Goal: To promote public health and reduce the spread of communicable diseases by ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitary latrines and inspiring behavior change around hygiene practices.

Approach
BRAC focuses on increasing access to clean water and sanitary facilities, expanding education and awareness about hygiene practices, and reducing the spread of water-borne diseases.

To increase access to clean water, BRAC establishes water safety plans, installs deep tube wells, tests water quality, and provides grants and loans to construct tube well platforms that protect water from contamination. BRAC prioritizes arsenic and saline-prone areas, where it provides alternative water technologies such as arsenic removal filters, pond sand filters, and piped water supply systems.

Background
Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services remains crucial to BRAC’s integrated approach to development. BRAC believes every person deserves access to clean drinking water, sanitary toilets, and education about sanitary practices like handwashing. It works to break the cycle of contamination caused by limited access to these services, especially in rural areas.

Opportunity
Nearly one in three worldwide – 2.5 billion people – lack access to adequate sanitation, and nearly one in nine – 800 million people – lack access to clean water. The World Health Organization reports that a single U.S. dollar allocated to WASH equates to a savings of $4.30 in health care costs, illustrating the immense impact of WASH services.
To reduce the spread of water-borne illness, BRAC leads the way in spreading oral rehydration solution (ORS). BRAC teaches poor, often illiterate mothers in rural communities how to make ORS, a simple but lifesaving solution of water, salt, and sugar, for children with diarrhea. Since 1980, BRAC has been instrumental in developing ORS training methods, trained over 12 million women in ORS, and saved countless lives.

**Why BRAC?**

Active since 2006, BRAC has expanded access to hygienic latrines to 39 million people and provided 2.3 million with access to a safe water source. Outcome monitoring shows impressive gains not only in access, but also in use rates of hygienic latrines. Targeted sanitation financing, including loans for the poor, grants for the ultra-poor, and self-financing motivation for the non-poor, has ensured equal access for all wealth categories.

Beyond Bangladesh, BRAC has implemented smaller WASH programming in Liberia, Nepal, Tanzania, and Uganda related to urban sanitation, hygiene education, and fecal sludge management. WASH efforts beyond Bangladesh continue to expand by empowering communities and leveraging strong partnerships to ensure a future where every household has clean water and hygienic practices.

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To increase access to latrines, BRAC provides technical assistance to ensure proper design and site selection, as well as loans for those who cannot afford to pay. Two-pit latrine construction materials, including superstructures and mini water tanks, are offered to ultra-poor families free of cost.

In order to educate communities about safe WASH practices, BRAC has set up over 65,000 village WASH committees, allowing communities to take ownership of assessing their WASH situations and addressing issues. BRAC has also expanded WASH committees to schools to facilitate peer-to-peer education around safe WASH practices among the poorest children in Bangladesh.

BRAC particularly focuses on ensuring access to WASH education and services in the most disadvantaged communities. For example, in the haors, or wetlands, of Bangladesh, BRAC constructs floating latrines that rise in the face of flooding.

In the refugee settlements of Cox’s Bazar, BRAC has constructed over 13,000 latrines to reach more than 500,000 displaced Rohingya and provided over 400,000 people with access to safe water through 1,500 tube wells. BRAC has also educated nearly 100,000 Rohingya households about health and hygiene practices through training Rohingya community mobilization volunteers.

**“It has been a privilege to work as a partner with one of the largest and most successful WASH programs in the world,”** says Patrick Moriarty, Chief Executive Officer of IRC WASH.”