

HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER & SANITATION IN BANGLADESH

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Human Right to Water & Sanitation in Bangladesh

- In UPR 3rd cycle report, Bangladesh government targeted for
 - ❑ Safe drinking water for all by 2020
 - ❑ 100% access to latrine in urban and 90% in rural areas by 2020
- Bangladesh received and accepted 2 recommendations on
 - ❑ Greater access in rural areas (Holy See)
 - ❑ Adopt a plan to ensure access for poor neighborhoods and rural areas (Palestine)
- Some measures have been adopted to provide water and sanitation services for the poorest, such as the Pro-Poor Strategy (June 2020)

1) Water Accessibility and Availability

- ❑ Access to water on premises (15%)
- ❑ Safely managed drinking water (59%)
- ❑ Access disparity, especially ethnic minority and marginalized have lower access
- ❑ Lack of available and accessible safe water due to water logging
- ❑ Risk of violence and harassment faced by women and girls due to the distance of the water

Recommendations on Water Accessibility and Availability

- 1) Increase investments in sustainable infrastructure, particularly in areas where access is limited or non-existent, to increase access to safely managed drinking water for all, with a special attention to women and ethnic minorities;
- 2) Identify the most marginalized groups and ethnic minorities that are underserved by water and sanitation services; and
 - ❑ adopt targeted measures aimed at accelerating access to safe drinking water for the most marginalized groups, ethnic minorities, tea pickers, rural population, women and girls, and coastal population, within water-related national plans, policies and strategies related to water.

2) Water Quality

- **No previous recommendations during the UPR of Bangladesh on this issue**
- High level of contamination in household drinking water (including piped water):
 - ❑ 80% presence of E-Coli bacteria (human or animal fecal contamination)
 - ❑ 13% water sources have presence of arsenic
 - ❑ 6th in ranking with largest groundwater extraction
 - ❑ Ground water overextraction affecting deep aquifers such as deep tubewells
 - ❑ High presence of saline in ground and surface water in coastal/southwest regions of Bangladesh

Recommendations on Water Quality

- 1) Implement a proper mechanism to reduce exposure to arsenic through drinking water and food consumption, by
 - ❑ scaling up the use of already available arsenic removal technologies,
 - ❑ establishing a monitoring mechanism to ensure provision of safe drinking water for the population in arsenic contaminated areas, and
 - ❑ raising awareness among the population in arsenic contaminated areas on available methods to reduce exposure to arsenic contamination and mitigate its health impacts.
- 2) Zone out freshwater bodies and protect them from economic activities based on saline water;
- 3) Execute the plan of establishing water quality testing labs in each administrative unit of local governments, including sufficient budget for kits and resource personnel, and regularly monitor water quality at all water points;
- 4) Increase surface water treatment and reduce ground water dependency

3) Right to Sanitation in Bangladesh

- **No previous recommendations during the UPR of Bangladesh on this issue**
- Disparities and inequalities in access to improved sanitation facilities
- Unaffordable safe infrastructure causing physical risks to users
- Open defecation is still being practiced (5% of the population in the poorest wealth quantiles compared to less than 1% nationally according to the JMP data);
- Low coverage on fecal sludge management and treatment (urban & rural)
- Lack of awareness sustainable and environmentally safe sanitation practices

Recommendations on the right to sanitation

- 1) Accelerate the progress on access to improved toilet facilities that are safe, affordable, and acceptable, prioritizing communities with a higher level of poverty and marginalization;
- 2) Implement existing plans to regulate and monitor the entire sanitation chain, and establish fecal sludge management services with all relevant stakeholders to prevent risks of contamination of water sources, and negative health impacts arising from environmental pollution;
- 3) Undertake nation-wide awareness-raising initiatives on the importance of environmentally friendly and safe sanitation practices, including environmentally safe emptying of septic tanks and pits, to reduce discharge of fecal sludge in the environment.

Thank You!

From all the members of our coalition:

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