower people and communities in the situation of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable women and men to realise their potential.

VALUES

Integrity
Innovation
Inclusiveness
Effectiveness

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

MF	Microfinance Programme
BLD	BRAC Learning Division
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
SDP	Skills Development Programme
MDG	Millenium Development Goals
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
ETP	Effluent Treatment Plant
RWHS	Rainwater Harvesting System
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
RDC	Radio Content
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRAC

Over the last 50 years, Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader in social development. One of the major reasons behind that is collaboration - between government, private sector, civil society organisations and non-government organisations. Collaboration was key to one of the biggest social development milestones achieved in Bangladesh - bringing open defecation from 34% in 1990 down to near zero.

Challenges are mounting, however. This is across all areas of social development, but particularly in water, sanitation and hygiene. Some of these challenges are not new, such as the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities in specific areas and communities living in extreme poverty and in hard-to-reach areas, and some are exacerbated by emerging factors, such as rapid urbanisation and the rise in salinity brought on by the climate crisis. All of these will require even stronger collaboration in order to tackle them.

In 2022, BRAC reached 320,000 people with access to WASH

facilities. This is a result of the dedication of thousands of community members and frontline staff, as well as a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, educational institutions and religious leaders.

It was a year of learning, as we watched the impacts of the climate crisis deepen, and experienced the increasing impacts of pollution on water bodies. We realised that the challenges in WASH will increase quicker than previously thought, and that mitigating and adapting to them will require new ways of thinking and working from all of us. As an example, we have now started working to strengthen the supply chain for water and sanitation services in climate and delta plan hotspots, through supporting entrepreneurs to adapt and contextualise climate resilient technologies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh, as well as our development partners. Amidst the challenges ahead,

BRAC will stand with people and communities in Bangladesh, committed to ensuring access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation for those who need it the most.



Asif Saleh
Executive Director
BRAC



MESSAGE FROM SENIOR DIRECTOR, WASH

For over four decades, BRAC has been at the forefront of pioneering solutions to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations across the globe. The WASH Programme, with its focus on ensuring access to clean water, improving sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene practices, is a testament to BRAC's holistic approach to sustainable development.

Throughout the years, the BRAC WASH Programme has achieved remarkable milestones, reaching millions of people with life-changing interventions. By constructing safe water sources, such as tube wells and water treatment plants, and implementing innovative sanitation solutions, BRAC has empowered communities to take ownership of their own WASH infrastructure, resulting in improved health outcomes and enhanced quality of life. The Programme's collaborative partnerships with governments, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders have fostered a collective effort to address the global WASH crisis, leaving a lasting imprint on the development landscape.

I am particularly inspired by BRAC's dedication to the empowerment of women and girls through the WASH Programme. By providing access

to menstrual hygiene management facilities and promoting menstrual health education, BRAC has created an enabling environment where women and girls can thrive, breaking down barriers and transforming their lives for the better.

As we delve into this Annual Report, we witness the breadth and depth of the BRAC WASH Programme's achievements. From the stories of transformed lives to the remarkable statistics illustrating improved access to clean water and sanitation, each page reinforces the power of collective action and the potential for positive change.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated teams and field workers who have worked tirelessly to make the vision of the BRAC WASH Programme a reality. I also express my gratitude to the generous donors and partners who have placed their trust in BRAC's mission. Their support has been instrumental in amplifying the impact of the WASH Programme and bringing hope to those in need. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the other BRAC Programme Directors for their invaluable assistance in accomplishing the tasks and bringing us one step closer to achieving our goals.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, let us also recommit ourselves to the unfinished work that lies ahead. The journey towards universal access to clean water, sanitation, and good hygiene practices is far from over. It demands our collective efforts, innovative solutions, and unwavering determination. Together, let us continue to strive for a world where every person, regardless of their circumstances, can enjoy the basic human rights of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

A. Na

Md Akramul Islam, PhD
Senior Director
BRAC



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Being a war-torn country in the 1970s, Bangladesh experienced a safe drinking water crisis and widespread waterborne diseases. During the 1990s, safe water and sanitation were identified as critical health areas by the government of Bangladesh and BRAC. In 2006, BRAC launched its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme, and assisted the government in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It continues to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In 2022, the programme worked in 72 Upazilas (sub-district), mostly in climate vulnerable hard-to-reach areas. It provided sustainable and inclusive access to safely managed water to 2,598 people. About 16 water options were installed through WASH loans and grant support. In addition to this, 16 WASH entrepreneurs have been developed. The Programme also develops water vendors who distribute safe water at consumers' end. In addition, 375 water points, including 80 iron removal plants

were installed in secondary schools for safe drinking water.

So far, 473 latrines were installed through loan and grant support; out of which 374 were built through grant support. A total of 2,130 people gained access to safely managed sanitation. Among the total people, about 1078 were female (approximately 51%) and 50 people with disabilities (PWD). 2 rural sanitation centres were also developed. To promote a healthy learning environment, the



programme designed and installed gender sensitive and disabled friendly latrines in 76 schools with 81 latrine chambers and hand-washing facilities in 375 secondary schools. Out of 237,123 students, 911 students with disabilities were reached through these inclusive WASH facilities.

311,270 people were reached with hygiene sessions at the community level and 237,123 students at schools for hygiene education. Additionally, about 375 handwashing stations were installed in secondary schools for easy access to inclusive hand-washing facilities. These handwashing stations covered 2,37,123 students.

BRAC senior management decided that the most effective way to operate the WASH loan is through a joint effort between the WASH Programme and Microfinance Programme (MF). MF will disburse and manage the loan while the WASH programme will offer technical support to ensure the installation of high-quality WASH facilities. This joint implementation of the WASH loan started commissioning in October 2022 in 228 MF branches. In the future, this WASH loan is expected to be expanded into other MF areas.

The WASH Programme has initiated a project focused on climate and delta plan hotspots titled 'Equitable

and Sustainable WASH services in Bangladesh Delta Plan Hotspots 2022-2026.' This project will focus on reaching the climate vulnerable hard to reach people of the coastal areas. Activities at secondary schools will be expanded to enhance gender and disability inclusive WASH facilities, advocacy and partnership with government agencies, thus focusing on the sustainability of the achievements. Moreover, it will integrate and collaborate more with other programmes of BRAC for contributions to the targets of sustainable development goal 6.



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

BRAC, with extensive experience in providing water, sanitation, and hygiene services at the community level, established its stand-alone Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programme in 2006. The programme aims to provide sustainable WASH services, break contamination cycles, and ensure the longevity and expansion of BRAC WASH. It has brought social transformation, especially in rural sanitation for the poorest families, and helped achieve national targets of safe water and hygienic latrines during the MDG period. Since 2016, the programme has focused on climate-affected, hard-to-reach, and underserved areas, aligning and contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 6.

