Case Study
Collected from
Barguna, Pathorghata and Amtoli Municipalities under
WASH SDG-WAI Sub-Programme in Bangladesh
2021
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Development Organisation of the Rural Poor- DORP
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I am delighted to know that the Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP) has been implementing the WAI WASH SDG Program in Barguna District, since 2018, addressing the SDG-6 targets. The program focuses on the development of safely managed WASH services of the vulnerable group, especially, excluded people through improvement of governance and capacity building of community along with private sector engagement as part of the whole of society approach.

I found it interesting to capture the SDG-6 progress through a set of case studies in a small district. To ensure the achievement of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh through ensuring the ‘leave no one behind’ in the shortest possible time, a set of 39+1 indicators were selected as prioritized targets under the innovation of the SDG Working Committee of the Prime Minister’s Office. Among these indicators, a leading number of the indicators are derived from the global SDG indicators, though few of the indicators are selected through the customization process considering the local context. I am happy to see that the case studies compiled in this publication are from ground and focused on SDG target 6.1 and 6.2 covering the accessibility of safely managed drinking water services, sanitation, and hygiene.

This year Bangladesh is celebrating 50 years of its independence and it is evident that we have significantly improved in all sectors. However, there is 8 years to go for achieving SDGs and thus ensuring the inclusive development by ensuring leaving no one behind. The case studies focus on this particular issue and will contribute to next generation learning. Local government Institutes have sensitized to provide better WASH services, allocating more budgets in WASH and coordinating services have captured in this book. However, the school’s initiatives, entrepreneur’s involvement, addressing disaster issues and fighting with Covid-19 have also got priority during the selection of the case studies. These are inspiring stories for all to keep moving forward and learning as well.

I would like to give thanks to the program team for their efforts and selection of the case studies. I hope the time-befitting publication comprising these inspiring case studies will help readers from different sectors to grasp the changing situation after working of development partners. I wish them success in program implementation and contribute to achieving SDG targets.

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Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)  
Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.
“WAI WASH SDG Programme” is a 5 years (2018-2022) initiative with an objective of sustainable and equitable use of WASH by all. This project has been implementing by DORP at Barguna Sadar Upazila, Amtali and Patharghata Municipality under Barguna District since 2018. Netherlands based organization ‘Simavi’ is supporting the program.

This program is focusing on the target of SDG 6.1 and 6.2 which refers basic water and basic sanitation coverage by 5 years along with other targets. In the meantime, despite COVID-19 pandemic, a considerable numbers of activities have been implemented in Barguna District while some numbers of case studies related to the programme, as an evidence are captured here.

This publication depicts some case studies from last four years’ of implementation. DORP has played the main role in implementation at Upazila level with a lavatory of 7 Unions and 2 Municipalities where Budget Tracking approach initiated and learning were shared with stakeholders at local and national level.

I would like to thank the project team for their tiresome effort and successful continuation of this project. Special thanks to Simavi for leading the project in Bangladesh and connecting the networks for sharing best practices and learning.

Mohammad Zobair Hasan
Deputy Executive Director (DED)
&
Project Director, WASH SDG Programme
Barguna district is located on the north banks of the Bay of Bengal. As climate change vulnerable area, this territory is mostly affected by Cyclones, Tidal waves, Hurricanes, River erosion, Typhoons, Floods and Salinity very often. The people of these areas have catching sea fish and agriculture as main occupations and thus lead their life, but they cannot maintain their families by a limited income and the poverty seemed permanent. DORP WASH SDG Programme intervention is running with three Unions (Barguna Sadar, Dhalua and Naltona) and two Municipalities (Amtali and Patharghata) from July 2018. Inhabitants of this region didn’t know about local government activities as well as the budget including WASH Budget. But according to the manual of Union Parishad and Municipalities, Local Government Budget formulation is the fundamental activity, the officials of this Union Parishad and Municipalities have made Union Parishad Budget as a paper document to face audit and inspection.

