Baseline Study in Selected Program Areas of Bangladesh





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, Water.org launched a new 18-month program in four selected communities with DSK to further expand its activities in Bangladesh. This new program is expected to install/construct 137 new water and/or sanitation facilities to empower 8,000 people with water and/or sanitation facilities. This baseline study provides key information prior to any wash.org intervention.

METHODOLOGY

The baseline survey has been conducted in two out of four program areas. The baseline study has followed a quantitative methodology where potential beneficiary households for this program have been identified and randomly selected for interviewing. To produce a confidence level of 95 percent within a margin of error of two percent, an estimated 137 beneficiaries were to be interviewed at the baseline survey. To mitigate risk of respondent dropout (for end line survey), an attrition rate of 20 percent has been applied. The respondent for this survey was adult household member of a selected household.

SURVEYED HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

Among household members 67.1 percent are adults (aged ≥ 18 years), 23.9 percent are Children aged between 5 to 18 years, and 9.0 percent are toddlers (aged < 5 years). Estimated sex ratio is 95.2. The average household size is 3.8.Forty-six percent household members are involved in income earning activities and most of them work as local factory workers. Overall literacy is 78.5 percent among people aged 5 and above.

SOCIO-ECONOMY AND INCOME

Only few surveyed household (2.5%) reported that they did not have enough food throughout the year preceding this survey. A 51.6 percent have consistent income. Estimated average monthly household income is Tk. 14,409.5 and per capita income is Tk. 3,396.9. Incidence of poverty below Upper Poverty Line among surveyed households is 23.0 percent. Among households 46.0 percent can save money regularly. Almost all households (97.5%) have access to electricity.

WATER AVAIALBILITY AND USAGE

Most household (92.6%) use water taps and/or tubewell as their key water source. Nearly three-fourth households (73.9%) reported they use key water source connected through piped system. Such piped water system is created though underground water collection using motors instead for hand pump. The survey areas do not have any formal mechanism of public water supply. Half (50.3%) of surveyed households have their water point within their court yard. There are few households that do not share water points with other households (7.5%). However, aside that on average 8 household share a water point. Adult women (>18 years) are mostly responsible for water collection for households. Estimated daily average time spent for water collection is 25.9 minutes among households reporting water collection from water points not within their court yard or household premises.

Nearly one-fifth of surveyed households (18.9%) with piped water system reported that piped water systems do not provide water throughout the year. Primary data suggest that most of such households face water problems during February to May. During rainy season, 11.8 percent households have limited access to water, such rate increases to 14.9 percent during dry season making it a combined rate of 21.5 percent throughout the year.

The surveyed households do not treat collected water before drinking. Few household mentioned about arsenic contamination but there was no visual evidence of arsenic testing in the survey area. Moreover, no arsenic testing has been made in the area.

SANITATION

About 40 percent households own toilet, nearly 85 percent use shared latrine. A 2.5 percent household uses hanging latrine. Only 12 percent households do not share latrine with others. On average 7 households with 21 persons share a latrine. Pit latrine on average clogs 1.4 times in a year. An 11.0 percent household has at least one member (largely toddlers) who practice open defecation.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

A 3.7 percent surveyed household does not maintain any hand washing practice. Estimated overall rates of regular hand washing practice with soap among households are: 63.7 percent after defecation, 24.4 percent before eating, 12.4 percent after eating, 11.3 percent after managing waste or children's feces, and 6.3 percent before feeding children.

Most commonly known hygiene behavior (knowledge) is washing hand with water and soap after defecation (79.3%), followed by using slippers in latrine (51.7%), and washing hand with water and soap before feeding children or self (37.9%). There are 18.0 percent households who mentioned 4 or more critical hygiene behaviors. Regretfully, 6.2 percent households were found who could not mention any critical hygiene behaviors.

