

Piped Water Supply System

[A tale of a community living up hill]



BRAC WASH

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme aims to ensure sustainable access to sanitation, water and hygiene in hard-to-reach areas for the underserved rural people of Bangladesh. The initiative started in 2006, implementing the WASH programme in 150 sub-districts, and completed the first phase in 2011 and has extended to 248 sub-districts in 2012. The water supply system of the programme has reached 2.5 million people.

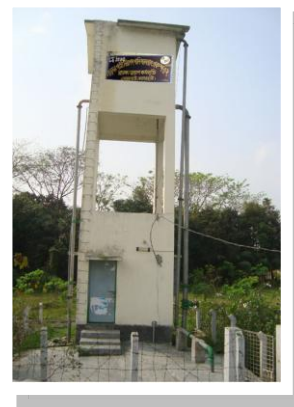
The safe water component of the programme is implementing various activities; including awareness raising on use of safe water, piped water supply, installation of deep tube wells, water quality tests and provision of loans for tube well platform construction. Priority is given to the arsenic and saline prone areas to increase safe water access. A number of 647 Arsenic removal filters were provided, and 16 pond sand were built. A total of 4,156 deep tube wells have been constructed in arsenic affected areas while 5 rural piped water systems have been made functional.

For more information, contact:

Dr Babar Kabir
Senior Director
BRAC WASH
BRAC Centre (8th Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

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The water supply system constructed by BRAC WASH aims to serve hard to reach areas including hilly, coastal and haor areas. The Mollarhat water supply has been installed to cover the some of the coastal areas.



In the Barisal Koloni highland of Mirzapur, local water committees manage BRAC WASH's Piped Water Supply System.



A Hill Community's Ordeal

Reaching Barisal Koloni in Mirzapur is not an easy task owing to its rough and steep terrain. Before BRAC implemented its *Safe Water Project*, the village's women had no other option but to walk downhill to access the only handpump shared by the village.

A Qualitatively Improved Life

Mr Meham Mussa, Chairman of the Piped Water Committee and Rehana Sultana, Village WASH Committee Secretary in Barisal Koloni share how life has qualitatively improved since the *Safe Water Project* was implemented.



Tap Point Installation brought change

"Before BRAC implemented its *Safe Water Project*, women of this village had to walk down and up to the only one handpump at the bottom of the hill. It was very difficult for them to carry filled water buckets up the hill. We used water only for extreme necessity. Now, 60 families of our community gets safe water from 13 tap points." Happily says Mr Meham Mussa, Chairman of the Piped Water Committee.

Women Empowerment

Sumi Akhter is a paid care taker of the piped water supply system in. She is a trained operator of the system. She regularly turns on the switch for an hour at a time twice a day. She feels privileged to operate the machine in place of men and making it easier for women who would otherwise have to carry heavy pots of water from other sources.