DORP-WASH SDG WAI Programme has facilitated and started programme activities at this ground with bottom-up approach through the process of budget tracking approaches. a) activation of WASH standing committee of Unions and Municipalities b) Awareness meeting with excluded people on their rights and needs, c) Campaign and Promotion d) Lobby and Advocacy with LGIs decision makers and other stakeholders, e) WASH monitoring tools fill-up with the government stakeholders as sharing evidence during advocacy meetings. Based on these approaches DORP facilitated numbers of meetings and coaching with the different level of standing committees of local government and CSO groups, youth
Thus a bottom-up and systematic lobby and advocacy was attempted in Budget tracking initiatives in respective Unions and Municipalities under Barguna district. As part of programme activities we introduced “Inclusive & Gender Responsive WASH Budget Monitoring Tools” to help identify the budget line item. But in FY 2019-2020 Union Parishads were interested in budget allocation but not the segregated budget for women, PWD, elders and other excluded groups. 

groups, those who played the vital role as catalysts. Voice of community and excluded groups on their demands and needs were conveyed to the decision makers of LGIs through the submissions of petitions led by the CSOs. Thus a bottom-up and systematic lobby and advocacy was attempted in Budget tracking initiatives in respective Unions and Municipalities under Barguna district. As part of programme activities we introduced “Inclusive & Gender Responsive WASH Budget Monitoring Tools” to help identify the budget line item. But in FY 2019-2020 Union Parishads were interested in budget allocation but not the segregated budget for women, PWD, elders and other excluded groups.

For continuous lobby advocacy with different stakeholders, in FY 2019-2020 the respective Union Parishad and Municipalities declared separate WASH budget and write-up WASH budget on the wall of Unions and Municipalities complex for mass people awareness. We shared the findings with the policy makers of local government to sensitize and make accountable to include separate line item in their budget book with hygiene budget, budget for excluded groups, elders, women and children and PWD.

Through those now the Union Parishads have become transparent and accountable to allocate separate budget for WASH improvements for target population through arranged Pre-Budget Dialogue, Open Budget Session and Public Hearing where the community have access to sharing demand and ask questions about the WASH Budget implementation process and allocation for women, elders and excluded population. Budget Book also have published open information about WASH facilities for general public for 2 FY and it will be done continuously by the Union Parishads and Municipalities. Public hearing was organized jointly by local government and CSO members by the way of open discussion on WASH Budget allocation and utilization with a view to establish accountability mechanism among community people, service providers and representatives of local Government institutions.
Our Hygiene-related Women entrepreneurs and Inclusive business “Ucchas Sanitary Bitan” which is working, depending on awareness of hygiene about Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). There are five members in our business centre. Women entrepreneur is Shefali Akter Morium, who has been working in Barguna as a “Sanitary Napkin Producer” from 2005. She has started business depending on demand creation to awareness about menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Mainly who have no support in our community meaning women, socially excluded people and adolescent girls. They are getting support from women entrepreneurs’ business on sanitary napkin as well as hygiene practice, which are neglected issues in our community. Previously Morium worked in the community as a volunteer, finding out what types of demands or needs of unwelcome people like women, socially
At first she had received a loan of Taka 29,700 from DORP Microfinance as seed money to start her business to make sanitary napkins. She communicated with the high school, families, pharmacy, hospital, clinic, even madrasha to build up awareness about MHM and also focus on social capability building of women and any type of empowerment of women and girls.

excluded people, school adolescent girls, which have been mentioned before.

So she started her business in 2005 that produced sanitary napkins and was able to reach sanitary napkins to them as well as meet their demand. At first she had received a loan of Taka 29,700 from DORP Microfinance as seed money to start her business to make sanitary napkins. She communicated with the high school, families, pharmacy, hospital, clinic, even madrasha to build up awareness about MHM and also focus on social capability building of women and any type of empowerment of women and girls. She has delivered sanitary napkins to be mentioned places on their needs basis at urban and rural areas in Barguna Sadar Upazila. She wanted her expected revenue to be up to 5000 taka but earned only from 2500 to 3000 taka in a month.

Now she wants to expand her business as Agent at community level in rural and urban areas to meet the customers' demand along with the coordination of Upazila, Municipality and Union Parishad levels. She is engaged in marketing for raw materials, then prepare to process napkins, packaging, rating and distributing from districts to different areas at rural and urban level.

