

Towards an Inclusive Society

Vision

An inclusive
healthy society with
peoples' rights and dignity



**NGO FORUM
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**



Who We Are

NGO Forum for Public Health (NGO Forum) upholding its vision “an inclusive healthy society with peoples’ rights and dignity” has reached the landmark of forty years of its operation as a leading national NGO. Concurrently, Bangladesh has celebrated the Golden jubilee of independence. NGO Forum, over the last four decades, has implemented around three hundred projects in different nature mostly in the unserved, underserved and hard to reach areas focusing on different public health components, particularly Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), human capacity development, multifaceted research, climate change and disaster preparedness, skills development & livelihood, humanitarian response, solid waste management, faecal sludge management. Its relentless efforts to ensure access to safe water and provide context specific, cost effective, sustainable sanitation services, community and women empowerment has changed the lives of millions.



NGO FORUM

- 🏠 Central Office
- 📍 Regional Office & Training Centers
- 🟡 Project Office

Mission Statement

NGO Forum is a national rights-based, networking and service delivery organization engaged to promote WASH, health, nutrition, livelihood, governance, disaster & climate resilience, and humanitarian response to contribute to the improvement of public health situation, especially for the poor and marginalized segments of the society.

Being a learning organization, NGO Forum utilizes its proven experiences of working with development partners, including UN bodies, LGIs, all concerned government departments, non-government agencies, national and international stakeholders.

With a competent, committed and decentralized workforce; NGO Forum strives to establish towards an enabling inclusive healthy society by complementing the implementation of all required national & international policies.

Goals

Improving public health scenario through ensuring access to safe, affordable water supply, safely managed sanitation, hygiene, and health care services.

Reducing climate vulnerability by focusing on climate adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction.

Undertaking humanitarian services and protecting human rights & dignity.

Core Values

- Inclusive society
- People's rights & human dignity
- Gender equity
- Humanitarian services
- Green environment
- Good governance
- Networking & partnership
- Learning for adaptability



What We Do

Besides WASH, the other focused areas are Advocacy, Integrity, Governance, Health and Nutrition, Environment & Climate Change, Disaster Preparedness, Arsenic Mitigation, Multifaceted Research, Humanitarian and Emergency Response, Gender and Equality, Water Quality Testing Services, Solid Waste Management (SWM), Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), Social Safety-Net & Protection, Climate Resilient Action, Livelihood, Youth and Women Empowerment.

Towards Achieving the SDGs



NGO Forum recognizes the interconnectivity of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the importance of balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability in achieving them. This integrated approach is essential for creating a more sustainable and equitable world for all. NGO Forum is committed to contributing to the Government of Bangladesh's efforts in achieving the SDGs by 2030 incorporating the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, civil society, private sector, and individuals.

The Major Program Components

Water Supply and Sanitation

NGO Forum always emphasizes on promotion of the safely managed, sustainable, climate-resilient, and affordable water and sanitation technologies for the different geo-hydrological areas towards improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. In ensuring the safely managed sanitation, NGO Forum implements different projects through engaging the Local Government Institutions (LGIs). Considering the water scarcity and global growing concerns, NGO Forum undertakes research and interventions on reducing pollution of surface water, ground-water recharge, salinity, microbial and arsenic contamination in achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Its renewed focuses are on WASH in the health care facilities, especially for women and children, transparency and governance in WASH sectors.





Advocacy



NGO Forum always been active on evidence-based advocacy, policy formulation and policy reform to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for the people in need. It engages with different stakeholders

that include Government, private sector, sectoral organization and donor agencies, civil society and the local communities. It actively participates in the policymaking process and has been successful in making significant changes to the policies and regulations of the WASH sector over the years. The contextual inclusion of WASH messages has been ensured in the textbooks through the strong policy advocacy role by NGO Forum.

Governance

NGO Forum focuses on pro-poor service promotion through its community empowering approaches, capacity building of different stakeholders including Local Government Institutions (LGIs), and strengthening governance of the health service providing organizations. It has been able to bring responsiveness in the local level decision-making for ensuring accountability in services like WASH, health care, primary education, agriculture extension and social safety net programmes taken by the Government of Bangladesh. It has introduced Integrity Management tools in the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASAs) and worked together with Khulna WASA, Chattogram WASA, Rajshahi WASA which has contributed in strengthening institutional governance, levels of integrity and overall performance.



