

URBAN INNOVATION IN

Dhaka, Bangladesh

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

Focused global contribution through directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11), and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) by the promotion of sustainable urbanisation through participatory approaches (11.3), community participation through the Urban Neighbourhoods Development Committees (UNDCs) and policy dialogue (Urban Dialogues). Contributed to reduce environmental impact through waste management and controlling air pollution (11.6) by ensuring proper waste management and advocating for children and youth to be regarded as valued contributors to the NUA through Child and Youth Forums.

Intentional national and city levels policy influence directly influencing water services, solid waste management and land use policies improving the urban residents' living conditions.

Strengthened partnership for citywide impact through multi-stakeholder networks supporting scaling up impact from neighbourhood to district to citywide levels.

Enhanced urban governance for long-term sustainability through the creation of gender balanced UNDCs for local empowerment and as a self-sustaining institution, co-leading Urban Dialogues while empowering youth and children through effective participation in Mayoral Dialogues.

Contribution to the creation of just cities through improved health and child protection.



Dhaka is one of the most populous cities of the world with approximately 24,000 people per square kilometre and a total population of more than 20 million.

KEY IMPACTS

90%

of households in 2018 with proper solid waste management; up from 10% in 2015.

80%

of households in 2018 with proper sanitation; up from 37% in 2015.

61%

hand washing behavior amongst waste pickers in 2018; up from 11% in 2015.

51%

of the malnourished children were treated and made a full recovery in 2018-2019.

HOW IT HAPPENED

World Vision worked in an area within Dhaka called Mirpur, located in lowlands where roads, drainage and sewage systems are precarious, especially during heavy rains. Vulnerability is associated, in part, with improper waste management, poor sanitation, scarcity of safe water, lack of treatment facilities, poor living conditions and gender discrimination. The programme in Mirpur incorporated innovations of three components of World Vision's Citywide Self-sustaining Model.

Take 5 minutes to learn about the Citywide Self-Sustaining Model. 

URBAN PROGRAMME APPROACH

The programme in Mirpur was developed in close collaboration with urban residents and stakeholders. The programme focused on three main issues: improving childcare and child protection, enabling better nutrition, and providing access to safe water and sanitation. The programme focused on the context-based issues that contributed the most to children's vulnerabilities and implemented interventions that drove changes at neighbourhood, district, and citywide levels, using Strategic Pillars and applying the Enablers of Change.

They built social cohesion by facilitating the formation of UNDCs with a gender inclusion and equality focus. The programme empowers women, including female faith leaders, by building their capacity to prepare their own community development plan at the slum level.

They strengthened urban governance by encouraging communities to use the development plans developed by the UNDCs to carry on the work independently moving forward. At the city and national levels, World Vision Bangladesh and 20 other iNGOs collaborated through Urban Dialogues that brought together urban residents, academia, policy makers, and others to share knowledge, ideas and learning on urban issues. Every year an Urban Declaration is revised based on changes to the context.

They promoted knowledge building through the regular practice of creating evidence of impact by collecting success stories from the programme. The programme publishes stories that form a learning environment for other programmes within World Vision, its partners and other organisations.

They improved public space and services by engaging and empowering urban residents and stakeholders through various processes starting with an environmental assessment and collaboration with other like-minded NGOs and government organisations. Drains were cleared and covered, new roads constructed, and 70 public toilets were installed. The lack of solid waste management was a major issue contributing to the vulnerability of children. An experimental approach called 3W (Waste, Water, Work) was implemented and resulted in waste management systems becoming functional for 85% of the total slum population in Mirpur. A school-based WASH programme was adopted to build youth brigades and awareness of water, sanitation, and personal hygiene issues.



BLENDED FUNDING

The majority of the programme funding came from child sponsorship, which funded the WASH & waste management entry project and was used to leverage other funding for dialogue around policy change and securing land for public facilities and road construction. However, child sponsorship funding can be challenging in urban contexts. Additional resources were sought from private sources and grants to experiment with urban issue-based interventions that included capacity and skill development for children and youth to fight against child labour, and comprehensive nutrition care for malnourished children under five whose parents cannot afford nutritious food.

SHARED AND CENTRALISED CLUSTERING MODEL

World Vision drew together a number of smaller programmes operating in Dhaka under one cluster manager to take advantage of efficiencies, provide programme alignment and to share services.

Following the citywide approach, the programme builds on a partnership network with service providers, city authorities, NGOs, iNGOs, and academics to innovate, and test urban specific approaches and ideas. Through this process of collaboration, the programme interventions became more effective due to the focused support of urban staff. In this process, World Vision Bangladesh staff played three roles:

Community mobiliser and incubator at the neighbourhood level building the capacity of the 255 committee members from UNDCs and supporting community-based planning.

Multiplier at the district level providing a platform where stakeholders could collaborate for greater impact by working with partners and city authorities to address urban-specific water and WASH related issues, and a child protection campaign. Also, by empowering communities to have a voice using World Vision's social accountability approach.

Strategic facilitator and convenor at the city level working closely with the Urban iNGO Forum to bring some visible and sustainable changes in the urban development context influencing policies like the National Water Policy, and through Urban Dialogues and 13 Child and Youth Forums where 195 members increased their leadership skills through capacity building training.