Entrepreneurs have already received training in Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). She got trade license from Union Parishad, also received certificate from BSCIC as a small producer in the small and cottage industry sector. So she feels like signing a MOU with Upazila, Municipality and Union Parishad as a regulation to sustain her business.
WASH Desk fulfilling a long awaited demand for Community

Monira Akter lives in a joint family with her parents-in-laws in ward number 3 of Amtali Municipality under Barguna District. Her husband Emran Hossain earns BDT 8,000 monthly from his occupation as a Grocery Shopkeeper which is not sufficient for the maintenance of the family. He is the only earning member of their eight-member family. They have suffered very much from diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases because their family did not have safe drinking water. Monira Akter and her husband could not afford to set up a new tube well. They have to use water from the pond beside for cooking and other family care activities and she has to fetch drinking water from
other tube-wells at a distance from their house. Since 2017 Amtali Municipality had provided a tubewell at the premises of their house in this poor community but it was out of order for five months.

As part of the WASH SDG Programme, a WASH Desk has been set up at Amtali Municipality building to support the poor families who could not know where to go for repair of the dysfunctional tube well.

"A leaflet having contact number of tube well mechanic was distributed in the community by which they got to know that the municipality is supporting with mechanical service if they write down their problems in the resister or hanging blackboard at WASH Desk."

Monira and her family members, they often fell sick and the medication-related expenditure was huge at that time, and it was a big burden for their poor family indeed. As a low income group family, it is an extra burden for them to spend money for medical services.

It was mentioned before that people were not aware about contact point of getting service regarding tube-wells and they were reluctant to go to municipality for WASH services. She joined in a social meeting as a representative of excluded community which was facilitated by DORP WASH SDG Programme and there she knew about safe drinking water, hygiene knowledge and practices as well as where they get WASH related services. Then Monira Akter has repaired their tube-well when it was possible to communicate with tube-well mechanic at the municipality. Now she is becoming popular and a favorite face in their excluded community, which was possible due to the influence of awareness raising meetings under WASH SDG Programme. Now people of the community have access to safe drinking water nearby, thus taking 30 minutes’ less time for fetching water for drinking. Moreover they realized their investment in WASH facility, reducing the burden of unpaid work of women members in a family. It is clear from this initiative that the empowerment of women can help to raise their voice for their human rights.
Babul Hawlader improved his life style as a Tube-well Mechanic in WASH Desk

Babul Hawlader (28) lives in Shealia village of Noltona Union under Barguna Sadar Upazila and is a professional carpenter. He is the only earning member of his needy family. Due to low income from his occupation he could not maintain his family. Poverty was not going away. In January 2019, DORP-WASH SDG WAI programme launched WASH Desk in Noltona Union Parishad Complex that was provided by Union Chairman, where he was appointed as a tube-well mechanic. He took training from DPHE on repairing of tube-well and DORP provided a Tool Box to him fit for a tube well mechanic.

First he repaired a rejected Deep Tube-well at Noltona Union Complex ground on his own initiative. It created an immense response among the villagers to his work.
“First he repaired a rejected Deep Tubewell at Noltona Union Complex ground on his own initiative. It created an immense response among the villagers to his work. After that he repaired inactive Tubewells and PSF in his own village and its neighboring areas named Shealia, Gazi Mahmud, Nishanbaria, Gora Padma and Sonatala, one after another.”

After that he repaired inactive Tubewells and PSF in his own village and its neighboring areas named Shealia, Gazi Mahmud, Nishanbaria, Gora Padma and Sonatala, one after another. Then he attended coaching and follow-up meetings regularly, regarding his skill development and expansion of wash business as a local entrepreneur, which was organized by DORP-WASH SDG WAI Programme.

He distributed leaflet sconsisting of mobile phone numbers and his activities in public gatherings at Noltona Union as dissemination, also setup register and Black board at WASH Desk in Union Parishad Complex Even he had written his mobile numbers behind rickshaws as a message for getting publicity among mass people.

Moreover villagers wrote down their problems in the register at WASH Desk. Now many of them call his mobile number to repair their Tube-well and PSF. He is now quite self-reliant by increasing his income for proper maintenance of his family and has also become such a beloved and important service provider as a Tube Well Mechanic by providing safe drinking water for hard-to-reach people. It is realized from this initiative that the empowerment of excluded people can help in raising their voice for their rights.
Bulbuli Begum changed her life style to get involved in economic activities with relation to WASH entrepreneur (Mason)/ business

