



BRAC continues to evolve its approach to development, strengthening its role as a leader in advancing climate-resilient solutions across Bangladesh. Within this broader vision, its Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Programme are aligning its workstream to respond more effectively to the growing realities of vulnerabilities in different forms. Building on years of experience, this work is increasingly positioned as a technical and knowledge hub that not only implements solutions but also generates evidence, pilots innovation, and contributes to scalable, climate-resilient practices.

As part of this, a range of climate-adaptive initiatives are being advanced across some of the country's most vulnerable geographies. In water-scarce regions like the Barind Region, efforts are focused on addressing chronic water crises through sustainable and context-specific solutions by scaling up Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) systems to enhance groundwater availability and ensure access to safely managed drinking water. In coastal areas, where a growing number of reverse osmosis (RO) plants produce highly saline waste, brine management solutions are being introduced to address the widespread practice of unsafe disposal, aiming to reduce environmental risks and promote more sustainable desalination practices in climate-vulnerable communities.

Beyond water supply, innovative sanitation technologies are also being piloted in flood-prone haor regions, where designs are adapted to withstand flooding, limited space, and seepage challenges. Together, these efforts signal a deliberate move towards integrated, climate-resilient WASH services, positioning BRAC as not just a service provider, but a key contributor to knowledge, innovation, and scalable solutions for the evolving landscape.

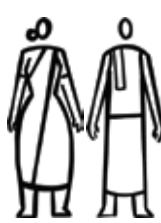
Programme Highlights (January - March 2026)



163,607 people accessed water services through alternative WASH financing



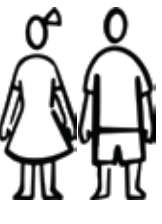
99,925 people accessed sanitation services through alternative WASH financing



225 WASH entrepreneurs developed



1,100 million BDT WASH Loan mobilised



84,015 students covered with WASH facilities in school



48,143 girl students covered with MHM facilities in school



8,208 adolescent girls and women reached through digital MHM platform

Flood-Resilient Sanitation Innovation: **Adapting Solutions for Haor Communities**



In flood-prone haor areas such as Sunamganj and Kishoreganj, the programme has piloted climate-resilient sanitation technologies designed to withstand prolonged inundation and severe space constraints. These include modified latrine options such as raised direct pits, single pit offset systems, and septic tanks tailored for both single and multiple households. Each design has been carefully adapted to ensure structural stability during floods while minimizing contamination risks caused by seepage when water tables rise.

Early-stage pilots have resulted in the installation of three models in Kishoreganj and twelve in Sunamganj, providing valuable insights into their real-world performance and community acceptance. These initial implementations are expected to demonstrate both the technical feasibility and long-term scalability of flood-resilient sanitation solutions, offering a promising pathway for replication across vulnerable haor ecosystems in Bangladesh.

Scaling Climate-Resilient Water Solutions: **Expanding IWRM in the Barind Region**



Building on the demonstrated success of the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) model in the Barind Region, the initiative is now being scaled up to reach additional water-scarce communities. This holistic approach has already shown strong results in areas like Tanore, Rajshahi, where rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, and surface water use for non-potable needs have improved access to safe water and reduced pressure on depleted groundwater sources.

Following a phased and evidence-based process including participatory appraisals, hydrogeological assessments, and deep aquifer identification—the model has successfully delivered infrastructure such as deep wells, piped networks, solar systems, and storage tanks. With these achievements, scaling is now underway in new vulnerable locations such as Chuniyapara

and Charpukuriya, ensuring climate-resilient and sustainable water access for underserved populations.

Sustainable Desalination Practices: **Advancing Brine Management Solutions**



A recent study estimates that nearly 2,500 Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment plants are operating across the coastal regions of Bangladesh, many of which dispose of brine waste in ways that pose significant environmental risks. Recognizing this growing challenge, the programme has initiated a dedicated Brine Management initiative to promote safer and more sustainable handling of desalination by-products.

Currently, preparatory work is underway across five key intervention areas, focusing on identifying environmentally responsible and practical uses of brine generated from RO water treatment plants. This initiative aims to minimize ecological impact while maintaining the efficiency of desalination systems, contributing to more sustainable water solutions in climate-vulnerable coastal communities.

Strengthening Climate-Resilient Water Futures: **A Collaborative Initiative in Barind**



The project Integrated Social Development through Climate Resilient Water Services (July 2025–March 2026) brought together BRAC, Global Centre on Adaptation, and International Water Management Institute, with support from Global Affairs Canada, to address water scarcity and climate challenges in the Barind Region. Focusing on Godagari Upazila, the initiative combined scientific analysis, community engagement, and policy dialogue to co-create climate-resilient solutions.

Through participatory approaches, capacity building, and a modified Farmer Field School model, over 2,400 farmers gained skills in water-efficient agriculture and diversified livelihoods. Multi-stakeholder platforms, including consultations and innovation forums, strengthened dialogue on groundwater governance and sustainable practices. The project demonstrated scalable, community-driven solutions, laying a strong foundation for future climate-resilient water management in Bangladesh.

Expanding Climate-Resilient WASH Services: **BRAC and charity: water Partnership Continues**



BRAC is continuing its partnership with charity: water for another term to expand access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services across schools and communities in Bangladesh. Under this renewed collaboration, interventions will be implemented in 177 schools and two communities, ensuring that students not only have improved facilities within schools but that surrounding communities also benefit from the same safe water access. The programme is set to serve 67,369 students in 177 schools, all of which will be developed as piped systems.

In addition to water and sanitation access, the initiative will strengthen sanitation and hygiene systems across all 177 schools. Thirteen schools will receive inclusive latrine blocks, serving around 2,450 students, while all schools will be equipped with menstrual hygiene facilities, waste bins, and handwashing stations. Complementary hygiene promotion activities, including student brigades, soap drives, clean-up campaigns, and hygiene sessions will further reinforce behaviour change and sustain long-term impact across schools and communities.

Safe Water, Safer School: **An Incident That Transformed A Madrasah**



I didn't know something so simple like drinking water could hurt me so much. Now, I can drink safe water right beside my classroom, and I don't have to worry about getting hurt.

- Mizan Sonar, a student of Grade 7

At Dalil Lekhak Kendrio Dakhil Madrasah in Atrai, Naogaon, access to drinking water was once a daily struggle. With only one tubewell on the ground floor, students frequently had to leave their classrooms and go downstairs to collect water. The area was unsafe, and the water quality had never been tested.

The situation reached a breaking point when Mizan Sonar, a seventh-grade student, injured his hand on a piece of rusted tin near the tube well and required ten stitches. Aware that similar incidents had happened before, the teachers took immediate action. Concerned for their students' safety, they reached out to BRAC after learning about its work from a neighboring school.

The madrasa now has safe drinking water points on every floor, with separate access for boys and girls. Students no longer miss class or face health and safety risks to drink water.