From inception, the BRAC WASH programme has implemented several projects to provide access to safe drinking water, hygienic latrines, and WASH facilities in schools. So far, the programme has provided safe drinking water to 2.77 million people, access to hygienic latrines to 44.20 million people, and WASH facilities to 6,320 secondary schools. The programme has also provided sanitation grants to 1.4 million ultra-poor people and installed 382 water treatment plants, 37 piped water networks, 20 water testing

facilities, and developed 3,974 WASH entrepreneurs (including water distribution vendors) in Bangladesh.

In 2022, the BRAC WASH programme implemented five major projects, including 'WASH in Climate Vulnerable Hard to Reach Areas', 'Increase access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools across Bangladesh', 'Safe Water for All, A New Partnership for Growth,' 'Safe Water for All in the Coastal and Offshore Islands of Bangladesh', and 'Hygiene & behaviour change actions for reducing the risk of Covid-19 in Bangladesh'. During the year, the programme installed different water options, including water treatment plants, deep tube-wells, and rainwater harvesting systems. The programme also developed water vendors to distribute safe water and provided follow-up and monitoring support to previously established WASH facilities. Additionally, the programme provided loan through MF and grant support to offer access to safely-managed sanitation for 2,130 people. The programme reached approximately 311,270 people with hygiene education and COVID-19 awareness at the community level and 237,123 students in schools, covering approximately 548,393 people.

1.2 Impact

The goals of the BRAC WASH programme is to improve the health and well-being of the individuals living in poverty and people belonging to the marginalised communities in the hard-to-reach and climate vulnerable areas by providing sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

1.3 Objectives

In the year 2022, the programme focused its objectives on the national WASH priorities and emerging situations such as climate vulnerabilities etc. and its impact. The main objectives of the programme have been to:

i

Provide context specific, sustainable and inclusive access to safe drinking water in hard to reach, climate vulnerable and water scarce areas

ii

Provide context specific, sustainable and inclusive access to safely managed sanitation in hard to reach, climate vulnerable and water scarce areas

iii

Increase access to gender responsive and inclusive safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools across Bangladesh

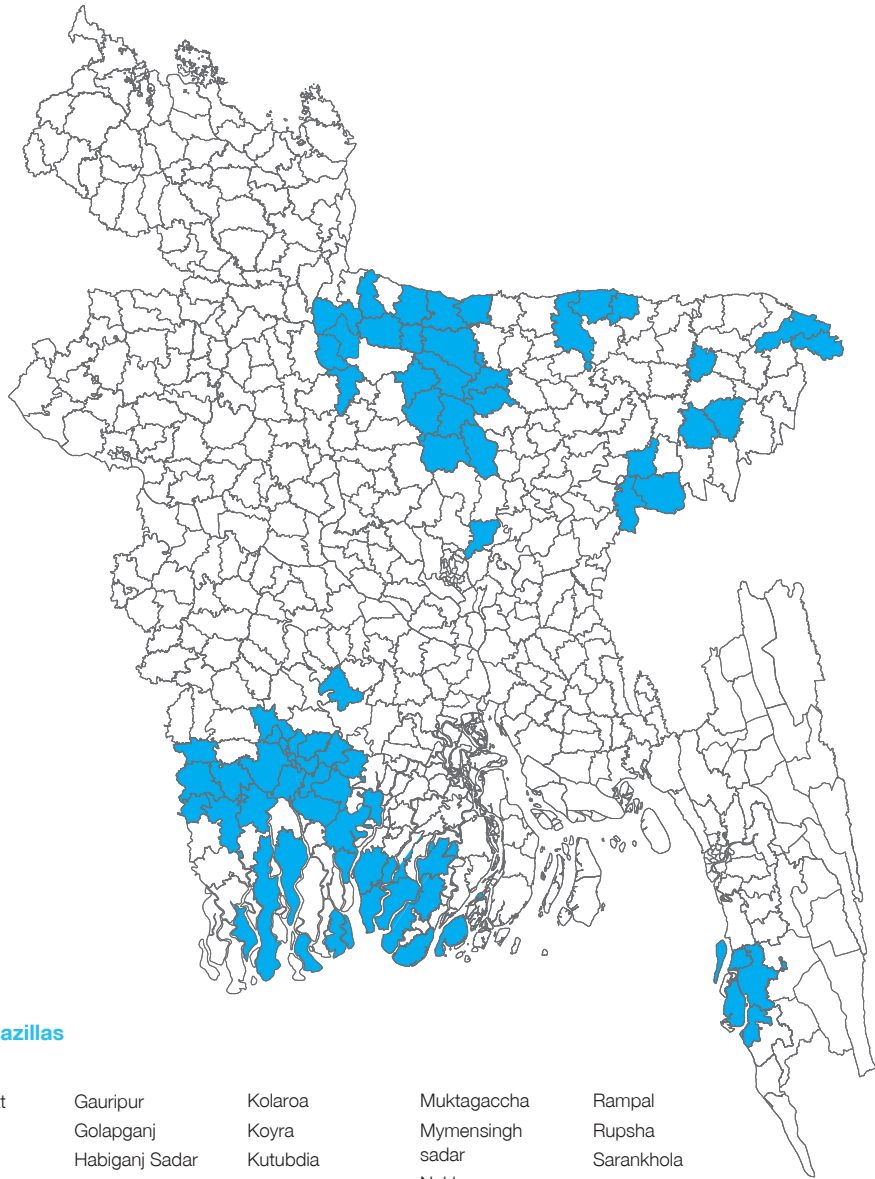
iv

Strengthen social enterprise model through providing financial and technical support in order to ensure the sustainability of WASH entrepreneurs as well as WASH Programme

