

WASH Sector CXB

WASH Briefing Note

2025



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

unicef 
for every child



WASH Sector
Cox's Bazar

Table of Contents

- 1** Water
- 2** Sanitation
- 3** Solid Waste Management
- 4** Hygiene
- 5** Host Community (JRP Area)
- 6** Case study
 - A. Water Crisis
 - B. Women Hygiene Center (WHC)
- 7** Rationalization
 - A. Geographical Rationalization
 - B. Programmatic Rationalisation efforts
- 8** 2025 WASH Funding
- 9** Lack of Funding: Concerns & Impacts

Water



Access To Water



Context

- On an average, 23 litres of water per person per day is being collected.
- 85 per cent of the refugees have reported having enough water to meet their domestic needs.
- 94 per cent of water samples are without faecal contamination at the household (HH) level.
- 89 per cent of water at the HH level has adequate free residual chlorine (FRC).
- 15,684 boreholes (with hand-pumps) have been drilled in camps.
- 308 water networks have been built and operated.

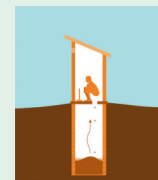
Concern/Challenges

- Only 48 per cent of water networks supply at least 20 litres of water per person daily.
- Only 48 per cent of the water is chlorinated at tap-stand level.
- 68 per cent of the water networks managed by the authorities concerned require significant O&M as well as new investment.
- A few thousand of shallow boreholes from the emergency face are contaminated and should be decommissioned.
- As a coping mechanism, the beneficiaries have built their water supply from shallow and unsafe water.

Sanitation



Sanitation



Context

- 20 persons on an average are sharing a latrine, and 37 persons are sharing a bathing facility.
- 49,471 latrines have been built and maintained.
- 26,129 bathing facilities have been built and maintained.
- 167 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) are treating 1,000 m³ sludge every day.
- 96 per cent of the latrines are functional, maintained, and desludged monthly.
- Through faecal sludge treatment, the reduction of Coliform is 98 per cent and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) is 96 per cent.
- There is no open defecation in the camps (except for babies).

Concern/Challenges

- 79 per cent of the FSTPs don't meet acceptable COD standards due to lack of space.
- 32 per cent of the female family members feel unsafe in using the communal latrines at night.
- 9 per cent of the HH have built their latrines, which, however, are unsafe and create health and environmental risks.
- Volume of pits has reduced since construction due to cumulative solid sludge and waste. Desludging frequency is increasing.

Solid Waste



Solid Waste



Context

- Around 140 tonnes of waste is produced per day.
- 60 per cent of the waste is organic waste, 30 per cent is no valuable waste, and 10 per cent is recyclable waste.
- 95 material recovery Facilities (MRFs) are in operation in 33 camps.
- 60 to 90 tonnes of compost is produced every month from the organic waste.
- Four recycling plants absorb 6.2 tonnes of non-valuable plastic bags monthly.
- One landfill for no-valuable waste absorbs 15 tonnes of waste daily.
- 84 per cent of Households are doing segregation.
- Only 8 per cent of the households report visible waste in the vicinity of their shelter.

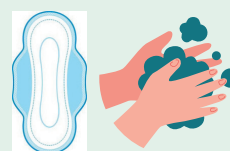
Concern/Challenges

- 20 per cent of the waste is still being littered.
- Teknaf has no landfill, and waste is burnt (causing CO2 emission) or disposed unsafely there.
- The number of solid waste volunteers has decreased due to budget cuts, leading to an extra 15 per cent of the waste remaining uncollected.

Hygiene



Hygiene/Software



Context

- 85 per cent of the households are seen to have soaps.
- 83 per cent of women and girls have access to the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) system as per standards.
- 100 per cent of the AWD-reported cases are addressed through the Joint Assessment and Response Team (JART).
- 47 per cent of the WASH corrective actions are addressed following complaints and feedback from the affected population.
- 86 per cent of the people interviewed are able to identify at least three critical times of hand washing.
- The WASH Sector has harmonized WASH Kit content.

Concern/Challenges

- 49 per cent of the WASH corrective actions are addressed following complaints and feedback from the affected population.
- An increase in Cholera cases is reported - more than any past years.
- Lack of understanding of community engagement is found among the communities.

