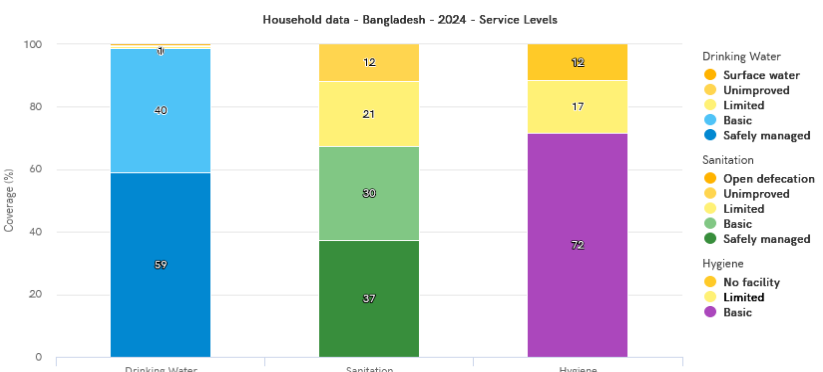


BRAC has played a pioneering role in expanding access to safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services across Bangladesh, building on two decades of community-driven development efforts since WASH programme's formal launch in 2006.



Despite significant progress, Bangladesh continues to face persistent and emerging WASH challenges, particularly among poor and climate-vulnerable communities. 40.9% of households in Bangladesh still do not have access to safely managed drinking water and 62.7% of households still do not have access to safely managed sanitation services (WHO/UNICEF, JMP, 2024).

People still rely on unsafe drinking water, and access to safely managed sanitation remains uneven, especially in flood-prone, saline-affected, drought-hit, and hard-to-reach areas. Climate change, rapid urbanisation, and repeated shocks increasingly undermine WASH infrastructure, heightening public health risks and disproportionately affecting women, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalised populations (World Bank, 2024).



As a core programme under BRAC, WASH Programme contributes directly to SDG 6 and promotes universal, equitable, and affordable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene by combining climate-resilient infrastructure, innovative technologies, alternative WASH financing mechanisms, and strong multi-stakeholder partnerships. The programme adopts an integrated approach that combines climate-resilient water supply, safely managed sanitation, hygiene and menstrual hygiene management (MHM), and social and behaviour change communication to address both service and behavioural gaps.

BRAC WASH works through community engagement and partnerships with local government institutions, the private sector, and development partners to strengthen WASH systems and governance. By promoting locally appropriate, climate-adaptive solutions and building community capacity for operation and maintenance, the programme aims to ensure long-term service functionality and resilience.

Programme Highlights (July-December 2025)



122,443 people accessed water services through alternative WASH financing



62,493 people accessed sanitation services through alternative WASH financing



164 WASH entrepreneurs developed



744,994,000 BDT WASH Loan mobilised



74,194 students covered with WASH facilities in school



44,981 girl students covered with MHM facilities in school



6,873 adolescent girls and women reached through digital MHM platform

Beyond Thirst: **Pervin apa's story from Barind region of Bangladesh**



I often say to people that water is not only a basic need for life, many people's lives change around access to water.

– Pervin Akter,
a participant from Tanore, Rajshahi.

I got married and moved to Chinasho, Tanore, in Rajshahi, in the heart of the Barind region. That is when I truly understood what water scarcity means. Water was never near our home. Every day, I walked long distances under the burning sun to collect water for drinking, cooking, bathing, everything. The weight of the pitcher felt heavier each day, but there was no other choice.

Sometimes, when the tubewells ran dry, I had to ask neighbours for drinking water. Those moments hurt the most. There were days when I went to my neighbours asking for drinking water, only to be turned away and treated with harsh words. Asking for water to drink felt like begging for survival.

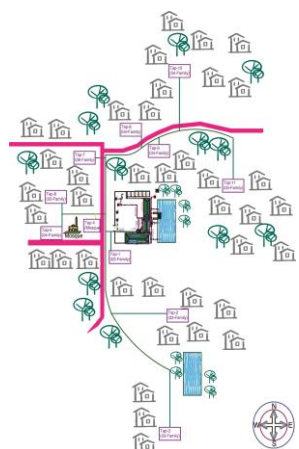
Two years ago, carrying heavy pitchers of water changed my life forever. I lost my unborn child. The doctors said my body could not take the strain anymore. I went through several surgeries, but the pain never fully left me, abdominal pain, back pain, weakness still reminds me of those days. Even now, I think, if this water system had been available near my home two or three years ago, I would not have lost my child.