1.4 Intervention Areas

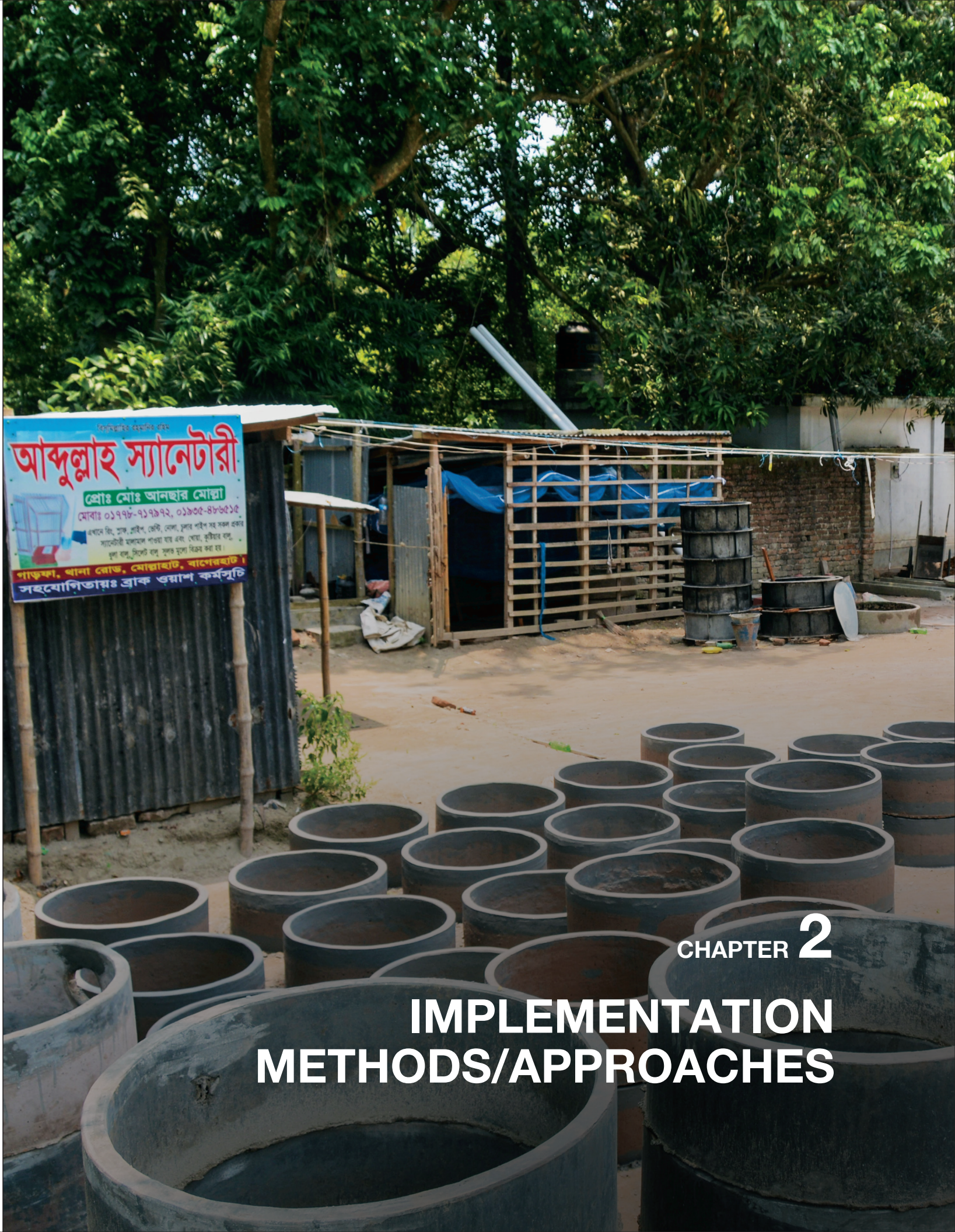
In 2022, through collaborative efforts with local communities and government agencies, the programme successfully implemented WASH interventions in some of the most hard-to-reach climate vulnerable areas of the country.

The Intervention Areas of 2022 are Illustrated below:



2022 Intervention Areas Upazillas

Amtali	Chunarughat	Gauripur	Kolaroa	Muktagaccha	Rampal
Assasuni	Cox's Bazar	Golapganj	Koyra	Mymensingh	Rupsha
Bagerhat Sadar	Sadar	Habiganj Sadar	Kutubdia	sadar	Sarankhola
Baniachong	Dacope	Haluaghat	Madarganj	Nakla	Sarishabari
Barguna Sadar	Dasmina	Ishwarganj	Madhabpur	Nalitabari	Satkhira Sadar
Batiaghata	Debhata	Islampur	Mathbaria	Paikgachha	Sherpur Sadar
Bhaluka	Dharmapasha	Jagannathpur	Maulvibazar	Patharghata	Shyamnagar
Bishwambarpur	Dhobaura	Jamalpur Sadar	Sadar	Patuakhali Sadar	Sreebardi
Bishwanath	Dumuria	Kalapara	Melandaha	Pekua	Tahirpur
Chakaria	Fakirhat	Kaliganj	Moheskhal	Phulpur	Tala
Chhatak	Fulbaria	Kanaighat	Mollahat	Phultala	Trishal
Chitalmari	Gaffargaon	Khalishpur	Mongla	Pirojpur Sadar	Zakiganj
	Galachipa		Morrelganj	Rajnagar	



CHAPTER 2

IMPLEMENTATION
METHODS/APPROACHES

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS/APPROACHES

2.1 WASH Programme Implementation Approaches

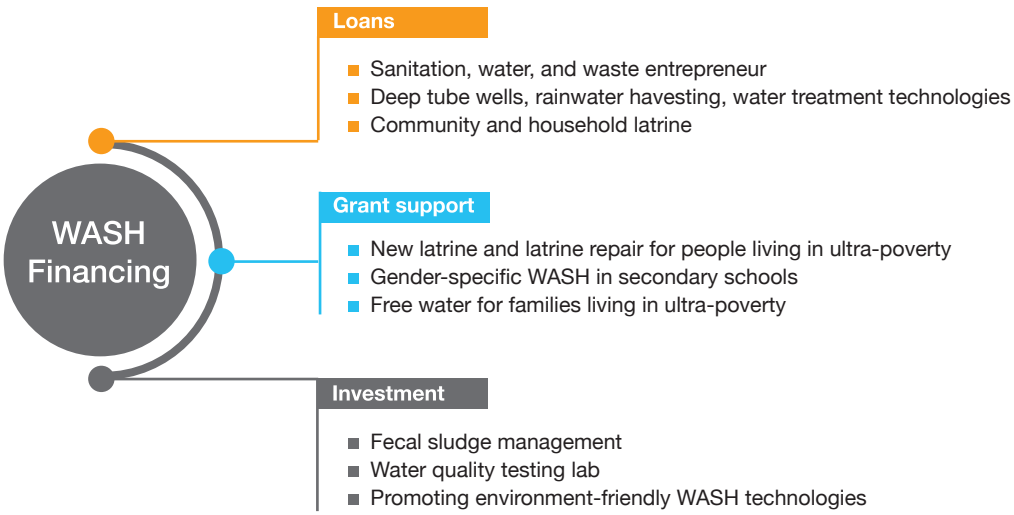
BRAC water, sanitation and hygiene programme focuses on community-based, integrated and affordable services to address water, sanitation, and hygiene needs for people living in poverty and those living in extreme poverty. The extreme climate events and the presence of contaminants in the water have made WASH service provision complicated in Bangladesh, especially in the coastal, haor (wetland region), barind, chars (river islands) and hill tract areas. To promote sustainable, cost effective, and inclusive WASH services in climate vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas, the programme has considered approach with four pillars:

