The WASH Alliance Bangladesh envisions a world in which all people have sustainable access to WASH services. To realise this, we need to drastically change the way we approach this challenge. Traditional solutions with a major focus on building infrastructure are not sustainable and cannot meet the needs of a growing population.

It is our mission to change mindsets and create systems for sustainable and affordable WASH services that can accelerate. This is the only way to adapt to newly emerging challenges such as the fast population growth. A guiding principle in our work is therefore facilitating the development of a system in which all stakeholders, such as businesses, governments, citizens and NGOs work effectively together.

**WASH in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has made good progress in providing basic water services to its people. In Bangladesh, 85% of the people have access to safe water. On the other hand, 40% of the population lack improved sanitation facilities. Recent research on hygiene revealed that most people in Bangladesh have knowledge about hygienic behaviour, but very few people practice it. Contaminated drinking water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene, including menstrual hygiene, are an urgent and growing health problem. It is the leading cause of diarrhoea, which is the cause to one third of the total child deaths in Bangladesh. In addition, faecal sludge management is a big challenge for the South Asian country. Only 2% of faecal sludge is properly treated.

**Our work in Bangladesh**

As a result of our work in Bangladesh between 2011 and 2015, 141,471 people use improved sanitation facilities and 307,914 use improved water resources. We were able to deliver these results through strategically combining sanitation and hygiene promotion, awareness raising campaigns on the Right to Water and Sanitation, private sector development, financial management and policy influencing via “Budget Tracking”. The WASH Alliance Bangladesh is well recognized by government authorities as a major player in the WASH sector and member of the National WASH Policy review committee. In a period of 5 years we have reduced the costs per person to get access to WASH from €10 to €7.

| 141,471 | Additional persons have gained access to and are using improved water |
| 307,914 | Additional persons are using improved sanitation |
| €7 | Reduced WASH costs from €10 to €7 per person |
| 3 | Sanitation credit products developed with local banks: 3 |
| 1,600 | Community groups trained on the Right to Water and Sanitation |

The WASH Alliance Bangladesh works in 3 districts: Sathkira district of Khulna Division, Barguna district and Bhola district of Barisal division in the South of Bangladesh.
How we do this
To realise sustainable access to WASH services for all, we contribute to a shift from a hardware-construction approach towards a WASH sector development approach. This approach will not only sustain results after our programs stop, it will also accelerate to meet the needs of a growing population. Our work is built up in three areas:

- Developing a functioning and enabling WASH market, in which businesses provide quality WASH products and services and financial institutions facilitate access to finance for both businesses and consumers.
- Developing an enabling public sector for WASH, in which the government creates a supportive policy and regulatory environment for sustainable WASH services and allocates sufficient budget for WASH.
- Empowering, informing and organising citizens for sustainable WASH. These citizens will demand and pay for sustainable WASH services, practice healthy behaviour and hold the government accountable for delivering quality WASH services.

Accelerating WASH in Bangladesh 2016 – 2020

A public sector for WASH
To develop an enabling public sector for WASH, we will engage with governments, NGOs and communities using a mix of strategies. This includes evidence-based Lobby & Advocacy and training government authorities on the Right to Water and Sanitation, Menstrual Hygiene Management and Faecal Sludge Management. We will strengthen the capacity of our NGO partners when it comes to organizational performance, planning and monitoring and business approaches to WASH. However, the main focus of our work will be on empowering community based WASH committees. When they are aware of WASH related health factors and their rights to WASH, they will be willing to invest in their own health and well-being and empowered to voice their needs to the government.

Integrated Water Resource Management
Considering that Bangladesh is highly prone to different natural hazards such as flooding, water logging, cyclones, earthquakes and Tsunamis, the programme of the WASH Alliance Bangladesh will ensure the use of disaster resilient WASH facilities. Approaches such as Catchment Assessment and Integrated Water Resource Management will be scaled up in the second phase of the programme.

Institutional WASH
We intent to pay special attention to WASH in institutions such as schools and health facilities by giving hygiene workshops, training the management of these institutes in WASH and raising awareness on the Right to Water and Sanitation.

Water and food security
We will continue the use of 3R on waste (reduce, reuse and recycle) to minimize the negative effect of wastewater, solid waste and faecal sludge on the environment, mainly through reusing of waste products with simple treatments. The treated products will be mainly used for local agricultural purposes contributing to increased food security in the intervention area.

Sustainability
Our work is always focused on achieving sustainable results. In order to realise these goals, we have developed the FIETS sustainability principles: financial, institutional, environmental, technological and social sustainability. Special attention within our sustainability approach is given to the recognition of the interdependencies between water, energy, food security and climate change.

The WASH Alliance Bangladesh is part of the WASH Alliance International. For more information, visit our website www.wash-alliance.org or contact us via info@wash-alliance.org