

Checking financial sustainability— 1



LCCA assesses the sustainability of latrines. Above a Village WASH Committee updates its records on household latrines, and (right) a family proud displays its new latrine in Tala Upazila, Khulna District.



Analysing service quality, costs and sustainability

BRAC WASH has adopted The Life Cycle Costs Approach (LCCA) as a way of assessing the financial sustainability of services. This approach addresses two key questions:

- What WASH services do people get, at what cost?
- Are the costs of maintaining adequate services being met?

Service levels are measured against agreed standards, using the example of a ladder to describe different levels of services.

LCCA identifies not only capital expenditure but also recurrent costs, such as costs of operating and minor maintenance, repairs and replacements. If these costs are neglected, service levels fall and the initial investment is wasted.

Since 2012, BRAC WASH has used LCCA to check on sustainability for sanitation in households, and from 2013 also in schools. In 2014, the WASHCost Share calculator was used in one upazila to explore how much families are willing to spend on sanitation. The tool is useful for identifying pressure areas for costs.

Checking financial sustainability—2

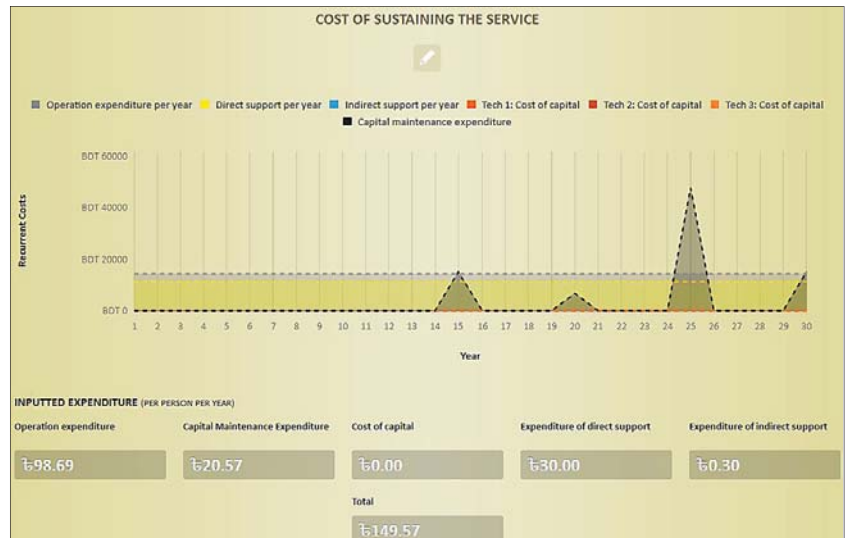
WASHCost Share: A tool to evaluate affordability

WASHCost Share is a tool for evaluating water, sanitation and hygiene services and sharing results. It can be used by non-experts to provide quick feedback on levels of service, cost and affordability.

This page shows data from a sample of ultra-poor families in two villages in Bangladesh, 90% of whom received a service that met national standards.

Costs equate to 2.6% of household income. Without the BRAC WASH grants, this would not be affordable.

Expenditure in Bangladesh is low compared to WASHCost benchmarks from four other countries and expenditure might be required to rise as latrines age. If costs as a proportion of household expenditure rise by even 1%, that would be a risk to affordability for poor households.



SERVICE LEVEL SUMMARY

	ACCESSIBILITY	USE	RELIABILITY	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MEETS NATIONAL NORM	90.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
DOES NOT MEET NATIONAL NORM	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
THERE'S NO DATA FOR THIS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Checking financial sustainability—3

Long-term costs of household latrines need to be covered

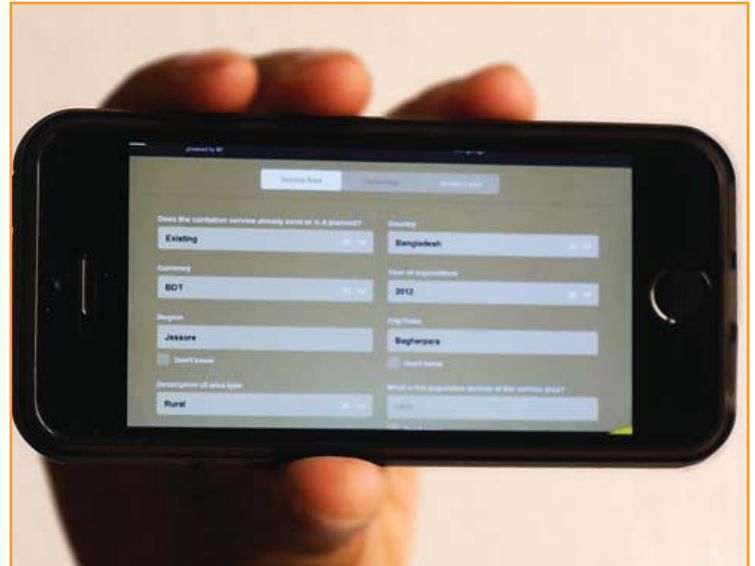
The poor and ultra-poor in Bangladesh are below the lower poverty line for the south Asia region.

BRAC WASH has transformed latrine construction for the poor (through loans) and the ultra-poor (through grants). The ultra-poor are provided with robust double-pit latrines that don't need emptying so often and have the potential to produce organic compost.