Creating demand is the first pillar where community participation is ensured for awareness creation on safely managed water and sanitation services. After creating demand, the programme builds the second pillar by supporting the WASH entrepreneurs to **ensure supply** at the doorstep of the community. There is a strong focus on capacity building regarding sustainable technological solutions and on operation & maintenance (O&M). For the establishment and expansion of water businesses and installation of water and sanitation facilities at the household level, **appropriate financial arrangements** are made in the intervention areas in collaboration with MF. Finally, the fourth pillar includes the **strengthening of the enabling environment** through

engagement of local government and other stakeholders by increasing advocacy and collaboration for smooth service delivery and resource mobilisation.

2.2 WASH Financing Model

Adopting ‘Leave no one behind’ as the central principle and aligning with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the WASH Programme used a multi-layered and multifaceted financing model to cater to people of all classes. Beginning from this year, WASH loans are being mobilised through the Microfinance programme. However, any sort of grant support and investment is being managed by the WASH programme itself.



2.3 Programme Implementation Strategy

Advocating for climate resilient and sustainable WASH services

The programme promotes climate resilience and sustainability in WASH services by offering alternative services for areas that are vulnerable to climate change and hard-to-reach. These alternatives include raised latrine platforms, deep tube wells with raised platforms, rainwater harvesting systems, as well as water technologies such as piped water

networks and reverse osmosis water treatment plants.

Ensuring equitable access to safe water and sanitation throughout all project interventions

Regardless of socioeconomic status, geographic location, or any other factors, it is a key aspect of the programme. By installing context-specific water and sanitation technologies that are accessible to all, the programme promotes not only safely managed water and sanitation, but also equity in access to these essential resources.

Assisting local governments in promoting inclusive sanitation

The programme advocates for a green environment through the implementation of safely-managed water, safely-managed sanitation in collaboration with local government institutions.

Fostering a positive learning environment in educational institutions and investing in the future

BRAC WASH promotes hygiene education at secondary schools and catchments, constructs gender-



specific and disabled-friendly latrines for students including menstrual hygiene management facilities for girls, separate hand washing and drinking water stations, water treatment facilities, and waste management mechanism to ensure a positive learning environment at schools.

Developing WASH entrepreneurs to promote social business models

One of the most important strategies is to develop local entrepreneurs for the purpose of providing efficient and cost-effective WASH services at the doorstep of the community. The programme facilitates financial assistance to such entrepreneurs in addition to providing technical support for the operation and maintenance of water treatment plants (WTP) and rural sanitation centres.

Mainstreaming gender and inclusion in WASH programme interventions

The programme has a special emphasis on ensuring gender and disability inclusion in the delivery of all services, as well as monitoring activities via a gender-inclusive lens. It also designs and installs gender-sensitive and disabled-friendly WASH facilities at communities and schools.

Ensuring and conducting water quality monitoring and surveillance at all water points

The programme conducts water quality testing during the installation of each water point to ensure the quality of the supplied water. Additionally, monitoring of water quality to guard against the presence of E.Coli (TC, FC), arsenic, iron, salinity, manganese, etc. is also carried out on a regular basis.

Creating partnerships for advocating at different levels

The programme actively engages in various WASH forums and platforms, as well as collaborates with local government (union/upazila Parishad, pourashava, city corporation), government departments, and ministries to advocate for GoB policy implementation and replicate best practices.

Emergency WASH response

Considering its deltaic formation and geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Every year, the country is hit by natural disasters. That is why, in collaboration with government agencies and local government institutions, the programme has explored WASH responses in disaster situations and offers WASH services to affected people.



CHAPTER 3

PROGRAMME
ACHIEVEMENTS

PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, the WASH programme concentrated most of the project interventions in hard-to-reach, climate-vulnerable and water-scarce areas. The main priority was to provide safely-managed water and sanitation services, strengthen social enterprise models, and promote hygiene education and behaviour change among students including the installation of gender-specific and disabled-friendly WASH facilities in secondary schools, COVID-19 awareness raising activities. The following section highlights the programme’s key achievements for 2022:

The BRAC WASH programme provided sustainable and inclusive access to safely-managed water to approximately 2,598 people in addition to 53,554 students. Furthermore, 16 water options were installed through WASH loan and grants support. The water options included installation of 09 water treatment plants, 05 deep tube-wells, and 01 rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS). The programme developed a water vendor to distribute safe water at the consumer end.

Also, in 2022, the programme provided follow-up and monitoring support to previously established 155 deep tube-wells, 1416 latrines, 74 rainwater harvesting systems, 45 water treatment plants and 29 rural sanitation centers.

During the reporting period, 473 latrines were installed through loan and grant support; 2,130 people gained access to safely-managed sanitation. Among the total people reached, 1078 people were female (51%) and 50 were people with disabilities.

Approximately 311,270 people were reached with hygiene education and COVID-19 awareness at community level and 237,123 students were reached in schools. The intervention, both in the community and schools, covered around 548,393 people.

As part of promoting gender equality and inclusiveness, the programme designed and installed disabled-friendly latrines at the community level and in schools. Hand-washing stations were installed at a suitable place for easy access of all students including the PWD in 375 schools.

In addition, the programme also conducted sessions on menstrual hygiene management and napkin donation drives 467 times.

3.1 Project- wise Achievements

In 2022, the WASH programme undertook several initiatives under 5 (five) projects to promote safely managed water, sanitation, and basic hygiene promotion in climate-vulnerable, hard-to-reach areas. These projects varied in scale based on financial allocation, population and

geographical coverage. The following section summarises the actions and accomplishments of these projects.

3.1.1 WASH in climate vulnerable hard-to-reach areas

BRAC launched its WASH in climate vulnerable Hard-to-Reach areas (HtR) project in 2016, with the purpose of providing sustainable WASH services. It focuses intervention on the geophysical context of the HtR areas. Access to safely managed water and sanitation facilities remains a challenge in hard-to-reach areas



due to the prevalence of poverty, poor health and nutrition status, and threats of frequent climate disaster. Thus, much of the population in these areas continues to be deprived of adequate water and sanitation services, as service providers fail to reach them or find it difficult to provide these services.

