

# Pallabi Slum Phase 2, Dhaka, Bangladesh



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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 struggle to meet daily needs

**Pallabi Slum, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Population:** 4500

**Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Current situation:** In the urban slum of Pallabi, the people struggle to meet their daily water needs. They retrieve water from illegal connections to the city's water supply, often paying up to 10 times the price of the water sold to legal connections. Other community members obtain all their drinking water from construction sites, mosques, or from contaminated drainage ditches. Children of Pallabi frequently suffer from diarrheal diseases. The people of Pallabi are prepared to pay for a portion of the capital costs 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 Pallabi to improve the health status of these urban slum dwellers by legalizing safe access to drinking water supplies, providing sanitation services, and providing health/hygiene promotion and training.

**Proposed new water system description:** 3200-liter capacity underground water reservoir with connection to DWASA (Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority) water mains. Water will be pumped from the underground reservoir with hand-pumps.

**Proposed sanitation facilities:** The people of Pallabi can choose to install individual household pit latrines or community sanitation blocks. The sanitation blocks consist of 4-5 pit latrines per side (one male side and one female side) with a concrete enclosure and septic tank. A water point would also be constructed to supply water to the sanitation block only.

**Solid waste management:** A house-to-house waste collection system will be established.

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



*Kids bathing and enjoying their new water source at Settlement Press Water Point, Tejgaon, Dhaka*

## The water crisis in Dhaka

Dhaka, one of the primary urban centers of Bangladesh, has been experiencing a rapid increase in population over the past two decades. People are migrating to Dhaka by the thousands in search of employment. Most migrants work in marginal employment at very low wages and live in squatter and slum settlements with few basic services. Recent studies estimate that 2 million people live in the urban slums of Dhaka. This problem is only expected to worsen—by 2020, the number of people living in urban slums in Dhaka is expected to rise to 9 million. In these settlements, the poor bear much hardship and are forced to buy water of unknown quality at exorbitant rates from

alternate service providers. The alternate service providers are mostly "mastans" who have expropriated public hydrants or established illegal water points. Some office and factory staff secretly provide water to the poor. The urban poor also purchase water from private residences or obtain water in exchange for labor.