

BANGLADESH, BURUNDI, AND MOZAMBIQUE

WASH IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS



LOCATION: Bangladesh, Burundi, and Mozambique

PROJECT TIME FRAME: January 2024 – September 2025

PARTNERS: Stewardship Foundation and other private donors

Overview

Driven by the vision of transformative water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our Global WASH Business Plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact across 42 priority countries with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts.

A fragile context is a geographic area where political and social pressures make people vulnerable to conflict and fracture institutions that should protect them. It is often characterized by violence and instability that impact social, political, and economic life. Additionally, fragile contexts face environmental challenges and climate change such as recurring natural disasters, flooding, or drought.

In fragile contexts, children suffer extreme levels of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Fragility can cover many nations or only a few neighborhoods and can change rapidly. To address this, it is necessary to understand the impact WASH programs are currently having in fragile contexts and how to strengthen and adapt WASH service delivery.

BY THE NUMBERS

BUDGET: \$1,800,000

PARTICIPANTS: 35,240

Goal

Demonstrate the scope, impact, and importance of World Vision's WASH work in fragile contexts, and build the capacity of WASH services to decrease vulnerability

Objectives

WASH services may reduce fragility for many reasons, ranging from increasing resilience to shocks such as extreme weather and other climate-related events in vulnerable communities, to providing support in areas with weak political presence and reducing conflict over water as an increasingly scarce and valuable resource.

This project aims to document how to deliver high-quality WASH services in fragile contexts and to assess short-term and longer-term effects of high levels of coverage of these WASH services on fragility, vulnerability, and resilience. These projects are being implemented in Bangladesh, Burundi, and Mozambique, each facing a unique combination of fragility ranging from remote cyclone-prone hilly regions in Bangladesh, to extremely low-income drought-and-flood affected districts in Mozambique. More specially the project is implemented in:

Bangladesh – Bandarban Sadar and Rowangchhari districts

Burundi – Bukemba district in the Rutana province

Mozambique – Guijá and Mabalane districts

This diversity of location allows World Vision to better document and demonstrate the impact of focused programming within the project itself, as well as translate these learnings to improve WASH implementation in other fragile contexts for both World Vision and the broader sector. The data, resources, and learnings that are created by this project will substantiate World Vision's position as the leading organization invested in reaching the most vulnerable people through WASH services in fragile contexts across the globe.

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Approach

Program Goals

Fragile contexts require very context-driven approaches, which are often more expensive and require greater adaptability and planning. There is limited guidance available for implementers in these contexts and little documented about actual adaptations made in such contexts.

The goals of the WASH in fragile contexts project are:

- Pilot a new working format for implementing WASH projects in challenging contexts that prioritizes flexibility and learning
- Provide and document robust, resilient, and sustainable WASH services in places where fragility presents a significant challenge to long-term impact
- Measure the impact of WASH services on the vulnerability of households and fragility experienced by a community

Flexibility is a key element of this adaptive project. The biggest reasons why WASH programs in fragile contexts often struggle are due to the inflexibility of funding, targets and outputs.

Process

Project Framework

Each country-level project is intentionally designed around the idea that long-term outcomes and impact on fragility itself will be the focus more than activity and output tracking.

The WASH in fragile contexts project is grounded by the framework included in the graphic on the right, with the ultimate goal of improved child well-being and reduced fragility in these communities.

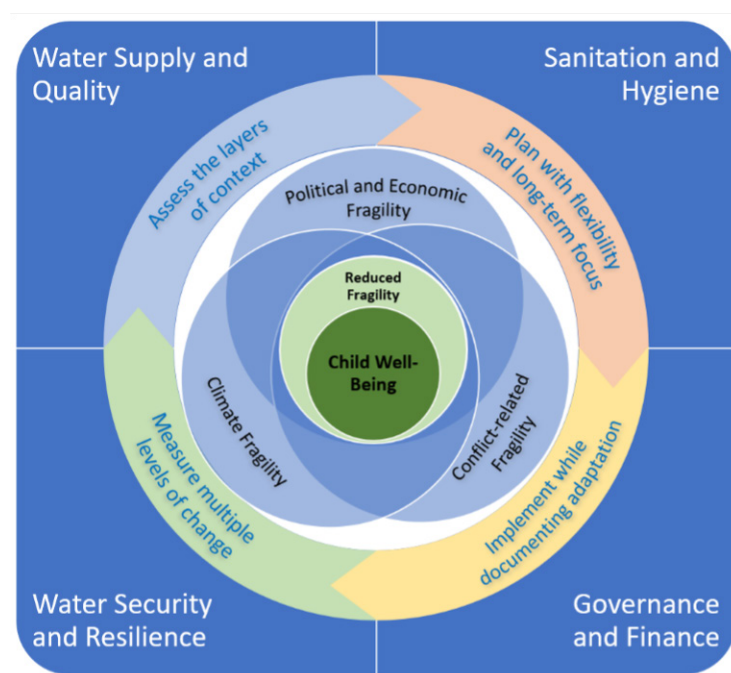
The foundation for this work is made up of World Vision's four technical working areas:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Water security and resilience
- Governance and finance

Standing between these technical approaches and our goal are the overlapping challenges associated with different dimensions of fragility including political and economic fragility, conflict-related fragility, and climate fragility—which are present to varying degrees of severity.

The ways in which World Vision addresses the overlapping issues of fragility and makes progress toward our goal include: assessing the layers of context, planning with flexibility and long-term focus, implementing while documenting adaptation, and measuring multiple levels of change.

These focus areas capture the key aims of the program through a water-specific measure of insecurity, assessing various broader dimensions of human flourishing, using a set of questions addressing household-level experiences of fragility such as human security, economic inclusion, and social cohesion.



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Evaluation and Learning

The project measures the impact of WASH on vulnerable communities and documents and learns from the process of adaptation in response to fragility-related challenges faced in the field. Key learning activities for these projects will include detailed annual household surveys, monthly check-in reports, diligent decision and obstacle tracking, and adaptive programming that takes advantage of flexible funding. To learn from these processes and improve the ways in which flexibility, support, and accountability are balanced in a fragile context program, we must document any changes, contextual factors, and adjustments in monthly reports, with major project changes requiring a separate request and approval.

The responses to a high-level survey will be compared across baseline, midline, and endline to identify changes in household well-being and their experienced fragility or vulnerability throughout the life of the project. This high-level survey will be performed three times over the first two years of the project. Any observed changes will be compared with activities implemented by the project while also considering any additional external factors such as worsening political or economic fragility or significant climate events. This data can highlight if World Vision's WASH programs are truly designed to reduce fragility that results in improved scores on these three indexes.

Throughout the three country-level projects, World Vision country teams will be creating communications resources that will be key to establishing World Vision as a leading organization investing in reaching the most vulnerable through WASH interventions. The successes and shortcomings of this project will determine the ways in which we continue to implement these approaches in new and existing projects across fragile contexts.

The WASH in fragile contexts project will determine the ways World Vision will measure the impact on vulnerable households on a larger scale that better encompasses the over 40 countries where World Vision implements sustainable and resilient WASH solutions.



Emergency WASH response helps households to rebuild their lives following Cyclone Freddy in Mozambique. The instances of climate-driven fragility are on the rise, and communities are in increasingly vulnerable situations.