

Final Evaluation Report

Project "BD1806 Safe Access to Sanitation and Tube
well Operation (SASTO)"

Bangladesh, 2020

ACRONYMS

CFK	ChildFund Korea
CHPG	Community Hygiene Promotion Group
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HH	Household
ICDDR'B	International Center for Diarrheal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KII	Key Informant Interview
SASTO	Safe Access to Sanitation and Tube well Operation
SLIP	School Level Improvement Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
UP	Union Parishad
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive summary extracted from document "Final evaluation report on project "BD1806 Safe Access to Sanitation and Tube well Operation (SASTO)" by Syed Matlubar Rashid (Lead Consultant), in Bangladesh in December 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

One of the major development goals of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for all. In the past 12 years Bangladesh has achieved significant improvement of water and sanitation sector. Still there are areas that need adequate support to create hygienic environment. School sanitation is one such area.

Most of the schools of Bangladesh do not have adequate water and sanitation facilities. 73% of schools have functional toilets and 17% of schools having hand-washing facilities¹, but 59% of these facilities were in poor condition and unusable.

The study of ICDDR'B on Health and Demographic Surveillance, 2014 revealed that only 26% of people wash their hands with soap after using toilets. Diarrhea, dysentery, and pneumonia remain the main causes of deaths of children in the country. In addition, the scenario of waste management is a big concern in rural areas; only 38.7% of infants and small children faeces were disposed safely.

To respond to the situation mentioned above, in December 2017, Educo secured a grant from Child Fund Korea (CFK) to implement a project titled 'Safe Access to Sanitation and Tube well Operation (SASTO)' in Bhaluka Upazila of Mymensingh District for three years from 2018-2020. During project design, it found, in Bhaluka, access of school children to safe water and sanitation is denied. The situation leads to prevalence of water borne diseases (24.4%), high malnutrition and other health problems among children, which are significant barriers for access to education, as these cause absenteeism, drop-outs, poor attention, and durably affect their physical and intellectual development.

METHODOLOGY APPLIED

To address the evaluation objectives and criteria, both qualitative and quantitative approach was applied to collect, analyze, interpret, and triangulate data from both secondary and primary sources. Representative samples were suggested to draw randomly in case of households (HHs) and classroom/school survey and suggested to use purposive sampling technique in case of selecting FGD and KII participants.

The consultant has developed relevant tools, techniques and guidelines, field test those and adjust accordingly (where applicable) before undertaking final data collection. A total of 308 HHs along with 360 students from six schools were interviewed as part of the quantitative survey. Besides, to cover qualitative aspects, 18 FGDs with most relevant group of stakeholders and 5 KIIs with concerned officials were also conducted.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Only 9.7% of the respondents of the household survey mentioned that either they or someone from their family have fallen sick over the preceding six months of the survey. The baseline percentage for the same was 24.4%.

The survey revealed that for 93.5% (88% during baseline) of the households have accesses to safe water sources, i.e. 4.9% accessing piped/supply water and 88.6% with access to tube well. Besides, 99% respondents of the household survey mentioned that they use safe water for drinking, dishwashing and handwashing.

In general, the knowledge of the respondents about key issues relate to hygiene practice, use of safe water and environmental sanitation is very high. This may reflect the good works carried out by the project staff in creating awareness among the target beneficiaries and could be considered as a significant achievement of the project activities.

97.1% respondents ensure keeping soap or ash and 62% ensures availability of water inside or nearby the latrine. In terms of overall cleanliness of the latrine and household, 58.1% and 52.9% households respectively reported doing so.

87.7% respondents could mention that handwashing is critical before, during and after preparing any kind of foods. Another 71.8% respondents mentioned that before and after eating food, washing hands properly is necessary. More than half of the respondents (57.1%) also mentioned handwashing is critical every time after using latrines.

Women's knowledge on key messages on sanitation and hygiene practices were found to be relatively lower than men. However, it was encouraging that almost all surveyed women (180 out of 186 female respondents) rightly know the numbers of rings for the latrines they have at the households.

In terms of knowledge on hygiene practices of the school students, 98.6% of the students were able to mention that they have some knowledge. Of them, washing hands regularly with soap before eating (88.5%) and after defecation (52.7%) registered the highest responses.

Among the surveyed respondents, 96.4% mentioned that they are aware about the use of hygienic latrine and safe water. When asked about what are the features of hygienic latrines and safe water, the knowledge of the students were found to be strong.

ANALYSIS OF EVALUATION CRITERIA

Relevance

- The project goals match with SD Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all to protects people from disease, yet three in 10 people lack access to it.
- The Sector Development Plan for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh 2011-25 (SDP) provide a high priority on ensuring access to drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene practice for all. In fulfilling its international commitments to sustainable development, the government has submitted to the United Nations (UN) its post-2015 development agenda (2016- 30) the goal of "Safe and sustainable sanitation, hygiene and drinking water used by all".
- Most of the schools of Bangladesh do not have adequate water and sanitation facilities. 73% of schools have functional toilets and 17% of schools having hand-washing facilities⁷ but 59% of these facilities were in poor condition and unusable. Menstrual hygiene management remains a challenge especially in schools.
- Therefore, the project; – Established WASH facilities in 11 school along with hand washing corner with running water facilities; – Installed hygienic latrines at the households of 1000 poor families; – Implemented awareness activities all through the intervention area that evidently increased awareness of the people on sanitation and personal hygiene.

