The districts of Barguna, Laxmipur, Kishoreganj, Tangail, Sirajganj and Bagerhat in Bangladesh are the home of almost 850,000 people. 60% of this population has access to safe sanitation and 87% to safe drinking water. To realise full WASH coverage in these districts, we need to drastically change our approach. Traditional solutions focused on building (subsidized) WASH infrastructure are not sustainable and cannot meet the needs of the growing population.

Empowering, informing and organising citizens

The WASH Monitoring programme led by WASH Alliance partner DORP, uses Budget Tracking as a mechanism to empower the people to voice their WASH needs to the government and to ensure that the relevant policy makers take a positive approach to ensure the right to water and sanitation of the people. This will finally lead to increased accountability and transparency of local governments. While doing so, changing the mindsets of all stakeholders involved to create a system for sustainable and affordable WASH services is main priority. This is the only way to adapt to fast population growth and to achieve full coverage.

WHAT IS BUDGET TRACKING?

Budget Tracking helps create accountability and transparency in WASH budget allocated and utilization from district to community level. Budget Tracking is based on two pillars. Firstly, it creates demand for WASH services in communities through a participatory approach, for example in WASH Health Village meetings. This way, it ensures the people’s participation in budget preparation processes, enabling them to better voice their needs. Special attention goes to the empowerment of women and children.

Secondly, it helps governments, as service providers, to understand the WASH reality in the communities, and to enter into an open dialogue with them to cater the WASH needs of the people. We do this via Health Budget Clubs, pre-budget meetings and open budget sessions. In the districts where we are active, the budget tracking approach has led to an increase in annual WASH budget allocation of 12-13%.
In Bangladesh, our local partners facilitate the development of a system in which all stakeholders work effectively together on realising sustainable WASH. They bring them together, build capacity and train them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Roles and responsibilities</th>
<th>Drivers of acceleration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Households**<br>Organized in Health Village Groups, WASH Budget Clubs | The representatives of the local community are responsible for identifying local WASH needs, to raise awareness and to create demand for WASH. They play an important role in lobbying with the government on district level and businesses that provide the WASH services. Finally, they support the government on district level in organizing Pre-Budget and Open Budget meetings and public hearings on WASH Budget. | • Increased awareness of the people on their rights leads to behavioral change in relation to WASH, stimulating demand and empowering them to ensure their right to water and sanitation facilities. This results in increased WASH budget allocation by local governments.  
• As neighboring communities see the benefits of the Budget Tracking, they take over this approach. While initially 6 districts achieved extra WASH budget allocation, with the same lobby today 24 communities realized this. |
| **National government**<br>DPHE | The government is responsible for making sure everyone in the country has access to WASH in Bangladesh, by allocating budget for this and work with accountable WASH service providers. They are responsible to facilitate a functioning public sector for WASH via rules and regulations, WASH information provision and public private partnerships. | • Community lobby led to increased WASH budget allocation to the local governments throughout the country, not only to the lobbying ones.  
• The government is training mechanics to help households with simple trouble shootings, significantly increasing access to WASH. |
| **Local government**<br>Union Parishad Chairman & secretary | On a district level, the role of the government is to raise awareness and create demand for WASH in the communities. They are responsible for supervising budget preparations, facilitating dialogue with the communities by organizing Open Budget meetings, and monitoring budget utilization. It is their job to take care of equal distribution of budget among all areas. Local governments should take care of adequate information provision. | • Increased lobby from the communities led to increased WASH budget allocation to the communities. An average of 12 – 13% extra WASH budget allocation was realized.  
• Increased access to WASH, leads to healthier and more productive people. At the same time, these people are more satisfied with their local governments, making them more willing to pay tax. This is the perfect incentive for governments to invest in WASH service provision. |
| **Businesses** | WASH businesses working for the government to build water and sanitation facilities in the communities are responsible for delivering quality services, adequate maintenance and accountability. | • Lobby from communities make local service providers more accountable. For example, in one of the districts, they installed a Pond Sand Filter, directly providing water to 600 households. |

**ACCELERATION INDICATORS**

THE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED SO THAT IN 2020:

- **Sanitation density** has grown from 60% to 90%
- The number of people with access to sustainable WASH has grown more than 4 times
- The number of villages in which Budget Tracking takes place has increased from 54 to 1089
- The number of safe toilets built has increased from little more than 1000 to 30,000 in 5 years time
- Local finance invested in WASH by the government is 5x higher, from €600,000 to more than €3,000,000

The WASH Alliance is a consortium of six international development agencies: Akvo, Simavi, AMREF Flying Doctors, WASTE, RAIN and ICCO. We work together to realise sustainable access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services for everyone. The Alliance is operative in 8 countries in Africa and Asia.

www.washalliance.nl