Bulbuli Begum (30) is a house-wife living in Khakbunia village in Dhaula Union under Barguna Sadar Upazila. She was fully dependent on her husband's income. Her husband Nizam Sardar, as a rickshaw van puller, couldn't earn sufficient money to manage their family expenditure. She had no voice in society, even in her family. Her family was living in extreme poverty and deprivation. She could not afford the cost of children's education. Their toilet was unimproved. She did not have a tube well of her own. She had to collect water from other tubewells at a distant place which needed around 25 minutes. She had no ability to install a new tube-well for her family.
In July 2018, DORP-WASH SDG WAI programme activities were launched in Dhalua union of Barguna Sadar. Bulbuli Begum was invited to the Ward committee meeting as co-opt member and got involved in Social Mapping on WASH facilities in house-holds as a representative of excluded people.

In July 2018, DORP-WASH SDG WAI programme activities were launched in Dhalua union of Barguna Sadar. Bulbuli Begum was invited to the Ward committee meeting as co-opt member and got involved in Social Mapping on WASH facilities in house-holds as a representative of excluded people. She discussed with the staff of WASH SDG programme and showed interest to get involved with income generation activity. WASH SDG programme staff communicated with the DPHE and arranged training on September 2019 for her. After training she started ring slab production business in small scale. She knew about Safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and had hygiene knowledge and practiced as well as earned money as a WASH business person. Now she is a successful woman WASH entrepreneur and is trying to overcome her poverty. For expansion of her business, she motivates neighbors to buy safe toilet with affordable cost and teaches good effect of use of safe toilet. Her husband helped in delivering Sanitary Ring Slab to the consumer’s house. This business has changed her life from housewife to entrepreneur.

She is feeling comfortable and her decision-making at home increased. She is now providing financial support to the family members in their need. Already she could build an improved toilet for her family. Her two daughters and one son are going to school regularly.

She attends follow-up meetings with entrepreneurs regularly, which are conducted by DORP-WASH SDG. She was involved in the demand creation by raising awareness at the community meetings which facilitate to increase demand. She is participating in different types of awareness raising meetings and understand many things like importance of using sanitary latrine, necessity of hand washing, importance of safe drinking water, hygiene knowledge and the proper hygiene practices, etc. which she did not know before. Though her investment was very simple but due to hard work and support of DORP-WASH SDG programme activities, day by day her income and business expanded. She can work more for WASH improvement because her acceptability in the society has increased now. She is very much grateful to DORP for fulfilling her dream as a women entrepreneur (Mason) and will try to work for the poor and helpless people of her village with more enthusiasm and zeal.
Mofiz Uddin Pilot Secondary School is situated at ward number 2 in a remote area under Amtali Municipality. There are more than 500 students in this school and all of them are girl students. But there was no MHM friendly toilet for them. In this school there are 5 toilets but only one toilet is usable for students and teachers. Even this toilet was so dirty that girls didn’t want to go to the toilet during their emergency period. So the girls normally did not come to school or took leave from school during their emergency time. As a result they were not regular at school. This increased the number of drop-out girl students.

Good Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) makes an important contribution to gender equality, better education and empowerment which are developed in school life. Many barriers exist that prevent MHM in schools and hinder girls’
Many barriers exist that prevent MHM in schools and hinder girls’ access to equitable education, undermine their well-being and prevent dignity and empowerment. Moreover Bangladesh National Hygiene survey revealed that 40% of girls miss about three school days during menstruation and one-third feel that menstrual problems interfere with their school performance.

Then they showed their interest with the Local Government representative to build up a MHM friendly toilet with hand washing device at school level in Amtali Municipality. This reveals that the School Management Committees (SMC) and local government took up the model and implemented it widely in the educational setup.

Mafiz Uddin Pilot Secondary Girls’ School has installed 2 MHM friendly toilets for girl students by the engagement of LGIs at Amtali. Now the school has received 2 MHM friendly toilets for girl students for maintaining their secure education. The average days of absence due to menstruation have decreased than previous years as a result of MHM friendly toilets installed for students.
In 2009 the PSF which was provided by Islamic Relief at West Patharghata of Ward number 6 in Patharghata Municipality under Barguna District has been dysfunctionalized for the last three months. This was the only safe water source for probably 70 households in the area. These 70 fishermen’s families are using pond’s water for cooking and other purposes. People had been suffering from diarrhea and other water-borne diseases for the use of bacterial, contaminated water. As a result, these excluded people were spending money for their treatment and wasted their valuable working time.

