



wash plus

Bangladesh

What We Did

WASHplus's comprehensive four-year project in southwestern Bangladesh increased access to sustainable safe WASH solutions in marginal and geographically challenging districts; built community and local government capacity to operate and maintain water and sanitation facilities; and strengthened coordinated WASH-nutrition programming. The project applied the small doable action approach to develop tools for integrating WASH into nutrition programs, specifically focusing on handwashing before cooking and feeding and developing a set of Essential WASH Actions to integrate into the age-specific Essential Nutrition Actions. Using Sanitation Innovation Funds, WASHplus identified age-specific actions for safe disposal of child feces, and is also exploring the effectiveness of sand envelopment around latrine pits as a mitigation measure for reducing groundwater contamination through an agreement with the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh. In addition WASHplus trained local sanitation entrepreneurs to offer products and financing for improving and replacing latrines, encouraging coordination with demand-creation activities.

Working through resource and implementing partner WaterAid and local NGOs in five subdistricts in the challenging environment of the southwest required WASHplus to innovate and collaborate with technical and community partners from the private, government, and civil society sectors to work toward a feces-free environment.

Why It Matters



Water point and latrine construction provided 154,729 individuals with access to sanitation (175% of target) and 94,200 individuals with improved access to drinking water (143% of target).



WASHplus certified 653 communities open defecation free, which is 127% of its target.



The project featured one of the first-ever strategies for safe disposal of infant and child feces, applying the small doable action approach to specific age groups.



WASH and nutrition activities were both co-located and integrated programmatically.



Innovation occurred on many fronts: sanitation innovation (sand envelopment, infant poo, sanitation options for challenging terrains, modifying community-led total sanitation for high-coverage settings) and water technology innovation (pond sand filtration and rain water catchment systems).



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