

School sanitation and hygiene education — 1

An early BRAC WASH survey identified a high demand for separate latrines for girls in secondary schools and for facilities to help adolescent girls to stay in school.

Support from BRAC WASH enables girls in 4,658 secondary schools to access latrines and menstrual hygiene facilities.

Schools integrate hardware and software: facilities are provided side-by-side with hygiene education to inspire confidence in girls.

Two teachers (one male and one female) from each school learn about WASH issues with an emphasis on menstrual hygiene. Trained teachers lead health and hygiene sessions for students who take their new understanding home to families and friends.

Each school establishes a student WASH brigade, and a school WASH committee of parents, teachers and management committee members.

BRAC contributes 50,000/60,000 Tk. (US\$ 650/775) for a school to install a double-cubicle latrine for girls with running water for flushing and a wash basin, mirror and soap tray. A covered waste bin is provided for sanitary napkins or pads, with facilities for bulk disposal. Where possible schools match these funds.

BRAC health volunteers provide sanitary napkins, and staff establish funds to provide soap, tissues and cleaning materials.

Girls in 4,600 schools gain access to latrines and menstrual hygiene



Girls learn about menstrual hygiene and have facilities available in the school. Both girls and boys join the student WASH brigade to encourage other students.

School sanitation and hygiene education—2

Achievements and challenges

Achievements

- BRAC WASH has supported secondary schools in half the sub-districts (upazilas) of the country
- The programme has broken the silence on menstrual hygiene and supports girls to remain in school.
- Girls gain access to hygienic offset two-pit latrines with provision for flushing and washing.
- Student brigades take responsibility for proper use and maintenance of latrines and lead promotion activities with students—boys and girls.
- Costs are shared between the school and BRAC WASH.



Girls in the student WASH brigade at KCNG Secondary School, Dumuria, Khulna.

Challenges

- The current Tk. 50,000 (US\$ 650) contribution does not meet all WASH needs in a school.
- In poorer schools management and maintenance are issues. Ultra-poor families cannot afford sanitary napkins.
- The programme success for girls raises a challenge – what about boys? Three times as many girls' toilets (68%) as boys' toilets (21%) score at the highest level for cleanliness and handwashing facilities (QIS data).
- The programme does not currently meet Bangladeshi national standards for the number of toilets
- The programme does not currently cover a drinking water supply.



Boys in the KCNG Secondary School student WASH brigade, Dumuria, Khulna.

School sanitation and hygiene education—3

School toilets: hygienic, functional and clean

By December 2013 toilets had been installed in 4,658 schools and work was ongoing in a further 284 schools

	Donor	No. of upazilas	No. of secondary schools	Schools where work is complete	Schools with ongoing work (Dec 2013)	Teachers and student brigades trained
WASH I	EKN	152	6,893	3,960	0	36,907
WASH II	EKN	20	485	185	36	0
WASH III	DFID (SPA)	73	2,491	513	248	0

NB: By September 2014, the number of schools where toilets had been installed had risen to 4,968

Functionality, use and cleanliness of school toilets supported by BRAC:
Activity Report April 2014
based on QIS results