Since 2018 the DORP-WASH SDG Programme has started working in this
This inactive PSF issue was highlighted in social mapping finding and was discussed in the meeting of Municipality’s health, water, sanitation standing committee as an advocacy agenda from the representatives of this excluded community as a WASH demand and need in December, 2020.

area with various activities, especially awareness raising activities on the WASH facilities improvement. This inactive PSF issue was highlighted in social mapping finding and was discussed in the meeting of Municipality’s health, water, sanitation standing committee as an advocacy agenda from the representatives of this excluded community as a WASH demand and need in December, 2020. Victim and representative of women, Hasi Begum, said that their usable and improved water source (PSF) has been dysfunctional for a long time. Yunus Munshi, a representative of excluded group, said that the PSF could be repaired with a little money. It was subject to discussion that it was possible to repair it if it would cost around BDT 10,000 (ten thousand). Then this issue was raised in Thana level Coordination Committee (TLCC) meeting and there was a resolution which was accepted in this meeting and sent to the Patharghata Upazila Chairman along with the Mayor.

This issue was approved by Chairman of Patharghata Upazila and this could improve safe water facility in this excluded community of Ward number 6. Finally the safe water source PSF at the resident of West Patharghata area was repaired and cleaned. This PSF has been repaired with the help of Upazila Chairman and the Mayor of Patharghata Municipality with the involvement of Citizens’ Committee members. As a result these 70 excluded families have been getting safe drinking water from this functional Pond Sand Filter (PSF). The PSF Maintenance Committee has been formed among the members of this excluded community, who were present at the meeting. Md. Yunus Munshi is the President and Hasi Begum is the Secretary in the PSF Maintenance and they are now happy to get safe water.
During Covid-19 pandemic, Tanzila faced problems to get Sanitary Napkins

During the COVID-19 pandemic, menstrual health and hygiene practices among women and girls was an important concern. Privacy was reduced during the lockdown and particularly affected the low-income community members who live in very congested locations with small houses and shared toilet facilities. This has dropped from their priority as a result of the crisis which redefined their preference for menstruation hygiene product. Many of them had to shift to cloth from sanitary pads. Although women who made the shift to cloth were found to have limited knowledge of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), shared WASH facilities that provided no private space to change and wash, dry and dispose reusable cloth put their health at risk.

14-year-old Tanzila, a student of class nine, lives in ward number 4, named Mitha Bazar of Amtali Municipality, with her parents including two sisters and brothers. Her father is a fisherman. In order to protect the population from Corona virus,
the government declared “lockdown” throughout the nation from 23 March to 30 May, 2020 and necessary steps were taken for awareness to keep this disease away from them. It was becoming increasingly difficult for women in the area to ensure their menstrual health. All this ignorance and unwillingness had resulted in a great deal of suffering for girls and women, especially those who were poor and marginalized, as they were not getting proper sanitary products during their period.

But as the corona virus had forced a shutdown, affecting her father’s earning day by day and they were facing problems to maintain family expenditure. In lockdown situation Tanzila did not go to school and it was quite tough to arrange the necessary number of sanitary pads from school during her emergency period. Due to lockdown she did not get out from her house. She felt shy about buying pads from shops. She told “since April to June I faced problems during my menstruation, because my father had no ability to purchase costly sanitary pads for me. So there were no quality and low-cost hygiene maintaining materials in emergency period but she was only using old torn clothes instead of proper sanitary pads, which were just always wet and she felt discomfort. ‘I could not do any thing normally.

This pandemic had created another problem for me, that male members of my family stayed at home due to the Covid-19 outbreak, which made it difficult for the menstruating women to maintain privacy for changing and washing hygiene materials at the shared WASH facilities and I didn’t feel comfortable to dry and wash the clothes that I was using for my periods in their presence. Then I was trying to communicate with the sanitary napkin entrepreneur in our area through DORP facilitator; finally I managed the contact number of Shanaz Yesmin, who is the woman sanitary entrepreneur and then bought low-cost sanitary napkins in those times.”