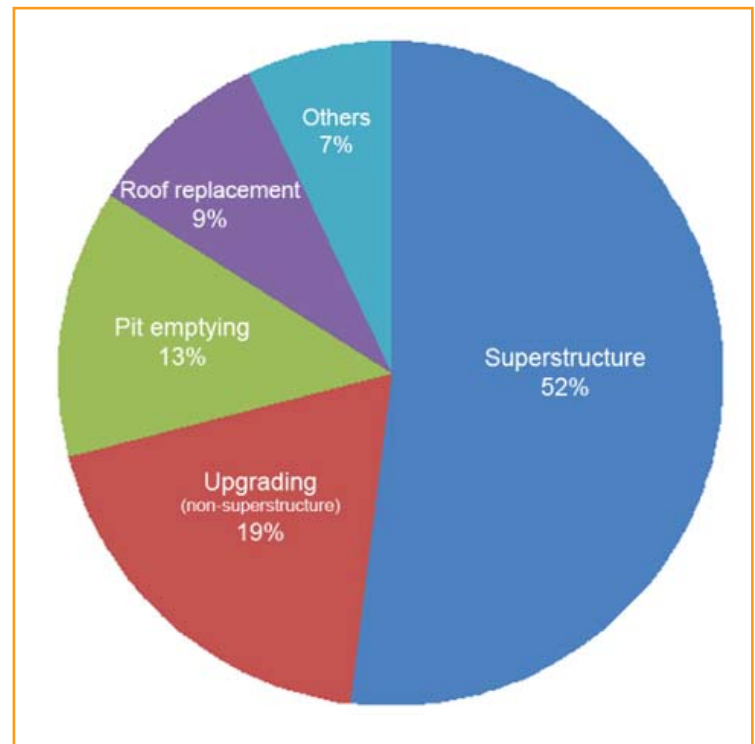
Money spent by BRAC WASH on hygiene promotion—“direct support costs”—proves its value. Data shows that ultra-poor families with well-functioning toilets keep them just as clean as poor and non-poor families.

The cost of emptying pits is beginning to be felt by the poor as they have more single pit latrines, but not yet by the ultra-poor since double pit latrines take longer to fill.

The impact of these costs will grow in future. Long-term maintenance costs over a period of years are as high as the original costs of construction.



Cost data can be collected in household surveys using a smart phone.



The most common reason for families spending household money on latrines was to improve the superstructure.

In the longer term, it will also be necessary for families to pay to have the pit emptied.

Findings on this page are based on a survey of 1,000 households in Bagherpara upazila

Checking financial sustainability — 4

Setting standards for WASH in schools

- The service ladder shows criteria for ‘sub-standard’, ‘basic’ and ‘improved’ levels.
- Schools with ‘sub-standard’ or ‘no service’ levels spend less per student on WASH-related capital costs, repairs and on replacements and basic maintenance.
- This is the first detailed comparison anywhere of WASH service levels and costs for schools.

Service level criteria	Indicators for assessing service level	Corresponding service level	Source data
Access	Separate latrines for boys and girls AND sufficient toilets (Bangladesh government norm is 1 toilet per 50 students)	Improved	School survey and observation
	Separate latrines for boys and girls AND 1 toilet per 50-76 students	Basic	
	Latrines shared by boys and girls OR 1 toilet for 75-91 students	Sub-standard	
	No functional latrines OR 1 toilet for more than 90 students	No service	
Use	Used by students and teachers on all occasions AND handwashing with soap is practised	Improved	School survey and observation
	Used by students and teachers on all occasions	Basic/improved	
	Used only by some students sometimes	Sub-standard	
	No one uses the toilet	No service	
Reliability	More than 50% of toilets have water in water seal AND no faecal matter in the pan AND no urine puddles AND cleaning equipment and materials always available within toilet or school premises (brush and broom, cleaning powder, liquid detergent, and drainage system).	Improved	School survey and observation
	More than 50% of toilets have water in water seal AND there is no faecal matter in the pan AND there are no puddles of urine. Latrine is hygienic with indications of regular routine maintenance.	Basic	
	More than 50% of toilets in the school are unhygienic, dirty, unreliable OR without proper maintenance	Sub-standard	
	Latrines are unhygienic (without water seal) OR no latrines	No service	
Drinking water	Drinking water from tube well, pump or tap is available within school premises AND water quality testing is done regularly	Improved	School survey and observation
	Drinking water from tube well, pump or tap is available within school premises	Basic	
	Water is available within school premises but not from a safe source (pour water or dipper)	Sub-standard	
	No water available within school premises	No service	
Environmental Protection	Faecal sludge and waste water are confined safely. There is a safe disposal method AND faecal sludge management is in place	Improved	School survey and observation
	Faecal sludge and waste water are confined safely. There is a safe disposal method	Basic	
	Faecal sludge is visible OR/AND there is no proper drainage	Sub-standard	
	Open pit is used and there is unsafe faecal sludge disposal	No service	
Menstrual hygiene management	Facilities for bulk disposal of used napkins and space for hanging the napkins AND availability of emergency napkins at school	Improved	School survey and observation
	Facilities for the bulk disposal of used napkins AND sufficient space available for changing and privacy	Basic	
	Facilities for disposal of individual used napkins and cloths	Sub-standard	
	No facilities for disposal of individual napkins or cloths	No service	

Challenges

- Schools can provide safe drinking water for students and have sufficient toilets to meet Bangladeshi national standards for both boys and girls