In the start of the year, the programme took the initiative to manage a WASH loan in collaboration with MF. Numerous meetings and discussions were held between the MF and WASH programmes to determine the mode of the WASH loan. However, it took considerably longer than

projected time to accomplish those inception activities, and finally, the joint implementation of WASH loan became operational on October 22, 2022.

Planned activities of the project:

- i Provide appropriate water technologies in areas where natural water sources are contaminated with iron, arsenic, and/or salinity
- ii Access to safely managed sanitation by encouraging communities to install twin-pit latrines to ensure safe management of their pit content. In vulnerable areas, the project promotes resilient, elevated latrines to withstand impacts of climate change
- iii Offer WASH financial services through MF to households for installing water and sanitation, or both

Key achievements of the project in 2022:

i The loan disbursed under WASH programme through this project for the year 2022 is BDT 200 million. Among them BDT 170 million is current loan and the rest BDT 30 million is overdue amount

ii On the other hand, the Microfinance programme disbursed WASH loan BDT 250 million among 11,911 borrowers in 98 MF areas which is almost equivalent to Upazila

3.1.2 Increase access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools across Bangladesh

The WASH in Schools (WinS) project has been in place since 2015 to promote universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation in secondary schools. The project is funded by charity: water, with a fund of USD 2.35

million yearly. The project applies four approaches: safe drinking water provision and hand-washing stations, gender sensitive and disability-inclusive latrines, menstrual hygiene management, and hygiene education. In 2022, the school project provided gender sensitive and disability inclusive WASH support to 375 secondary schools following comprehensive selection

criteria such as MPO (monthly pay order) listed girls' and co-education secondary schools, inadequate WASH facilities (latrine to student ratio is high, no running water supply, etc.), willingness to share the cost of improving infrastructure and committed to ensuring proper O&M (operation & maintenance) of installed WASH facilities.

Planned activities of the project:

1. Water Output

- i Installation of 375 piped water system, 5 rainwater harvesting plants, 50 iron removal plants and 15 Arsenic-iron removal plants
- ii Serving 225,000 total water users on a daily basis and water testing of 375 piped systems

2. Sanitation Output

- i Construction of 50 01-block school latrine with 03 stalls including disabled-friendly stall
- ii Access creation of 30,000 students to the latrines constructed
- iii Creating availability of 375 waste bins in 375 schools and making menstrual product available



3. Hygiene Output

i Installation of 750 units of hand-washing stations (at least 2 handwashing stations in each school, 1 for boys and another 1 for girls)

ii Training of 5,250 members of WASH committee in 368 schools on WASH implementation issues

iii Coverage of 225,000 students through organising different events;

iv Observation of Soap drive day celebration in 375 schools once, Clean up drive in 375 schools twice, Napkin drive celebration in 375 schools once, Hygiene sessions of 1,125 times in 368 schools

4. Other Output

Fund availability for repair and maintenances in 375 schools and 1,186 schools will be visited to make sure all piped systems and sanitation facilities are functional

5. Testing of E.coli, iron and Arsenic in drinking water of 1,186 schools

Key achievements of the project in 2022:

1. Water Output

i 52,341 students were served safe drinking water through iron removal plants installed in 80 schools

ii 375 schools in water quality followed up and re-checked

iii 1213 students received access to safe drinking water through a rainwater harvesting system installed in 1 school

2. Sanitation Output

1 block school latrines including disability stalls were constructed in 76 schools with 81 latrines benefiting 46,838 students

3. Hygiene Output

i 375 schools were provided with waste bins inside girls' latrine for disposing of menstrual products

ii 5,250 participants of School WASH committees in 375 schools received training on implementation of WASH in school, out of which 2,153 were female and 3,097 were male

iii 2,250 members of Student brigade were trained on hygiene promotion, where 1041 were boys and, 1,209 were girls

iv 300,988 students participated in soap drives conducted in 476 schools and napkin drives were organised in 467 schools with 163,367 female students

v 237,123 students participated in clean up drives which were organised 3705 times in 375 schools

vi 8,210 hygiene sessions have been conducted in 375 schools reaching approximately 237,123 students

4. Other Output

375 schools have funds available for O&M of WASH facilities

Challenges:

- The increased rate of materials and labour due to inflationary economic situation posed a challenge in completing the construction within the set timeline while maintaining all the compliance requirements
- Construction work and hygiene session were disrupted due to

two flash floods in north-eastern areas of the country i.e. Sylhet region.

- Delivery of construction materials for schools in hard to reach areas was difficult due to poor road conditions

3.1.3 Safe Water for All, A New Partnership for Growth

Through this project, BRAC has formed partnerships with commercial entities such as Grundfos to tackle issues related to safe drinking water access, industrial waste pollution, and market barriers to financing



sustainable business models investing in Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs). This will contribute in solving the issue of the safe water crisis in industrial areas across Bangladesh and also tackle the issue of environmental pollution caused by industrial effluent.

This project aims to achieve

two objectives: development and business objectives. The development objective is to promote sustainable economic growth and increase income opportunities for 445 people, as well as create 224 new and decent jobs in water treatment and distribution. Additionally, the project aims to provide safe and affordable drinking water to

204,000 people in Bangladesh and support the economic recovery in the post-Covid-19 period. The business objective is to establish a commercially viable partnership model that will help clean industrial effluent, reduce its harmful impact on people and the environment, and provide safe drinking water through the intervention of a commercial entity.

Planned activities of the project:

- i

4 WTPs are in place and functioning and 8,100 m3 of water is treated by these WTPs
- ii

12 people employed by WTPs and 40 people as water vendors
- iii

4 WTPs with 100% compliance with water quality requirements (in line with WHO measures) are in place
- iv

1 ETP is in place and functioning and 292,000 m3 of water is treated by this ETP
- v

7 people are employed/working on ETPs
- vi

3 project progresses, experience and learning briefs produced (annual) and 1 policy recommendations submitted to GoB and/or municipality
- vii

1 knowledge sharing events organised

Key achievements of the project:

- i

Successful advocacy work on usage of safe water and promotion of green environment with BKMEA and factory owners led to BKMEA and 2 factories showing interest to collaboratively work and install/ upgrade ETP, respectively
- ii

Three work orders were submitted to Grundfos for installing WTPs and out of which two WTPs will be installed by the middle of 2023
- iii

The final technical solution for WTP was received from the commercial partner Grundfos
- iv

Among the potential entrepreneurs, 3 female entrepreneurs were found for the installation of WTP

Challenges faced:

Small-scale entrepreneurs face difficulty investing in high-quality sustainable technologies on a larger scale due to limited investments and the lack of successful large-scale WTP examples. Due to the increase in dollar rate and inflation in Bangladesh, these impacted the increase of price of everything including the machinery of the Water Treatment Plant. This sudden increase in the price of WTP demotivated the interested/potential entrepreneurs.

