

Safe sanitation with equity— 1

A total of 30.7 million people in Bangladesh gained access to hygienic toilets in BRAC WASH areas over the seven years 2006-2013.

During BRAC WASH I (2006-2011) coverage rose from 32% to 83% bringing hygienic sanitation to 25.9 million people. A further 4.8 million people gained access by the end of 2013 under BRAC WASH II & III.

The project has had a dramatic effect on equity. According to QIS data, 70% of “non-poor” households are above the benchmark, as are 64% of poor households and 60% of ultra-poor households. When the project started it was rare for ultra-poor families to own their own toilets.

More than 30 million people gained access to hygienic toilets in rural Bangladesh

Increase in household latrines during WASH II and WASH III

250 Upazilas EKN, SPA & BMGF	2012	2013	Total	Pop
Installation of latrine by poor	61,070	138,707	199,777	958,930
Installation of latrine by non-poor	67,836	131,472	199,308	956,678
Support to ultra-poor (instalation of latrine by BRAC WASH)	63,100	55,358	118,458	568,598
Loan support to poor families (BRAC-WASH)	12,115	22,384	34,499	165,595
Installation of latrine by ADP block grant	14,572	25,020	39,592	190,042
Installation of latrine by BRAC other programmes	1,246	1,161	2,407	11,554
Installation latrine by other agencies	7,544	14,948	22,492	107,962
Ensuring sanitary latrine through repairs or changing water seal	206,560	185,058	391,618	1,879,766

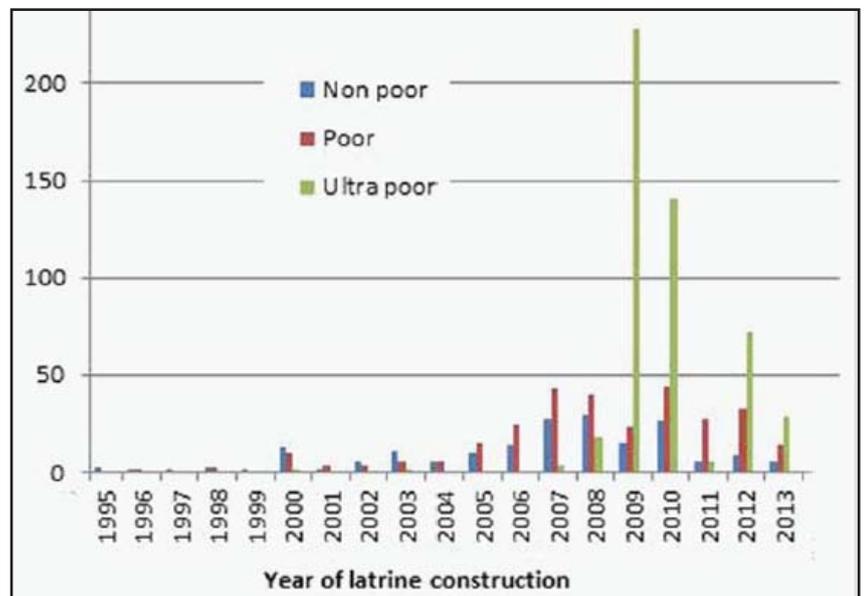
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Grants for ultra-poor households resulted in latrine construction surge

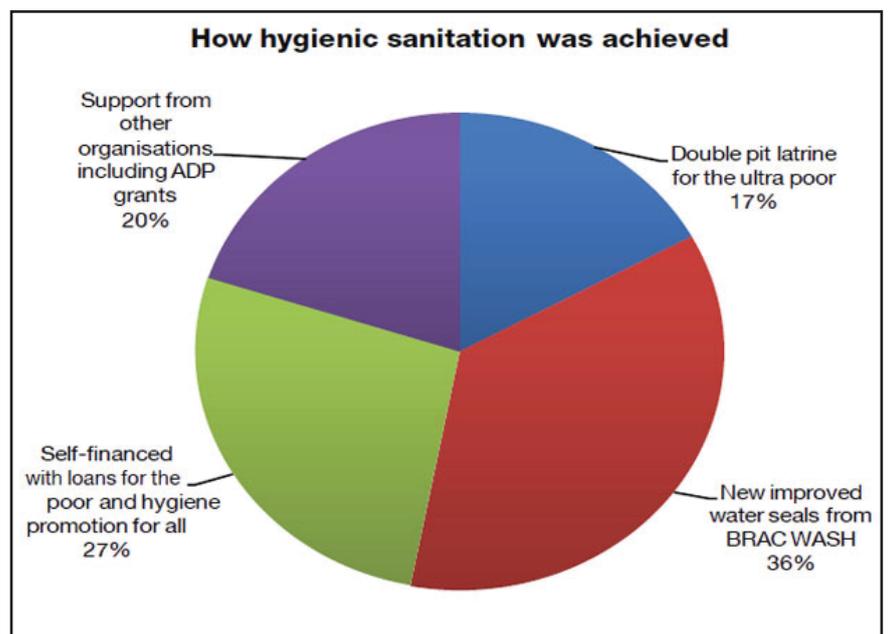
Before BRAC WASH, the rate of latrine construction by poor families in rural communities grew slowly. However, the impact of BRAC WASH mobilisation and loans to poorer families can be seen in the steady increase in construction in these social groups from 2006 onwards.

In 2008 BRAC WASH began making subsidies to ultra-poor households in communities that had achieved 80% coverage.

Research into the life cycle costs of latrines in one upazila (Bagharapara) shows the resulting spike in latrine construction for ultra-poor households in 2009 & 2010.



BRAC WASH I was directly responsible for 53% of the increase in latrines in its areas. About four million people in ultra-poor families received BRAC WASH subsidies for hygienic double-pit latrines. BRAC WASH also promoted improved water seals and gave technical support. It helped communities to access grants from the government's Annual Development Programme.



Safe sanitation with equity—3

Thriving on innovation

The BRAC WASH programme has introduced many innovations to address barriers to safe sanitation. Double pit latrines for ultra-poor families are long-lasting and provide a high level of service. BRAC WASH has led the way in seeking to ensure latrines have effective water seals to keep away flies, mosquitoes and odour.

The programme is piloting latrines designed for haor areas where people make homes on ‘haati’ (small hills) and latrines are often destroyed by floods. Innovations include elevated single pit latrines, modified with earth embankments to protect against wave action. Where land space is minimal offset latrines are connected by a pipe to a pit buried beneath the haati. In one innovative design, the floating latrine rises and falls to adjust to different water levels.



Offset dual pit latrine



Elevated single pit latrine



‘Haati’ in a haor area



Floating latrine

Safe sanitation with equity—4

Gender-specific approach wins majority for sanitary latrines and better hygiene

Gender-specific promotion, targeting women and men, adolescent girls and boys, has convinced the majority to build or upgrade to sanitary toilets and improve hygiene. This strategic approach has enabled women and other disadvantaged groups to become aware of WASH and develop the will and the power (including financial power) to make improvements. The programme has helped women, adolescent girls and very poor households to gain a voice and make choices in the village WASH committees.

The challenge is to complete the job without slipping back from what has been achieved. Reaching “hard to reach” areas and the final mile is indeed hard. WASH II operates in areas which pose physical and socio-economic challenges. Overall ‘slippage’ is around 7%, which means around 2.5 million people or 500,000 households risk losing hygienic sanitation, mainly due to damaged water seals. BRAC WASH takes measures to help people to understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of the water seal and provides pans that require less water to be used.

