

# WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE (WASH)

## BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

### DESCRIPTION

Supplying sufficient safe water and sanitation facilities to nearly 1 million refugees is a huge challenge for the Government of Bangladesh and NGOs, including World Vision. WASH services are critical to reduce mortality and morbidity, and enhance refugees' protection, dignity and quality of life.

World Vision installs deep-tube wells, constructs gender-sensitive latrines and provides hygiene items to refugee families in 10 camps. Refugees learn how to maintain good health and prevent disease through our hygiene promotion sessions. We also support more than 1,000 WASH committees that manage and maintain camp facilities. This community-led approach results in sustainable impact.

### WASH FACTS

#### 15 LITRES

minimum amount of water required per person per day according to emergency standards.

#### 13.6 MILLION

litres of water required by refugees daily in 10 camps where World Vision works.

#### 182,071 KG

amount of solid waste produced daily in 10 camps where World Vision works.

#### 65%

of households surveyed report that children under age 5 "usually" practice open defecation.



**219**

deep-tube wells installed, serving 50,750 people.



**675**

bathing cubicles built, serving 33,750 people.



**1,899**

latrines built, benefitting 75,525 people.



**1,000**

WASH Committees established



**2,381**

hand washing points established, used by 59,525 people.



**55,008**

families receive hygiene kits, containing soap, toothpaste, laundry detergent, shampoo etc.

### IMPACT

More than **120,000** children and family members have safe drinking water, and are aware of good hygiene practices.

### DONORS

Canada



unicef



## A TUBE WELL FOR ISMATARA: WORLD VISION PROVIDES SAFE WATER FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

“Water means life for women in this camp,” says Lalaputu, 31, a refugee mother of six children. “Water is the most important thing I need. Without water, cooking meals, washing clothes and bathing would be impossible.”

Lalaputu has lived in the world’s largest refugee camp here in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh since fleeing violence in Myanmar in August 2017.

Alongside almost 1 million people, one of Lalaputu’s challenges was getting safe water for children—a problem she didn’t worry about in her home village in Myanmar. There her family had a tube well next to their house. They could get water whenever they needed. Neighbors also collected water from their tube well.

Lalaputu’s husband, Rahamat, recalls the family’s early struggles to find water in the refugee camp. “A bit far down the hill from our shelter, runs a stream. The water is not deep, but it flows,” says Rahamat. “But the water is not drinkable. We dug a hole beside the stream and waited for it to fill up. We hoped the sand and soil would work as filters.”

Sadly, Rahamat’s desperate measures didn’t work. “My children and my wife got sick drinking that water,” he says. “They had diarrhea and other health problems, but we had no choice. We had to drink that water.”

Thankfully, those days are over. Conditions in the camp have dramatically improved, especially in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Working in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh, NGOs and UN agencies have constructed thousands of wells, latrines and bathing spaces across the 24 refugee camps. With the support of donors and partners, over the one and half year (September 2017-March 2019) World Vision has installed 219 deep-tube wells, 1,899 latrines, 2,381 hand-washing points and 675 bathing cubicles in the camps, benefitting more than 120,000 children and family members, including Lalaputu and her family.

Now Lalaputu and her daughter, Ismatara, 8, can collect water from the deep-tube well near their house that World Vision installed. Each deep-tube well serves 100 families, about 500 people on average.

Ismatara no longer has to walk far to collect water, scaling the camp’s many steep sandy hills while balancing a heavy eight-litre aluminum water jar on her hip. It was tiring and time consuming. Sometimes, she had to miss sessions at the child-friendly space that she loves to attend.

“This tube well removed the pain of collecting water from afar,” says Ismatara. “I can drink water and bathe easily now. Drinking water from the tube well doesn’t give me stomach pain and diarrhea. It’s safe!”