3.1.4 Safe Water For All in the Coastal and Offshore Islands of Bangladesh (Supported by PepsiCo.)

Due to the high salinity of both underground and surface water sources during the dry season, communities in Bangladesh’s southern coastal and offshore islands experience a shortage of safe drinking water.

With support from The PepsiCo Foundation, BRAC implemented the Safe Water For All project to increase

access to safe water through its innovative water entrepreneurship model. Building on BRAC’s expertise in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), the project aimed to increase safe water access in the targeted sub-districts of Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh by establishing a social business model led by local water entrepreneurs and supported by local community groups. The project was implemented from June 2021 to May 2022, with a grand amount of \$100,000 in Moheshkhali and Kutubdia Island of Cox’s Bazar district.

Planned activities of this project:

- i

10 water entrepreneurs identified, trained, and supported to install and operate WTPs, with technical and financial support provided by BRAC.
- ii

Provide loan (3 lac to 5 lac for 2 years) for WTP installation
- iii

Water entrepreneurs supported in establishing reverse osmosis-based WTPs, including selection of sites, installation of machinery, equipment, and water quality testing
- iv

Campaigns organised to raise awareness around safe hygiene
- v

Incentives provided for selected water entrepreneurs (e.g. water jars, rickshaw van, etc.)
- vi

Support for the formation of WASH committees in each village, ensuring equitable representation of all classes of people and gender
- vii

Coordination between representatives of government agencies, local government institutes, water entrepreneurs, and WASH committees
- viii

Follow-up and monitoring of the operation and management of WTPs and awareness activities by WASH committees

Key achievements of this project:

- i

Delivered safe drinking water to 1,200 underserved households
- ii

Trained 10 entrepreneurs (100%) to install water treatment plants (WTPs) across 10 communities
- iii

119 households were designated as ultra-poor and received free water as a part of this project along with five educational institutions
- iv

Nearly 14,000 people were reached with hygiene promotion messages carried out by WASH committee members, water vendors, entrepreneurs, and BRAC staff
- v

An endline survey conducted by BRAC in May 2022 revealed that 6,943 people out of the target of 5,200 (134%) received safe water from WTPs
- vi

Diarrheal diseases reduced to 51% from baseline to endline data in the project areas

Challenges:

Set up WTPs and water businesses in two of Bangladesh’s most remote areas such as Moheshkhali and Kutubdia. Since electricity supply is limited in these islands, it was difficult to implement the project.

3.1.5 Hygiene & behaviour change actions for reducing the risk of Covid-19 in Bangladesh

Hygiene and behaviour change actions for reducing the risk of COVID-19 in Bangladesh is being

implemented in 20 upazilas of Bangladesh from June 2022 to May 2023. The project aims to ensure the dissemination of overall hygiene practices, COVID-19 prevention and vaccine uptake messaging among target communities i.e. students at schools, parents, teachers, health care visitors, doctors, nurses,

caregivers, and marginalised communities (e.g. slum dwellers, Rohingya communities etc.); increase availability of WASH services and resources and guide people on best practices to prevent other diseases in the future.

Planned activities of the project:

Output

- i

Supporting government-led coordination of hygiene promotion and vaccine uptake in target countries
- ii

People, particularly at risk populations, in targeted areas reached (at scale and through multiple channels) with messages on hygiene, public health and social measures to reduce risk of COVID 19 transmission and where appropriate, to increase vaccine uptake
- iii

People in targeted areas reached with critical WASH product s/services



iv

Staff trained to deliver COVID 19 preventative measures (and other topics)

v

Health Care Facilities receive critical WASH supplies and service

vi

HBCC partners, national partners as well as broader WASH sector, informed by evidence based guidance on hygiene and WASH programming, vaccine confidence, regular learning from the response and research providing longer term legacy in wider programming, policy and practice

vii

Vaccine Data CoLabs improve uptake and prioritization of vaccines at country level

viii

School' s student s, teacher s, staff, etc. receive hygiene and COVID 19 Messages and supplies

ix

Rohingya refugee population and host community households reached with messaging, uptake nudges , and processes for resilient WASH

Key achievements of this project:

i

Approximately 10 million listeners reached through two radio campaigns in 125 community radio stations all across Bangladesh

ii

A total of 9 million people reached through offline poster campaign at cattle markets during Eid Ul Azha which took place all over Bangladesh

Challenges:

► Delay in getting the government approval of the project delayed some of the planned activities of the project. The project started its journey in June 2022 to implement planned activities. However, the approval was received from NGO-Affairs Bureau in November 2022. Due

to this challenge all the activities were completed within a shorter span of time where additional volunteers were deployed. Additional approval from NGO-Affairs Bureau to work in Rohingya camps was also received after much delay

► A decline in the incidence of COVID-19 and hygiene

messaging was seen in the field. Despite the risk of COVID-19 infection spreading, people preferred to ignore the health advantages of adopting behaviours like wearing masks and washing their hands with soap or liquid soap. The communities' hygiene routines are no longer as important as they were in previous years.

3.2 New Initiative

BRAC has launched a new project titled “Equitable and Sustainable WASH services in Bangladesh Delta plan Hotspots” from 2022 – 2026 funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project has incorporated innovative approaches and strategies to reach

about 1.0 million population with the access to safe water and sanitation in communities and schools in the climate vulnerable hard to reach areas. The overall goal of the project is to promote and deliver safe water and sanitation services by increasing access to finance (repayable finance and grants), strengthening local

institutions, introducing (climate resilient) technologies and service delivery models including more sustainable operation & maintenance mechanisms in 4 climate hotspots of Bangladesh (coastal, haor, barind and floodplain areas). The objective of the project are as follows:

Key achievements of this project:

i

Develop and implement a contextualised microcredit model for safely managed water and sanitation (basic minimum) services to adapt to extreme climate events in Climate hotspots

ii

Strengthen WASH supply chains and develop an entrepreneur-based operation & maintenance model for drinking water and sanitation services in Climate hotspots engaging entrepreneurs (and technologies); working in similar context to introduce and market appropriate drinking water treatment technologies

iii

Support local government institutions to roll out the WASH pro-poor strategy and to strengthen the local subsidy mechanisms for those without access to safe water and sanitation (selected Union Parishads)



3.3 Cross - cutting components

In 2022, the WASH programme undertook several initiatives under 5 (five) projects to promote safely managed water, sanitation, and basic hygiene promotion in climate-vulnerable, hard-to-reach areas. These projects varied in scale based on financial allocation, population and geographical coverage. The following section summarises the actions and accomplishments of these projects.