Today, things are different. A piped-water line now runs close to my house. I no longer have to walk for hours or lift unbearable weight. I can collect water safely, with dignity, without fear. My body still carries scars, but my days are no longer ruled by collecting water.

I have learned that water is not just a necessity for survival, it can shape an entire life and I often say to people that water is not only a basic need for life, many people's lives change around access to water.

Programme Highlights (July-December 2025)

From Schools to Communities: A Unified WASH Model Advancing Access to Water



The School-to-Community Safe Water Supply model is designed for Bangladesh's water-scarce Barind region and is piloted in Chinasho village, Tanore Upazila, Rajshahi. The model transforms schools into sustainable hubs for safe drinking water for both students and surrounding community. By linking school-based systems with nearby communities, the approach ensures cost-efficient, equitable, and reliable water access while reducing pressure on depleted groundwater.

The model integrates rainwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge (MAR) trying to give back to the nature, an essential approach in the drought-prone Barind landscape. Beyond water, this initiative integrates funding constraints, unified WASH systems in school, and geographic tailoring into one pilot, offering a scalable, practical solution that maximizes impact with limited resources.

Giving back to the Nature: **Integrated Water Resources Management in Barind**

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Barind Region is a holistic approach to sustainable water use. This initiative addresses the growing water scarcity in Barind regions like Tanore, Rajshahi, where communities face limited access to safe drinking water and insufficient supply for domestic needs.



Through this innovation, rainwater is collected, stored, and injected into underground aquifers to replenish groundwater, ensuring safe water for drinking and cooking. Excavated ponds provide water for non-potable uses, reducing pressure on natural sources. By integrating community participation and ecological restoration, IWRM gives back to nature what has been taken, prevents water wastage, and strengthens climate resilience, sustainable water use, and local biodiversity for future generations.

Global Handwashing Day 2025: **Be a Handwashing Hero**



Clean hands are a fundamental defense against the spread of infections, illnesses, and harmful germs. Whether in schools, or in everyday interactions, practicing handwashing with soap contributes to better health outcomes and a safer world for everyone. While we've made significant progress in promoting handwashing with soap, our journey is far from over and we need handwashing heroes as we move towards our vision that all people benefit from clean hands. We need leaders from every part of society and everyone can "Be a Handwashing Hero."

On October 15, 2025, BRAC WASH Programme joined hands with students of 76 schools in 49 upazilas across Bangladesh to celebrate Global Handwashing Day 2025! Through vibrant discussions, quiz competitions, hand washing demonstrations and awareness sessions, teachers and students came together to “Be a Handwashing Hero.”

Alternate Financing for WASH: Exploring Financing Pathways for the Future of WASH



To explore innovative financing solutions for achieving SDG 6 in Bangladesh, a Learning Sharing Workshop on “Alternate Financing Options for WASH in Bangladesh” on 13 November 2025, bringing together government representatives, development partners, financial institutions, academia, and private sector actors. The workshop highlighted the persistent financing gap for safely managed water and sanitation services, particularly for low-income and climate-vulnerable communities, and examined the role of alternative financing in addressing affordability and access challenges.

Through a keynote presentation and interactive discussion, participants reflected on lessons from microfinance for WASH and explored alternative financing mechanisms (like, green and climate finance, municipal bonds, and private sector engagement) to support sustainable and climate-resilient WASH service delivery. The event fostered cross-sector dialogue and generated actionable insights to strengthen policy and programmatic frameworks for WASH financing.

Water Hackathon: Innovating Water Solutions in Barind and Coastal Bangladesh

To promote innovation and respond to context-specific water challenges, Water Hackathons were organised in Bangladesh's water-scarce Barind region on 29 November 2025, and climate-vulnerable coastal areas on 19 July 2025. The events brought together young innovators, engineers, researchers, and community practitioners to co-create locally led, feasible, scalable, and innovative solutions to water issues, including groundwater depletion, salinity intrusion, and access to safe water.



By grounding innovation in real community needs and connecting ideas to practical implementation pathways, the hackathons generated solutions tailored to geographic contexts while strengthening local ownership, collaboration, and problem-solving capacity in the country's most water-stressed regions.

