

Towards an Inclusive Society



**NGO FORUM
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Vision

An Inclusive
Healthy Society with
Peoples' Rights and Dignity

Who We Are

NGO Forum for Public Health (NGO Forum), a national organization, upholding its vision-

“An Inclusive Healthy Society with Peoples’ Rights and Dignity”

marked a significant milestone, having provided dedicated services in the country for over **42** years. Despite numerous challenges in the area of water and sanitation, Bangladesh has made significant progress. NGO Forum is proud to be a part in the process, working with the government and other development organizations and playing a crucial role in shaping Bangladesh’s improved situation today. It 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, multidimensional research, climate change and disaster preparedness, 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.



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 for Public Health utilizes its proven experiences of working with other 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 for Public Health 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.



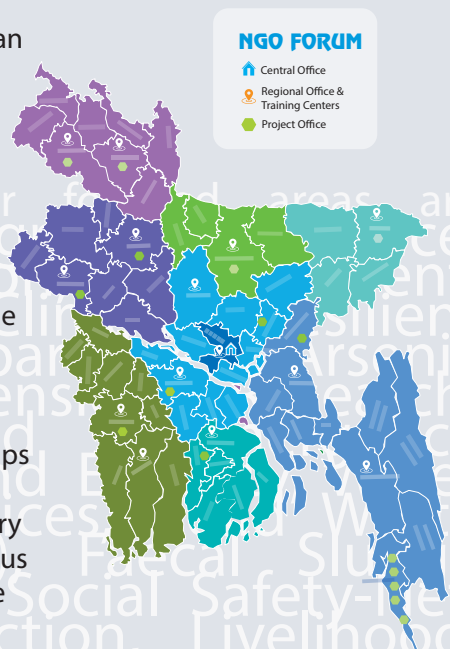
Undertaking humanitarian services and protecting human rights & dignity.

Core Values



What We Do

The prioritized thematic working areas of NGO Forum are WASH, Training and Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy, Youth and Women Empowerment, Livelihood & Self-reliance, Community Based Protection, Promoting Water Integrity, Governance, Health and Nutrition, Environment, Climate Change, Climate Resilient Actions, Disaster Risk Reductions (DRR), Arsenic Mitigation, Multidimensional Research, Humanitarian and Emergency Responses, Gender and Equality, Water Quality Testing Services, Social Safety-Net, Promotion of Green Energy, Shelter and Site Development Solid Waste Management (SWM), Faecal Sludge Management (FSM). NGO Forum follows the most effective community-based approaches to engage with people and significantly improve their lives. This involves considering administrative, political, economic, and social factors to ensure equal relationships and participation, as well as access to rights and benefits. By using participatory approaches, NGO Forum adapts to various vulnerabilities, including climate change and other disaster impacts, to ensure effective service delivery to the target beneficiaries.



Towards Achieving the SDGs



The world has reached the halfway mark in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But there is a need for transformative and accelerated actions to achieve the Goals, particularly SDG 6, requiring a commitment from all stakeholders across all sectors. NGO Forum recognizes the interconnectedness of the 17 SDGs and the necessity of balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability to achieve them. It is dedicated to supporting the Government of Bangladesh's efforts through its interventions to meet the SDGs by 2030, incorporating the collective contributions of governments, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, and individuals.



The Major Programme Components

Water Supply and Sanitation



In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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) and respective communities. NGO Forum also focused on the strengthened capacity for different water & sanitation evidence-based policy development, planning and coordination for improved, equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient WASH services including in emergencies. Considering the water scarcity and global climatic growing concerns, NGO Forum undertakes research and interventions on reducing pollution of surface water, wastewater treatment, reuse of water, ground-water management, ground-water recharge, and salinity, microbial and arsenic contamination in achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

WASH in Institutions

Adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in institutions plays a critical role in ensuring improved public health and reducing disease burden due to reinfection. NGO Forum implements different projects in educational institutes and healthcare facilities following the 3-star approach and WASH Fit which includes WASH facilitation renovation & reconstruction, handwashing promotion, waste management, establishing operation & maintenance (O&M) mechanism and building capacity of teachers and school management committees through training & orientation for long term sustainability.



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. Our efforts have led to increased responsiveness in local decision-making processes, ensuring greater accountability in essential services such as WASH, healthcare, primary education, agricultural extension, and social safety net programs overseen by the Government of Bangladesh. NGO Forum has on-field experience to facilitate the different Social Accountability Tools and methods.

It has introduced Integrity Management Tools (InWASH Tools) within Water and Sewerage Authorities (WASAs) and collaborated with Khulna WASA, Chattogram WASA, and Rajshahi WASA. These initiatives have significantly strengthened institutional governance, integrity levels, and overall performance. NGO Forum has extended these tools to Mymensingh and Rangpur City Corporations, aiming to strengthen the service delivery mechanism and enhance their water supply performance.



Environment, Disaster Management & Climate Resilient Interventions

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. NGO Forum works with the relevant government department and the private sector through strengthening their capacity to provide environmentally sustainable, affordable, climate resilient and safely managed water and sanitation services to communities and institutions in urban and rural areas.

Humanitarian and Emergency Response

NGO Forum always extends supports for the affected populations during natural disasters, manmade conflicts through providing improved WASH services, including safe, 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 which to complement the basic human rights and required humanitarian assistance. NGO Forum also focuses on shelter and site development, access to 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 emergencies and ensure services, reduce disaster risks and environmental restoration during and post disaster such as post-cyclone, flood and other disasters in collaboration with the government, development partners, and relevant stakeholders.



Faecal Sludge Management

Bangladesh as a country after the 50th years of the Independence has achieved substantial progress in sanitation and maintenance of public health. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable improvement in sanitation coverage, reducing open defecation in the last two decades and there are still too many scopes of improvement to 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 promoted safely managed Faecal Sludge management system in urban, rural areas and 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.



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 twelve 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 its training programs, the organization aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals and organizations working in the development sector.



Research

NGO Forum actively collaborates with esteemed research organizations and development partners, consistently pursuing innovative research opportunities. It focuses on expanding works to address both current and forthcoming challenges, particularly emphasizing climate change challenges and solutions, climate-resilient technological innovations, urban health, and effective solid waste management strategies to cope with rapid and unplanned urbanization trends. Additionally, NGO Forum prioritizes areas such as the development and sustainability of water supply projects, implementing programs with interventions to measure their impact and sustainability, fostering community participation and contributions, enhancing local public goods, ensuring groundwater sustainability, promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), advancing solar irrigation for agricultural resilience, addressing agri-food and market concerns, mitigating environmental hazards, implementing WASH initiatives in healthcare facilities, addressing occupational health issues, and tackling arsenic mitigation.

The research partners are such as IWMI, SIDA, the Swedish Research Council, Columbia University, Michigan State University, Stockholm University, JPAL, Leeds University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Australian Rotary Club, LEAP-Bocconi University, WIN, IRC, the International Institute for Impact Evaluation (3IE), International Growth Centre (IGC), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), BRAC, BUET, among others.

Water Quality Testing Laboratory Services

Since 2000, NGO Forum has been running the Water Quality Testing Laboratory (WQTL) in Dhaka, which has now 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.



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 consequence to the environment, climate change and suff-erings for vulnerable. The problem is further intensified 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 in both urban and rural context and established solid waste management plants. The waste treatment follows scientific methods from collection to treatment with end-result of composting fertilizer.



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.



Functional Structure & Policy Formulation Body

NGO Forum maintains a country-wide working structure with **12** 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.



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