3.3.1 Gender

The WASH programme's goal is to integrate gender mainstreaming and ensure that its interventions include a minimum of 45% female participants. To emphasise women's engagement and empowerment, the initiative solicits their suggestions and preferences for the place where the facilities should be created (within household premises). Furthermore, they are instructed on hygiene behaviour, particularly good menstrual hygiene management. The

WASH in school project prioritised MHM-friendly latrines in schools, separate latrines for boys and girls, and hygiene education among school students and beyond. It also prioritises active engagement while creating the village WASH committee and student brigade at the school level. In the year 2022, BRAC WASH equipped 81 latrines for girls with menstrual hygiene management facilities, celebrated a soap drive and napkin drive 476 times and built 327 separate water points for girls and boys.

3.3.2 Climate change

Implementing the organisational and programmatic strategies, the WASH programme has worked in climate-sensitive areas to provide resilient WASH services with the goal of promoting appropriate technologies that can create good change among vulnerable people by 2025. WASH

programme promotes environment-friendly technologies, considering the local context in the WASH sector by replacing the traditional ones. It always focuses on ensuring the maximum utilisation of available natural resources, such as promoting rainwater harvesting systems, using surface water, solar energy, etc.



3.3.3 Disability inclusion

Disability inclusion has always been a significant component of WASH initiatives, with inclusivity and equality being two of the key focal areas. WASH in school projects ensure each and every water point and sanitation facility are disabled-friendly

(with ramp, rail and other facilities) and can be used by all students. During the reporting period, latrines were provided to 50 people with disabilities. Additionally, 911 students with disabilities could access the disability inclusive latrines provided in their schools.

3.4 Working with the Government

The activities of the WASH Programme involve close collaboration with the government of Bangladesh's education department and local governmental agencies. All interventions are intended to assist the government in meeting its development priorities in the WASH sector. BRAC WASH actively participates in numerous WASH forums with government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), providing opportunities for improved

networking, knowledge sharing, and innovation. As a result, WASH programme is continually looking for appropriate and innovative technology to promote in their operations. WASH actively shares its knowledge gained from working in the WASH sector since 2006 with other stakeholders. Close coordination is maintained with relevant government agencies such as the Department of Public Health Engineering, the directorate general of health services, the local government engineering department, the department of public health engineering, and the directorate of

secondary and higher education. A series of inception meetings has been done with the representatives from local government (Specially UNO), Secondary Education Officer, assistant/ sub-assistant Engineer of DPHE and other officials to inform activities of the new WASH projects.

3.5 Highlights of Events in 2022

BRAC WASH programme organised different events in collaboration with Government agencies, stakeholders and BRAC other programmes; which is briefly described below:

World Water Day

BRAC WASH Programme observed the World Water Day on 22 March 2022, at its working areas, jointly with

government and other NGOs. As part of this, the programme organised rallies, discussion sessions, quiz

competitions for school students, making for awareness etc. Government officials, journalists, local



elites, students, teachers, parents and the local community attended the discussion session and rally. Additionally, the quiz competition winners were awarded with books and gifts.

Menstrual Hygiene Management Day

The programme observed Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May, 2022 by arranging discussion sessions, rallies and napkin drives, etc. at 35 secondary schools of its 35 intervention Upazilas. The discussion sessions prompted dialogue to alleviate the taboo surrounding periods, the rallies worked toward raising awareness on the issue, and the napkin drives will ensure a year long supply of sanitary products for students. Upazila administration,

In addition to this, an audio visual titled “The Invisible Water:Groundwater” was launched. It was shared among WASH programme’s key stakeholders, including participants and donors. The key message of the AV was to

Local government officials, school management committee, parents, teachers and students participated in these activities. On the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022, national menstrual hygiene management (MHM) Platform organised an event titled ‘Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030: Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022’ to highlight the importance of good menstruation hygiene management. The WASH programme participated

raise awareness among people for efficient use of groundwater and minimise wastage. It also talks about how BRAC is using groundwater resources as a viable option for safe drinking water.

in this event where a mobile app for menstrual health and hygiene management was launched.

Additionally, a blog was published in The Good Feed titled “Menstruation: what’s the shame in it?”, discussing the myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation.

World Environment Day

BRAC WASH Programme participated and showcased its best practices and innovative technologies, at the National Environment Fair-2022 from 5th to 11th June 2022. The exhibition was organised by the Department of Environment, as part of the observation of World Environment Day 2022, to raise awareness and exchange knowledge on different

environment friendly technologies among the relevant stakeholders. Along with the other innovative and environment friendly technologies of the programme, BRAC WASH showcased the Intelligent Reverse Osmosis System, a piped water supply network system, a Fecal sludge treatment plant, Customized Vacu-tag etc.



Global Handwashing Day

In light of Global Handwashing Day, on 15 October 2022, BRAC in collaboration with Unilever Bangladesh, organised various activities in schools such as hygiene sessions, soap drives, handwashing

demonstrations, in addition to rallies. The activities were conducted in 500 secondary schools in 20 sub-districts which reached approximately 0.40 million students.



Seminar and sanitation technology exhibition

BRAC participated in a two days seminar and sanitation technology exhibition on “City Sanitation Challenges & Opportunities,” from 13-14 March 2022; organised by Dhaka North City Corporation and supported by Unicef at Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka. In the exhibition,

BRAC WASH Programme exhibited its two fecal sludge management technologies and service delivery approach; namely “Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant, Jamalpur Pourashava” and “Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant at Kutupalong Rohingya Camp.”





CHAPTER 4

COLLABORATION AND
COORDINATION WITH
OTHER PROGRAMMES

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES

In 2022, BRAC WASH programme provided technical assistance to three other programmes of BRAC. In Disaster Risk Management Programme, WASH programme supported the construction of a community toilet at Shalla upazila of Sunamganj district. All kinds of drawing and design were prepared by the technical team of WASH. The facility had separate toilets for men and women and also had the amenities to be used by the people with disabilities.

BRAC Skill Development programme (SDP) installed a public toilet at Islampur Upazila under Jamalpur district. All kinds of drawing ,design were supported by the technical team of WASH programme. The team also supported them to construct the toilet. Throughout the whole process of implementation, starting from purchasing of quality materials to monitoring the quality of the construction works, the field engineers of BRAC WASH Programme were involved. This facility also has separate toilets for men, women and also it is disability inclusive.

