NGO Forum has been working since 1982 and has become a unique service delivery body in the Public Health sector of Bangladesh. Upholding its vision ‘everyone is living quality life in a healthy society’, NGO Forum, over the last three and half decades, has implemented more than 250 projects in different nature and has been contributing to the improvement of public health situation for the poor, disadvantaged, hard-to-reach and socially excluded people of Bangladesh. NGO Forum’s relentless efforts to ensure access to safe water and provide context specific, cost effective, sustainable sanitation services with financial and technical support from the Government of Bangladesh and other Development Partners have changed the lives of millions.
Vision

Everyone is living quality life in a healthy society
NGO Forum is a national networking and service delivery organization dedicated to promote Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health, good governance and climate resilience to contribute to the improvement of public health situation, especially for the poor and hard-to-reach segments of the society.

Being a rights-based organization, NGO Forum utilizes its proven experiences of working as collaborative partner with all concerned government bodies, Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and duty bearers, Non-government Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), private sector and civil society actors, media, national and international agencies, development partners and other like-minded stakeholders. NGO Forum leads from the front to any natural calamities or humanitarian and emergency situation along with its development partners.

With a competent and decentralized work-force and strong network, NGO Forum strives to bring an enabling environment towards sustainable development by complementing the implementation of all relevant national policies, action plans and road-map of SDGs adopted by the Government of Bangladesh.
Goals

- Contributing to improvement of overall public health scenario of Bangladesh
- Contributing to poverty alleviation through ending any kind of discrimination and exclusion, and reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities
- Ensuring access to safe and sustainable water, safely managed sanitation and health care services
- Promoting sustainable environment in adaptation to climate change

Core Values

- Concern for the poor, hard to reach, disadvantaged and socially excluded people with special focus on women and children
- People’s rights and human dignity
- Gender and equality
- Humanitarian and emergency response
- Good governance
- Advocacy, networking and partnership
- Green environment and climate resilience
Our Achievements

NGO Forum has reached to 42 Million people over the last three and half decades by providing the opportunity of having access to safe water, safely managed sanitation and hygiene practices.

What We Do

NGO Forum has been working to promote WASH, Environmental Health, Advocacy and Governance, Gender and Equality, Health and Nutrition, Humanitarian and Emergency Response, Water Quality Testing Services (WQTS) maintaining the required standards. It innovates context specific, sustainable and safely managed water and sanitation services for the people in need and to contribute to the overall improvement of the Public Health situation of Bangladesh.
NGO Forum is committed to contribute in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and it links its all project activities with 12 goals out of the 17 goals. NGO Forum is the active member of the Platform ‘People’s Voice’ which is working to achieve the SDG Goals in Bangladesh.

The Major Program Components

Water Supply and Sanitation

NGO Forum has always been striving to develop and promote climate-resilient Water and Sanitation technologies for the different hydro-geological areas while exploring the potentials of private entrepreneurs, beside its country-wide service delivery. Undertaking research on existing and emerging water quality threats like arsenic contamination, salinity intrusion and advocacy on sensitizing the stakeholders on Water Safety Plan are also the key areas of NGO Forum’s continued WaSH services.

It emphasizes on arsenicosis management and livelihood supports, WASH in the health care facilities especially for women and children, hygiene awareness and motivation that eventually reduces the disease-burden. NGO Forum incorporates its WASH interventions with the sectoral approaches like Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS) and the Risks, Attitudes, Norms, Abilities, and Self-regulation (RANAS) approach.
As a strong implementing agency in the sector, NGO Forum has always been active in policy advocacy to catalyze sustainable changes in the sector through contributing to sectoral policy formulation and policy reformation, influencing the government and private sector. It has played a pivotal role in the gap analysis of secondary/primary School textbooks under the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB). Contextual inclusion of WASH messages have been ensured in the textbooks through the strong Policy Advocacy role by NGO Forum. The WASH messages have a multi-level application in the textbooks and other platforms by the ministry of education. Through the media advocacy, NGO Forum mobilizes and involves the journalist to participate in different sectoral programs and they publish the news both in electronic and print media.

Bangladesh has been considered as one the most vulnerable countries in the world in terms of climate change impact. Considering the climatic hazard and economic, physiographic and social vulnerabilities, the Drought prone, Flood prone, Char (sand bar), Coastal and Haor (swamp) areas are the most exposed areas of the country which are recognized as the Hard-to-Reach (HtR). NGO Forum has always given special focus and it works through different projects in that areas to ensure context specific, resilient, inclusive water supply and sustainable sanitation facilities using the appropriate technologies involving the government and the relevant stakeholders. NGO Forum emphasizes on renewed attention which is required to develop the capacity of the society on disaster preparedness and response involving communities, and Local Government Institutions (LGIs) in a sustainable approach to mitigate climate change and its impact.
Humanitarian and Emergency Response