Humanitarian and Emergency Response

NGO Forum always extends supports for the affected populations during natural disasters and manmade conflicts through providing improved WASH services, including safe and functioning water supply systems and sanitation facilities, safe management of solid waste and faecal sludge which are significant for reducing



public health concerns and improving the environment. NGO Forum also works on shelter, energy and environmental sustainability for the refugees, as well as promoting self-reliance and community-based protection for vulnerable women and children, mitigating risks against any kind of violence. NGO Forum's efforts in responding to emergency situations such as post-cyclone, flood and other disasters in collaboration with the government, development partners, and relevant stakeholders are commendable; which is essential for ensuring the effective and efficient response mechanism in meeting the needs of affected populations.



Environment, Disaster Management & Climate Resilient Interventions

Bangladesh is considered as one the most vulnerable countries in the world in terms of climate change impact due to its physiographic and socio-economic conditions, which have made certain regions particularly susceptible to climate-related hazards. NGO Forum focuses on the climate resilience, disasters preparedness and response through different projects in the most exposed areas, such as drought-prone, flood-prone, char, coastal, and haor areas, as these areas face significant challenges related to water supply and sanitation. In addition to providing context-specific and resilient water supply and sustainable sanitation facilities, NGO Forum emphasizes on community engagement in disaster preparedness and response through capacity building and strengthening of their resilience. The climate change impacts are inevitable, since the communities including youths, women, and LGIs are prepared to respond the challenges in a sustainable manner.

Fecal Sludge Management

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable improvement in sanitation coverage, reducing open defecation in the last two decades and there are gaps and scopes to work and ensure that everyone has access to safely managed sanitation services. Innovative faecal sludge management services are crucial to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. NGO Forum promotes Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants in urban areas and also humanitarian response programmes at Cox's Bazar following the sanitation value chain towards ensuring proper treatment and end-use of the generated waste. It is crucial to continue working towards achieving universal access to safely managed sanitation services to improve public health, protect the environment, and promote human dignity.



Solid Waste Management

The rapid urbanization and economic growth has a direct impact on the increasing volume of solid waste especially in the urban and semi-urban areas with a negative impact to the environment, climate change and sufferings for vulnerable



segment of society. The problem is further compounded by the lack of awareness, experiences, capacities, and resources for effective management of solid waste generated in these locations. NGO Forum focuses on this critical issue considering its multidimensional extent both in urban and rural context.

Skills-Development, Livelihood & Empowerment



NGO Forum works for an inclusive society where every segment of people has the right to live with dignity unleashing all the potentials through capacity building and entrepreneurship development. The skills-development interventions for youth, women and vulnerable groups led them towards economic empowerment, meaningful change

in their lives, decision making opportunities and enhancing self-reliance. The skilled youth and volunteer groups equipped with resilience capacity in the urban and rural areas for any crisis situation.

Water Quality Testing Laboratory Services

Since 2000, NGO Forum has been running the Water Quality Testing Laboratory (WQTL) in Dhaka and expanded its services to Cox's Bazar due to increasing demand. The laboratory offers unique and affordable services that cater to clients' needs and delivers optimal results. Additionally, the laboratory produces a product called 'MicroKit,' which can test for the presence or absence of bacteria in drinking water at the household level and can function in ambient temperatures.



Training and Development of Human Capital

NGO Forum is committed to the development of human capital and institutional capacity building which is essential for promoting



sustainable development and empowering communities. The organization offers decentralized, tailor-made, and customized training programs through its central training center based in Dhaka and thirteen regional training centers. These training programs cover a range of issues related to WASH, public health, capacity building, gender, governance, resilient and inclusive WASH technology, organization development and management, and training of facilitators. Through the training programs, the organization aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals and organizations working in the development sector.

Research

NGO Forum's approach is to collaborate with renowned research organizations and development partners and explore innovative research opportunities. With its extensive experience and potential, the organization seeks to address emerging issues and resolve the unresolved challenges through innovative research initiatives. NGO Forum is focused on expanding its working scopes to address ongoing and upcoming challenges, including climate resilient technological innovation, urban health, and solid waste management in response to rapid and unplanned urbanization. Other areas of focus include Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), solar irrigation, environmental hazards, WASH in healthcare facilities, Occupational health, Arsenic mitigation, recognizing the magnitude of the problems.



Functional Structure & Policy Formulation Body

NGO Forum maintains a country-wide working structure with **13** regional offices to facilitate the activities in a decentralized approach involving the partner organizations, relevant stakeholders, LGIs, media, and different community groups.

The policy decisions of NGO Forums are made by a seven member Executive Committee (EC) which is elected from and by the General Committee. The General Committee meets every year while the EC is formed every two year. The Executive and General Committee members are well recognized professionals for their contribution in different sectors like Public Health, Law, Environmental Sustainability, Gender & Equity, WASH, Rural and Urban Development Sector.



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Mahin Sultan
Vice-Chairperson



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