Also, for the implementation of 'Equitable and Sustainable WASH services in Bangladesh Delta plan Hotspots' in haor areas (a climate hotspot),the key implementation role is being provided by Integrated Development Programme (IDP) and BRAC WASH programme is providing capacity development and technical support to IDP staff. Another collaboration took place with the Integrated Development Programme where drawing, design and budget of household based twin pit toilets were provided to IDP.



CHAPTER 5

LEARNINGS AND
WAY FORWARD

LEARNINGS AND
WAY FORWARD

5.1 Major Outcomes of
the programme

In 2022, an outcome survey was carried out by the BRAC WASH

programme to evaluate the impact of various community-level activities including WASH in Schools project. The assessment was conducted using a set of indicators that were in

line with the SDG 6 indicators. The survey results are summarised as follows:

94%

schools have separate latrine for boys and girls

100%

schools have functional drinking water supply

100%

schools have sex disaggregated handwashing stations at schools

99%

students' drinks water from the drinking water taps at school period. Rest brings water from house

95%

School's student brigade working properly

A programme quality assessment took place on Increase access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools across Bangladesh project or also known as WASH in Schools by the BRAC MEAL Department which looked into WASH programme using following five criteria-

- 1. Quality of Implementation
- 2. Programmatic Learning
- 3. Functional Feedback, Complaint and Response Mechanism
- 4. Inclusiveness and Women Centricity
- 5. Relevant and Holistic Programming

The assessment revealed the following aspects:

94%

hand washing station were functional

100%

iron removal plants were functional

83%

of the latrine facilities were functional

100%

of the schools have facilities that are accommodative towards people with disabilities. On the other hand, 76% of offices have facilities that are accommodative towards people with special needs (separate toilets, waiting room, breastfeeding corner)

100%

Programme participants think that the interventions are able to meet their needs and worth the associated cost

Overall, the key traits observed in the WASH programme were:

- 1. WASH-in-School project follows the international standard of Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation of WHO and UNICEF
- 2. WASH in-school intervention ensures inclusiveness by design as it addresses the needs of adolescent girls and persons with a disability
- 3. WASH programme collaborates with MF and IDP. So, WASH participants easily receive loan services and IDP participants receive WASH services.
- 4. WASH programme captures learning and uses it in future intervention design and competitive bidding.
- 5. Needs assessment in the project initiation phase has ensured

reaching the schools that were in dire need of gender segregated and improved WASH facilities.

- 6. Non-functional committees/ bodies result in poor maintenance of WASH facilities as well as could not ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

5.2 Key lessons learned

BRAC WASH programme gained many learnings by implementing multiple projects and organising various events. The major lessons learnt by the programme are listed below-

- The programme took initiatives to develop leadership and negotiation skill of staff with a special focus on gender, inclusiveness and safeguarding. Like previous years, in 2022, the programme considered the gender aspects in the design and implementation of

all projects/interventions such as construction/installation of WASH facilities at school and community level, selection of programme participants with the lens of gender (e.g. student brigade), etc.

- At the beginning of 2022, as per senior management decision, the WASH programme stopped disbursing WASH loans and initiated commissioning of integration of WASH loans with Microfinance. But this integration took much more time than the expectation.

- In the WASH in Schools (WinS) project, to reduce the dependency on ground water use, surface water treatment plant should be introduced. Also, considering the priority geo-hydrological area where WASH in Schools project will run in future, it will be very hard

to find treatable ground water due to high concentration salinity intrusion in the coastal area. systems can be installed in schools. During monsoon, the rain water could be used for 3 months. Therefore, installing rainwater harvesting in schools and monitoring the usefulness to recommend future scale-up by BRAC can be a viable solution.

- There is a dearth of skilled ETP operators for which the majority of factories are not operating the ETPs (despite being installed). The owners of the factory expressed eagerness to hire qualified workers to ensure operating ETP facilities in their factories. The project has scope to take initiatives to train the operators so they may become more capable in the areas of

technology, maintenance, and operations, which will influence the labour market and the environment.

- Awareness-raising activities accelerate community demand because many people in these areas are not aware of the importance of drinking safe water, let alone paying for it. BRAC recognized early on that awareness-raising activities were important for incentivizing people to invest in clean water.
- Refresher training is valuable to reinforce technical knowledge as well as helps entrepreneurs to learn from each other and exchange new ideas about how to market themselves to new customers.

- Varying loan sizes based on the needs of the entrepreneurs gives each entrepreneur some flexibility based on their financial capacity.
- Emphasising comprehensive hygiene behaviour including COVID-19 awareness should be done at quarterly intervals and liaison with the local-level govt. bodies need to be revisited every few months so that relevant stakeholders are all aligned and working towards the same objectives.
- For children at school, non-monetary incentives such as appreciation and acknowledgment measures work as an effective measure for hygiene awareness and practices.

5.3 Way forward

BRAC WASH programme will continue its efforts towards achieving the SDG 6 targets, expanding outreach to underserved areas, and building upon the programme's successes through collaboration with various partners, local communities, governments, and other stakeholders. Additionally, a focus on innovation, sustainability, and resilience will be key in ensuring the long-term impact and effectiveness of the programme.

- The programme will emphasise more on integrated services delivery through integration and coordination with other BRAC Programmes. It will implement its WASH intervention in haor areas, where the key implementation role will be provided by Integrated Development Programme (IDP) and WASH will provide capacity development and technical support to IDP staff. Also, the WASH loan will be disbursed and realised by the Microfinance programme, where the WASH programme will provide capacity development and technical

support to Microfinance staff, as well as assist beneficiaries to install standard and quality WASH facilities at the ground.

- The programme is placing special focus on reaching the climate-vulnerable hard-to-reach people of the deltaplan hotspots, which will also continue in the coming year due to the increasing vulnerability of these population due to climate change.
- The programme will focus more on knowledge gathering, sharing, and advocacy initiatives. A workshop/ meeting will be organised with relevant government and non-government stakeholders to share exchanges and views. The outcome of pilot interventions, as well as implementation results of joint initiatives with the government and other stakeholders will also be shared in wider stakeholders' communities.
- A robust and online-based MIS and monitoring system will be introduced
- Introduction of WASH loan in more microfinance branches, especially at coastal, haor, barind, and floodplain areas will take place. As well as collaboration with BRAC Bank for extending WASH loans to WASH entrepreneurs is another priority.
- Enhancing collaboration with the private sector and government departments; initiating piloting on development of context specific and climate resilient WASH technologies/services.
- Gender and disability inclusive WASH at Secondary schools will be expanded and more schools and students will be covered through inclusive WASH services.
- The programme will emphasise on advocacy and partnership with the National Institute of Local Government to develop and test models or approaches that could capacitate Union Parishads to deliver WASH services across communities.



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