Being a humanitarian organization, NGO Forum has always been responsive to the needs of distressed people affected by any natural disasters or manmade conflicts. It has been contributing to maintain peaceful co-existence in between the Refugee people and the host communities through providing extensive humanitarian support in different camps and host communities to ensure improved WASH services which includes access to safe, and functioning water supply system, gender segregated latrines, hand washing and bathing facilities with running water and lighting system. In reducing the public health concerns and improving the environment, It has been safely managing the solid waste and faecal sludge following the relevant sectoral policies and standards. It has been also providing the protection supports for Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar which aims at the mitigation of risks against any kind of violence that may affect the lives of vulnerable women and children of the Rohingya community. The Rohingya women have been involved in the income generating self reliant activities which will contribute in women empowerment and reducing Gender Based Violence (GBV) as well.

NGO Forum is an active member of ‘the Sphere Movement’ which aims to improve the quality of humanitarian work during disaster response.

NGO Forum’s WASH response in the emergency situations like post cyclone, flood and any other disasters in collaboration with the government, development partners and relevant stakeholders has always remained an institutional mandate from its inception.
NGO Forum has remained committed to the development of human capital as well as institutional capacity development since its inception with offering decentralized, tailor-made and customized training programmes through the Dhaka based central training center and thirteen regional training centers.

NGO Forum’s experiences in training course designing on different issues related to WASH, public health, capacity building, gender, governance, resilient and inclusive WASH technology adoptions, organization development and management, training of the facilitators are widely accepted in the sector. NGO Forum has been running informal training throughout the country for developing core group trainers among its partner NGOs/CBOs.

NGO Forum has been contributing to the pro-poor service promotion through its community empowering approaches, capacity building of LGIs, duty bearers and stakeholders. NGO Forum has been able to bring responsiveness in the local level decision-making for ensuring accountability in the services like WASH, health care, primary education, agriculture extension and social safety net programmes taken by the Government of Bangladesh. It has been also working for practicing Water Integrity management in WASAs in Bangladesh for strengthening good governance.
NGO Forum is committed to embrace the innovative research opportunities in a collaborative approach with the renowned research organizations and development partners. Its long experiences and potentials always drive us to resolve the unresolved and also on any emerging issues through innovative research initiatives.

NGO Forum has been always keen to widen its working horizon focusing on the ongoing and upcoming challenges like climate resilient technological innovation, urban health and solid waste management considering the rapid and unplanned urbanization, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), environmental hazards, WASH services in the healthcare facilities, occupational health, essential health care along with nutrition, adolescent Health, arsenic mitigation considering the magnitude of the problems.

Unique NGO Forum

Water Quality Testing Laboratory Services

NGO Forum has been running Water Quality Testing Laboratory (WQTL) in Dhaka since 2000 which was the first of its kind in the NGO sector and extended further in Cox’s Bazar as per the sector need. These distinctive services have a high demand in the sector and has been recognized by the Government of Bangladesh and by the World Health Organization (WHO). NGO Forum offers the services in an affordable rate, allied with demand of the client, and produces best possible results both in Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar Lab. The laboratory is also producing ‘MicroKit’ for testing presence or absence of bacteria in drinking water at household level which works in ambient temperature.
Throughout its three and a half decades of operations in Bangladesh, NGO Forum has achieved different national and international awards, recognition and prestigious memberships which are the key inspiration to work for the people in need. NGO Forum has achieved the Dubai International Award for Best Practices contributing to the living environment in 2004. Over the decades, it has become member of Global Water Partnership (GWP), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) member of global platform for Humanitarian response, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UN- HABITAT, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Water Association (IWA), Water Integrity Network, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA).

Our Innovation

NGO Forum is widely experienced on context specific water and sanitation related technological innovations and promoting alternative options with necessary modification and renovation in different geophysical contexts. It has experiences on promoting surface water treatment through solar power, reverse osmosis treatment system, large scale piped water supply, gravity flow system, spring water capping, rainwater harvesting, pond sand filter and water tracking and chlorination during emergency period. NGO Forum's experiences on solid waste management, decentralized faecal sludge management through value chain approach are widely accepted in the sector. Considering the environmental vulnerability, it's innovations are designed as per the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach with knowledge and require capacity building supports for their sustainability.

Awards and Recognition
NGO Forum maintains a country-wide working structure with 14 regional office to facilitate the activities in a decentralized manner involving the partner organizations, LGIs, media, relevant stakeholders and different groups.

The policy decisions of NGO Forums are made by a seven member Executive Committee (EC) which is elected from & by the General Committee. The General Committee meets every year while the EC is formed in every two year. The Executive and General Committee members are well recognized both internationally and nationally for their contribution in the different sectors like Climate Change, Gender & Equity, WASH, Banking and Finance, Development and Water Engineering.