

Fordnagar Mollapara, Bangladesh

The struggle to meet daily needs

Population: 450 families

Location: Dhalla Union, Manikganj District, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Current situation: In the rural community of Fordnagar Mollapara, the people struggle to meet their daily water needs. They have several community-built shallow tubewells that are used for drinking water. However, these sources often dry up in the dry season. The villagers must wash and bathe in several extremely contaminated ponds that are also used by the cattle. They are prepared to pay some of the capital costs of and 100% of the maintenance costs for a new water system, but they lack the financial resources to get started. With financial support from WaterPartners International, our Bangladeshi partner organization will work with the people of Fordnagar Mollapara to develop and implement a sustainable community water supply and sanitation system.

Proposed new water system description: Deep tubewells with hand pumps and drainage system.

Proposed sanitation facilities: Individual household pit latrines.

Project implementation schedule: Project will take approximately 1-1/2 years to complete.



A rural Bangladeshi woman carrying drinking water home for her family. At the end of her last pregnancy, she was too tired to carry water from a nearby well and had to drink pond water.



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Bangladesh Quick Facts

- Total Population: 126,947,000
- Population under 5: 15,120,000
- Annual number of births: 3,404,000
- Under 5 mortality rate: 89 (per 1,000 live births)
- Life Expectancy: Male 60, Female 60
- Adult Literacy Rate: Male 63%, Female 48%
- GNP per Capita: US\$ 370

The water crisis in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has made commendable progress in supply of safe water to its people. However, gross disparity

in coverage exists across the country. In addition, arsenic pollution in ground water threatens the gains achieved

over the past years. Latrine usage is very poor across the country, averaging only 16% in the rural areas. Diarrheal



In rural communities, food and water containers and cattle are washed in the same pond—a practice that causes year-round illnesses in community members, especially children.

diseases constitute a major health problem in Bangladesh, killing over 100,000 children each year. Thousands of episodes of diarrhea occur in children and adults each day. Diarrheal diseases have close biological and socio-economic links to the problems of malnutrition, poor maternal health, high fertility and certainly to child survival.