Effectiveness

- Orientations and trainings for stakeholders and activities on dissemination of hygiene and sanitation were conducted. Majority of the respondents under the quantitative survey and discussants of qualitative sessions

were able to recognize/remember key knowledges related to hygiene, safe water and sanitation. Handwashing practice including maintaining personal hygiene has increased compare to pre-project period.

- The selection process of beneficiaries was recognized as transparent by the community people.
- The participation of communities, especially the respective school authorities, was found to be remarkable. As contribution, the families who get latrine support dug the whole by themselves for latrine installation.
- COVID-19 situation influenced to reduce the number of meetings of CHPGs. The scheduled bimonthly meetings of CHPG and UP WATSAN committees also had to be deferred in cases. The latrine installation at target households have been completed in September 2020, which was scheduled to be completed by June 2020.

Efficiency

- The project ended up as per planned time. COVID-19 situation compelled to deviate and reduce some community activities like meetings to avoid physical presence. Very minimum human resources – one project Manager and one Project Officer – were engaged in delivering project activities with support from core department of operation and monitoring.
- With the help of the UP chairman and members, human resources were identified and engaged as volunteer locally to make the families aware on health-related issues, which proved to be successful to some extent. These volunteers were responsible for assisting and supervising certain numbers of households.
- The local government officials were very much cooperative and provided all sorts of support like, selection of school and beneficiaries from communities.
- The dilemma in implementation modality delayed selection of suppliers.

Coherence

- The entire interventions were suitably fit with the requirement of school and communities. The project didn't have any negative impact on the environment, rather was supportive towards maintaining overall cleanliness of the project areas by facilitating safe defecation. It also was not liable for extra carbon emission.
- The enrolment of girls in targeted schools seems equitable given that 51% of students in classes observed during the evaluation were female. The project activities didn't demand new technological knowledge rather usual type of project, implemented by different NGOs and Govt. as well.
- In a country, where poor people's access to social resources in minimal, support to install hygienic latrines and facilitating access to safe water through this project was a timely initiative.

Sustainability

- The school authorities have taken responsibility to maintain the WASH system with their own resources. Some of the authorities also are thinking to collect subscription from parents. The Upazila Education Officer informed that he will instruct school authority to meet maintenance expenditure from yearly Govt. allocation from SLIP fund.
- During interaction it was understood that the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding sanitation and hygiene by families and school students will play a transformative role.
- The human resources e.g. the members of CHPG has committed to continue to deliver awareness message.

Impact

- The awareness of community people in regard to sanitation and personal hygiene has increased than that of pre-project period. The knowledge on health and hygiene practices gained from the project interventions were shared by the project participants with others, especially the school students were observed enthusiastic in sharing such knowledge.

- During FGD, the President of SMC of Shirichala Govt. Primary School told, “The day was observed like festival by the student when the WASH facilities were open. The interested parents also gathered to join the joy of student.”

LESSONS LEARNED

The government approved latest design for WASH in primary school consists of four-chambered toilet option. During the first cycle of the project, two-chambered toilets were installed at three schools, whereas all remaining schools received a four-chambered toilet, which includes provision of disability friendly structure. A thorough situation assessment could help avoid such duplicity.

To support reinstallation of the tube well in future, if required, no roof top was constructed. This technical aspect was not properly shared with the school authority and during FGDs; they expressed their dissatisfaction on this matter. The school authority suggested to provide a temporary shade on the roof top which may be removed when required.

GOOD PRACTICE

Beneficiary selection for the project was done in a very articulated manner, by following standard protocol of involving all concerned stakeholders, i.e. UP authority, Educo team and communities, to ensure transparency.

The schools were found managing the maintenance of the establishments using donations and government allocated funds, even though the original proposal was to collect fees from the students. The Upazila Education Officer informed the consultant that he will instruct the schools to meet the cost from regular maintenance (SLIP) fund provided by Govt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The WATSAN committee of Kachinia UP was not holding regular meetings. Though COVID-19 was cited as a reason, the evaluation team found reluctance as a key reason behind this. Beyond the project period, such meetings might discontinue. Educo may think of facilitation of preparing a long term plan on sanitation program.

Interaction with students gave an impression on their potential capacity in making contribution into community development process. The project is yet to capitalize on this potential and may take lessons from success of CLTS, where children’s contribution was remarkable.

Finalizing the list of schools to bring under project support needed multi-stage review. For efficient use of time, bringing concerned stakeholders during planning stage could help avoid such delays and contradictions in selecting target schools.

Lack of use of appropriate IEC materials was felt during the evaluation. Development and use of IEC materials, through joint effort with the concerned authorities at upazilla and union level, could play vital role in success of similar project.

Selection of members of CHPGs needs more transparency. This could be achieved by intimate sharing with the communities and UP in identifying potential person.