"This pandemic had created another problem for me, that male members of my family stayed at home due to the Covid-19 outbreak, which made it difficult for the menstruating women to maintain privacy for changing and washing hygiene materials at the shared WASH facilities and I didn’t feel comfortable to dry and wash the clothes that I was using for my periods in their presence. Then I was trying to communicate with the sanitary napkin entrepreneur in our area through DORP facilitator; finally I managed the contact number of Shanaz Yesmin, who is the woman sanitary entrepreneur and then bought low-cost sanitary napkins in those times."

Then she felt happy and comfortable to get and use low-cost sanitary napkins from sanitary napkin entrepreneur during the lockdown.
Women are suffering from inadequate access to safe water in pandemic situation of Covid-19

Sumi Begum lives in a remote area of Potkakhali village in Dhalua Union Parishad under Barguna district. Her husband earns too little as a fisherman and this is not sufficient for the maintenance of the family, and he is the only earning member of a five-member family. She is regularly fetching water from her neighbor, which could be done within 30 minutes. But DORP WASH SDG Programme has initiated to give earmark at their implementing areas to keep social distance maintaining in pandemic situation of Corona Virus. So it takes more than 30 minutes to collect water by
She is regularly fetching water from her neighbor, which could be done within 30 minutes. But DORP WASH SDG Programme has initiated to give earmark at their implementing areas to keep social distance maintaining in pandemic situation of Corona Virus. So it takes more than 30 minutes to collect water by her while maintaining social distance due to the pandemic corona virus. In this time collecting of water through long queue is a daily routine for household members in this hard-to-reach area. In that case she could not take care of her children and other family members properly, as well as overall maintenance of her family was harmed.

They have been suffering very much because their family do not have a tube well at their premises to access safe water and they could not afford to set up a tube well. Moreover Sumi’s family members have to suffer from various diseases due to insufficient safe drinking water. Now Sumi Begum wants to keep her family healthy and safe. That's why she wants everyone’s co-operation.

She is regularly fetching water from her neighbor, which could be done within 30 minutes. But DORP WASH SDG Programme has initiated to give earmark
In Barguna, WASH SDG Citizen Committee (CSO) is engaged in budget tracking through mobilizing community people to express their needs. The CSO members have motivated Chairmen of Union Parishads (lowest tier of local government structure) and Mayors of Municipalities to display their Fiscal Year budget on the wall so that it can be seen by the community and subsequently published as budget booklet.

CSO have supported organizing pre-budget and open budget discussions and public hearing by which duty bearers, i.e., Union Parishad and Municipalities are becoming transparent and accountable. Citizens are getting the opportunity to get involved in decision-making process of WASH service delivery at ground level. Gradually the initiative linking the citizens and improve understanding capacity of various groups of people at Union and Municipality level.
About 15 per cent budget for WASH from Annual Development Programme (ADP) is a commitment from Local Government Division (LGD) of Government of Bangladesh which is an opportunity for CSOs to explore and influence local authority to ensure these allocations for the poor and the marginalized.

The demand on WASH from the community was shared with Unions and Municipalities through the submissions of petitions organized by CSOs. Thus a bottom-up and systematic lobby and advocacy was attempted in Budget tracking initiatives in Barguna. It may be mentioned that equity, gender and social inclusion cannot be addressed without inviting and engaging local communities as well as CSOs. However, to engage them, political and social issues were considered in line with the local context. Through budget tracking we were able to achieve the following positive outcomes.

The WASH budget allocation increased in Unions and Municipalities due to lobby and advocacy of CSOs. The use of the WASH budget monitoring tool led to 30-33% increase in annual budget at Union Parishad and Municipalities level and the findings demonstrate that gender and social inclusion in budget monitoring only leads to increase in WASH allocations for socially excluded groups. Particularly in Patharghata Municipality it provided pipeline to the 150 households by utilizing BDT 11,25,000 from the budget of FY 2019-2020. One of the Commissioners of this Municipality provided 3 toilets to the poorest of the poor family which cost BDT8,100.
The victim of cyclone “Amphan”, Hawa Begum, is now using improved toilets

The Patharghata Municipality in Barguna district is located beside the Bay of Bengal in the southern part of Bangladesh. The main occupations of people in this area are catching sea-fish and agriculture but they are not being able to maintain their families by limited income, and poverty is affecting their livelihood. As a climate change vulnerable area, this region has been badly affected by Cyclone ‘Amphan’. The cyclone endangered lives of around 30,000 people who are already at risk in the epidemic situation of Covid-19. Many
people have lost their access to water and latrine.

