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# INCREASING ACCESS TO IMPROVED WASH SERVICES IN BANGLADESH

## (IAIWASH)

The southwestern coastal belt is one of the most climate-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. Sea level is rising, inundations and salty water intrusion are reducing the availability of safe and clean water, and heavily affecting the health of people. The IAIWASH project supports communities and local actors in increasing access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services. We work to install, manage, and promote resilient and inclusive WASH interventions in communities and schools, thus contributing to reducing water-borne diseases and health risks related to climate change.

**Outcome 1:** Increase inclusive access to climate-resilient, sustainable, safe **WASH services** for climate-vulnerable communities.

**Outcome 2:** Ensure **community participation** in consultation and decision-making for effective delivery of WASH services by establishing platforms and networks through negotiations with service holders.

**Outcome 3:** Enhance the **capacity** of village groups, maintenance workers, and local authorities to access affordable and sustainable WASH services at homes and schools.



**Project Duration:** 2023-2025

**Project Location:** Khulna and Bagerhat; 3 Upazilas (sub-districts) and 15 unions

**Financial Partner:** charity: water

**Technical & Co-financing Partner:** Helvetas  
**Implementing Partner:** DORP



charity: water



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## PROJECT APPROACH AND CORE THEMATIC AREAS

To ensure access to climate-resilient and inclusive WASH services, the project works with the communities and local authorities following a three-pronged approach of **People, Technology, and System**. In detail:

- By adopting a **people centric approach**, the project engages the most affected people in planning, designing and implementing WASH activities ensuring the inclusivity and sustainability. We work mainly through **Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** such as Health Village Groups, Mothers' Parliament, Budget Monitoring Clubs, Water Users Committees, and Water Users Groups.
- The project's **technology approach**, ensures that different climate-resilient WASH technologies, such as Pond Sand Filters with solar-powered pumps, Rainwater Harvesting Systems, Well with handpump, climate-resilient attached toilets, are applied through research and innovation.
- Through a **systemic approach**, the project engages existing system actors such as communities, local government institutions, local enterprises, schools, and universities to understand the problems and devise an effective WASH solutions.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023 - 2024

- **40,236** people (**8346** households) have access to safe drinking water
- **153** water points constructed
- **137** water user committees formed and trained
- **15** WASH desks supported at 15 Union Parishads
- **375** Health Village Group members trained
- **290** caretakers trained
- **13** school inclusive WASH blocks constructed
- **13** school WASH planning completed
- **13** student cabinets formed and trained
- **5084** students and teachers have now access to clean safe water and sanitation
- **17** core C2C groups formed and trained
- **17** Sanitation and Hygiene enterprises supported



«The safe water supply installed on my own land is open to everyone, regardless of race, creed, or gender. I will never close this space, it will always be accessible to everybody.»

*Sandhya Sarkar (63), owner of the land, Koyra, Khulna.*



«Since the Pond Sand Filter's (PSF) was built in my community, people have access to clean safe water and no longer get sick so often. My kids can go to school regularly and we reduced our medical expenses.»

*Rupa Begum (32), Paikgasa, Khulna*



« I didn't want to go to school when I had my period, because I was afraid of being teased. Now, thanks to the new WASH Block, we feel safer at school. Girls are no longer ashamed and I do not skip class anymore.»

*Jyoti Halder (13), Haji Raja Ullah Smriti Secondary School, Morrelganj, Bagerhat*

Read more about IAIWASH project:



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