

WASH SDG

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia,
Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Key achievements

The WASH SDG programme intended to drive progress on WASH and followed a Theory of Change with three identified, interconnected pathways:

- 1: Improved behaviour change interventions;
- 2: Improved WASH service provision and
- 3: Strengthening WASH sector policies and regulations at sub-national level.

Through these combined efforts, the programme substantially exceeded their coverage targets for sanitation and hygiene and have reached the target for water supply interventions (figure below).

IMPROVED
WATER SUPPLY

GOAL 450,000 454,500 PEOPLE (101%)

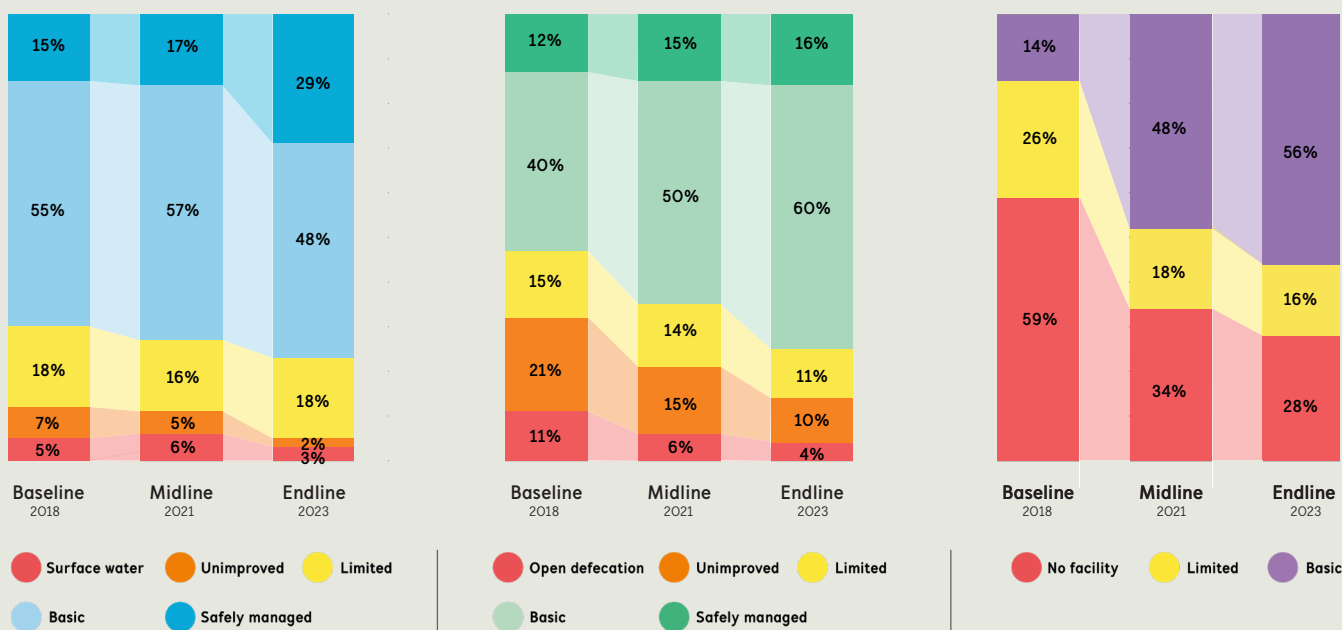
IMPROVED
SANITATION

GOAL 2,000,000 2,240,100 PEOPLE (112%)

BASIC HAND
HYGIENE

GOAL 1,600,000 4,076,000 PEOPLE (255%)

Not only has the WASH SDG programme been successful in achieving its coverage targets, substantial progress has been made on moving households up the five levels of service on the JMP ladders for sanitation and water, from no service (surface water or open defecation) to safely managed which is the global indicator for SDG target 6. For hand hygiene, there has also been important progress from no service to basic levels. This signals that behavioural change is occurring and that households and institutions are making incremental shifts towards improved levels of services (as seen in JMP ladders on the back page). To increase access to water, sanitation and improved hygiene facilities, we have worked through three interconnected pathways (more info on the back page). To increase the sustainability of the impact of WASH SDG, we have worked with sustainability checks. The main purpose of these checks is to determine the current sustainability of services. At midline the sustainability checks provided feedback to increase the sustainability score for the endline. A comparative review of the midline and endline sustainability check results shows a clear strengthening of the systems indicators at endline which were designed to measure the likely sustainability of services.



JMP ladders for water, sanitation and hygiene at baseline, midline and endline in the WASH SDG sub-programme areas

Key achievements along the pathways

Pathway 1: Increase behaviour change interventions

Good progress was made on Pathway 1. Sub-programmes have made particularly strong progress in enabling local agencies to implement effective demand-creation strategies. The progress seen in household access to improved sanitation and hand hygiene is likely a result of effective and targeted demand-creation strategies and behaviour change interventions. Moreover, a significant amount of households increased their investment in WASH facilities in their household or contributed user fees to WASH services. Within this pathway, we

have also tried to increase the level of participation of women and girls and socially excluded groups in decision making about WASH activities in the communities. Sub-programmes started from a baseline at low levels of participation by women and socially excluded groups, limited progress was made at the mid-term, however at end-term review sub-programme had either reached (or nearly reached) their targets with active participation of women and socially excluded groups in WASH-related meetings.

Pathway 2: Improved WASH services

There has been mixed progress on Pathway 2. Limited progress against one or more targets was only seen in three sub-programmes, often for contextual reasons. Many sub-programmes tracked an increase in sales of WASH businesses, which is impressive given that at MTR progress was limited due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, and a limited appetite for WASH businesses. Entrepreneurs and other supply-side actors, such as micro-finance institutions, have

been trained in business skills, financial records and the development of business plans has improved. Urban sanitation sub-programmes have seen a growth in demand and supply for faecal sludge emptying services, including for the bottom of the pyramid for on-site sanitation systems. We have also worked on the increased participation of women in the WASH market. The number of WASH entrepreneurs at sub-national level has increased and many are women-led.

Pathway 3: Strengthened WASH Governance

Sub-programmes have made particularly strong progress in strengthening WASH sector policies and regulations at sub-national level. Interventions included a focus on long and short-term technical assistance, building institutional arrangements, capacity strengthening, financing, asset management and regulatory oversight. Sub-programmes have made a clear contribution to strengthening coordination, local institutions and leadership. Sub-programmes have also contributed to strengthening the local capacity for providing WASH services, influencing and advocating for greater sustainability and inclusion,

and to supporting existing structures – or introducing new structures – which underpin the WASH system. Sub-programmes increased their efforts to enhance capacity of local government on GESI and work with local governments to roll out inclusive WASH strategies. Sub-programmes worked with partners to review strategies and advocate for dedicated budgets for WASH and support budget monitoring processes. These changes have helped to drive greater prioritisation for WASH and greater awareness of the sustainability challenges around WASH services.