Hawa Begum, a victim of “Amphan”, lives in a “Government Housing Project” at the embankment area of Ward No. 1 in Patharghata Municipality. Five years ago, due to poverty, she got a shelter from the government. Hawa Begum lives with her four children. But her husband Abdul Kader, occupationally a nut-seller, couldn't earn sufficient money to manage their family expenditure. According to her, “May 20, 2020 was a really scary day. Fire service department’s people were miking and telling people to go to the cyclone shelter. People from the municipality came and took us to the cyclone shelter. Suddenly a gust of wind blew away everything belonging to us at that time. The next day I heard that my dream house has been damaged along with my toilet.” “The Local Government and various voluntary organizations came forward and arranged a temporary place for us to stay in. But we did not have a latrine. For several days, we had dug a hole in the back side garden of our house and surrounded it with bamboo as a sanitation facility. There was no security during that period. Not only had us but everyone in the area then used toilet facilities like that.”

“After that one of the sisters of DORP WASH SDG Programme organized a court-yard meeting with the ‘Amphan’-affected people in our area about the use of improved toilet facility and where we could go to get that facility. Then I went to the Municipality along with others from our community. We talked about our problems with the Chairman of the ‘Health, Water and Sanitation Standing Committee’ at the Municipality through ward councilor Md. Mahbub Khan. Then the Chairman promised to give me five rings, a slab and a lid to build a latrine. Our ward councilor Md. Mahbub Khan also gave me 3,000 taka to build a structure with tin.” Now her family has a well-ventilated, improved sanitation facility and has a secure and prestigious life.
Lovely Begum is living in the southern part of Bangladesh, which is treated as a disaster-prone area. She belonged to a very poor family. Due to poverty she did not get the opportunity of education. She could just write her name only, but she is intelligent. When she was sixteen years old, she got married to Babul Akon of BetagiUpazila. After two years of her marriage she gave birth to one son with disability.

Her husband’s family members, including husband himself, cursed her because of the disabled child. When her baby was five years old, her husband divorced her with her disabled son. She came back to
her father’s house with frustration. After divorce she again became a burden of her father and was trying to find ways to continue a secure life with her physically retarded son. Before her child became nine, she got married for the second time with Sattar Howlader of the same village. Her present husband is working as the helper of a mason. Their financial condition is not at all good. Always she is living with worry and frustration. She thought that her second husband might leave her any time for her handicapped son. As she had no financial contribution for her family, she was frantically trying to find out a way or source of income.

On September 2019 Lovely Begum attended the community meeting organized by DORP-WASH SDG WAI Sub-Programme of Amtali regarding new entrepreneurs as masons to produce ring slabs. She showed her interest to start business with her husband to support her neighbors in improving sanitation facilities and also to provide financial contribution to her family. DORP-WASH provided training by DPHE on ring slab production, arranged on October 2019 and linked with MFI to obtain financial support. Her husband also supported her to purchase raw materials and helped in production. For expansion of her business she got a loan of BDT50,000 from Buro Bangladesh in December 2019. Now she is fully involved with her business, which is running in full swing.

At present she has been treated as a business woman on WASH of Basugi Village. She has been invited to attend several social and community meetings where she can raise her voice to meet the WASH demand of excluded people of her community. Her monthly income is on an average BDT10,000 and she is supporting her family nicely. She has also improved her household toilet, in consideration to the SDG ladder. She admitted her disabled son in a school. She is very happy to become a WASH entrepreneur.
Case study on Gender or Women responsive Member as CSO

The Patharghata Municipality in Barguna district is located beside the Bay of Bengal in the southern part of Bangladesh, which is a hard to reach area. Most of the population depend on Pond Sand Filter-PSF for their drinking water in this Municipality. Herein after WASH SDG Citizen Committee as CSO was formed in Patharghata Municipality, who are the representatives of different strata of the civil society such as school or madrasha teachers, women, traditional birth attendants, rickshaw pullers, PWD, business leaders, journalists, fisherman, lawyers, retired doctors, poorest people, day labourers, marginalized people, NGO representatives, and acted between duty bearers and public representatives as a catalyst to influence WASH related structures. The members of this
The members of this committee are from 20 to 25 in number and representatives of 18 to 65 years of age and we have to strongly encourage women to be the members of WASH SDG Citizen Committee to raise their voice on WASH needs. We want to make them aware of their rights and create demands of water, sanitation and hygiene in the society or the community.

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WASH SDG citizen committee have to focus on the participation of women and socially excluded group and speak up about their WASH rights and demands in local government (DPHE, different WASH Standing Committees and LGED) decision making process. Now they are attending different discussion meetings of different structures of the Government to ensure transparency and accountability of LGIs and enhanced access of the people, especially women in the local level planning.

This has been possible due to conducting of quarterly meetings and engagement with the meetings of relevant structures and help by DORP staff to fillup Gender and Inclusive Budget Monitoring tools. In general Women and PWD are not welcomes for participation in local Government structure as well as priority issues, also for inclusion in the decision making process. But we had to face some challenges for their insufficient interest to become members of CSOs.
Md. Rasel lives in a joint family with one brother and two sisters at ward number 4 near the embankment of Payra River in Amtali Municipality. All of them are married except their younger sister, who is a student of class seven. The female members of the family are between 15 to 30 years old. So four women in their family are adults. The main source of their family income is day labor. Due to low income from their occupation, they could not maintain their family expenditure normally.

Women struggled with Sanitation facilities during “Amphan”
In May 2020, cyclone Amphan passed through Bangladesh. The family was affected seriously and had to stay in a cyclone shelter. After three days they were able to go back to their households. For several days their sanitation facility was a hole dug in the back side garden of their house surrounded with bamboo. There was no security in those times, especially during their menstruation. In addition they could not purchase sanitary napkins, even used rags as sanitary products while maintaining their personal hygiene. Jointly they tried to repair their houses to the extent of their financial ability but their income was insufficient to also install a toilet. In addition during that time the pandemic situation with Covid19 was already going on, which means that they did not go out from their house and their living condition was very critical, even they had no ability to purchase sanitary napkins.

Then the members of WASH SDG Citizens’ Committee, along with respective ward councilors, conducted a quick survey to observe the situation and sanitation needs in the ward. They went to the Mayor of Amtali Municipality and shared information about the families’ vulnerable condition through an advocacy meeting facilitated by DORP-WASH SDG Programme. In this situation they submitted a petition to the Mayor for repairing toilets in this disaster prone community. The Mayor of Amtaliunder stood their WASH demand and allocated BDT 2000 for each household. As a result 150 households received this support for repairing their toilets.
Case Study-15

A Hygienic Toilet is Everyone’s Right

Thirty-six-year-old Md. Amirul Islam lives in village Chhoto Lobongola of Burhirchar Union of Barguna Sadar Upazilla. He can’t move around nicely as he is physically handicapped since birth. Along with his old mother Jayeda Begum (70), another handicapped brother, wife and child, they are a five-member family. There is no earning member to look after the family. His wife works as a domestic help in another’s house and earns a little, and with whatever handicapped allowance they get, their family survives. Once Amirul could earn by driving an auto-rickshaw, now he is unable to drive even that. His needy family couldn’t manage their own toilet. They have nothing like a hygienic toilet, what they have is a hole with two rings and one
slab beside their house, which emitted offensive smell. But poverty and lack of awareness didn't allow them to change it. For this unhealthy toilet the family often had diseases and stomach problems and medical expenses were on the increase. The family survived with great difficulty. They participated in a water sanitation and hygiene awareness meeting with the excluded/backward people of the society under the WASH SDG Program. Then he understood the importance of a hygienic toilet and that every fiscal year the Union Council allotted a sanitation facility budget for the poor section of the people. Learning all this he went to the local Union Council member. He told him about his sanitation situation and requested him for a toilet. The local Union Council member informed him that the Union Council was discussing with the SDG program the distribution of toilets among the backward people. For this, while preparing the list of the poor people with the help of the Union Council, Amirul's name was included in it. In September 2021 DORP WASH SDG Program built a hygienic toilet in Amirul's house. Presently his family is able to use a hygienic latrine.

He attends the WASH SDG Program meetings and discusses with neighbours the advanced health rules. ‘I advise my neighbours to build hygienic toilets even if they have to take loan from the NGO. As I am living a healthy and respectable life presently with my full family, similarly quite a few neighbouring families have built hygienic toilets like me and are living a healthy life. For this beautiful change in the society, I thank the DORP WASH SDG Program.’