Host Community (JRP Area)



Host Community (JRP Area)



Context

- 3,648 boreholes (with hand-pumps) are in the HC since the beginning of the crisis.
- 16.8 per cent of the people use a safely managed water supply, with nearly half relying on basic water sources, while 14.75 per cent use unimproved sources.
- Basic sanitation is accessible to 45.64 per cent, yet only 3.52 per cent benefit from safely managed sanitation, and 7.6 per cent practice open defecation.
- Over half of the households lack a hand-washing device, and only 16 per cent of the people wash hands at critical times.
- Among the women of reproductive age, over half use old clothes during menstruation, with only 20.4 per cent opting for disposable sanitary pads.

Concern/Challenges

- Only 62 per cent people of the host community have reported having enough water to meet all their domestic needs (less than in the camps).
- Funding from the JRP allocated to the host community has been going down (18 per cent in 2024, and possibly 11 per cent in 2025).
- Significant service disparities are causing frustration.
- Over groundwater extraction in the camps causes water depletion, posing threats of water crisis during summer times within the adjacent host community.
- Lack of climate-resilient facilities is found.

Case Study: Water Crisis

Asma's daily struggle for domestic water in Camp 2W



Asma goes outside to collect water.

Instead, she watches other children of her age from a distance, feeling the weight of her responsibilities. The emotional toll is as heavy as the physical strain. Asma often feels isolated and saddened, while knowing that she must put her family's needs above her own dreams. Though she wishes for having ample time to learn and play, she has accepted her role, recognising how essential her contribution is to her family's daily life.



Asma with her two siblings.

Asma's story is a stark reminder of the sacrifices that the young people are making in the face of water scarcity. It highlights the urgent need for ensuring better water access in the refugee camps, where simple changes could free the children like Asma from the adult people's burdens, giving them a chance of education, growth, and a semblance of childhood.

Analysis from the WASH Sector

Safe water supply in Camp 2W is not covered by any JRP actor. The water network in Block D was rated only one star over five possible stars in 2023, showing challenges in terms of water availability, quality and operation, leading to the beneficiaries having to walk further for procuring safe drinking water. 199 hand-pumps are available in this block (34 persons per hand-pump) for alternative water supply (cleaning, washing, etc.), but these are not recommended as drinking water sources.



Asma goes back to house after collecting water.

"Every drop I carry means my family can cook, drink and survive — but each step pulls me further from the learning centre and enjoy my teen hood with friends," Asma reflects.

Case Study: Women Hygiene Centre (WHC)

Women Hygiene Center meets Ayesha's hygiene needs and domestic water use

Ayesha Begum, 28, is a beneficiary of the Women Hygiene Centre (WHC) in Camp-1E, upgraded by the BRAC WASH team in 2023. The centre aims to protect the safety and dignity of women and teenage girls by integrating new concepts and facilities for hygiene. Ayesha and her family (four members) benefit significantly from the centre's services, including access to water, hygiene facilities, and support. Ayesha daily collects more than 15 litres of water from the centre's reservoir for her household needs.



Ayesha stands in front of MHM poster at WHC, BRAC.

She and her children also use the centre's facilities for bathing and laundry. The centre has three bathing cubicles and two latrines, with one cubicle designated specifically for women and girls to wash and dry clothes, especially during their menstruation. This dedicated space allows Ayesha and her 13-year-old daughter to maintain privacy and dignity, as men and outsiders are not allowed in the centre. In contrast, using the communal bathing facilities near her shelter often led to discomfort earlier due to cultural barriers.

Before the centre's upgradation, Ayesha had to burn used menstrual clothes or throw those in the trash, posing health and environmental risks. Currently, Ayesha receives menstrual hygiene kits (with reusable pads and underwear) every six months, and she appreciates the quality of the pads produced in the camps. Ayesha's husband supports her spending time in the centre with their children. The facility allows them to collect water, and it also saves their time, previously lost for standing in long queues and for transport, especially during the dry season.



Ayesha cleaning clothes at the laundry facility of WHC, BRAC.



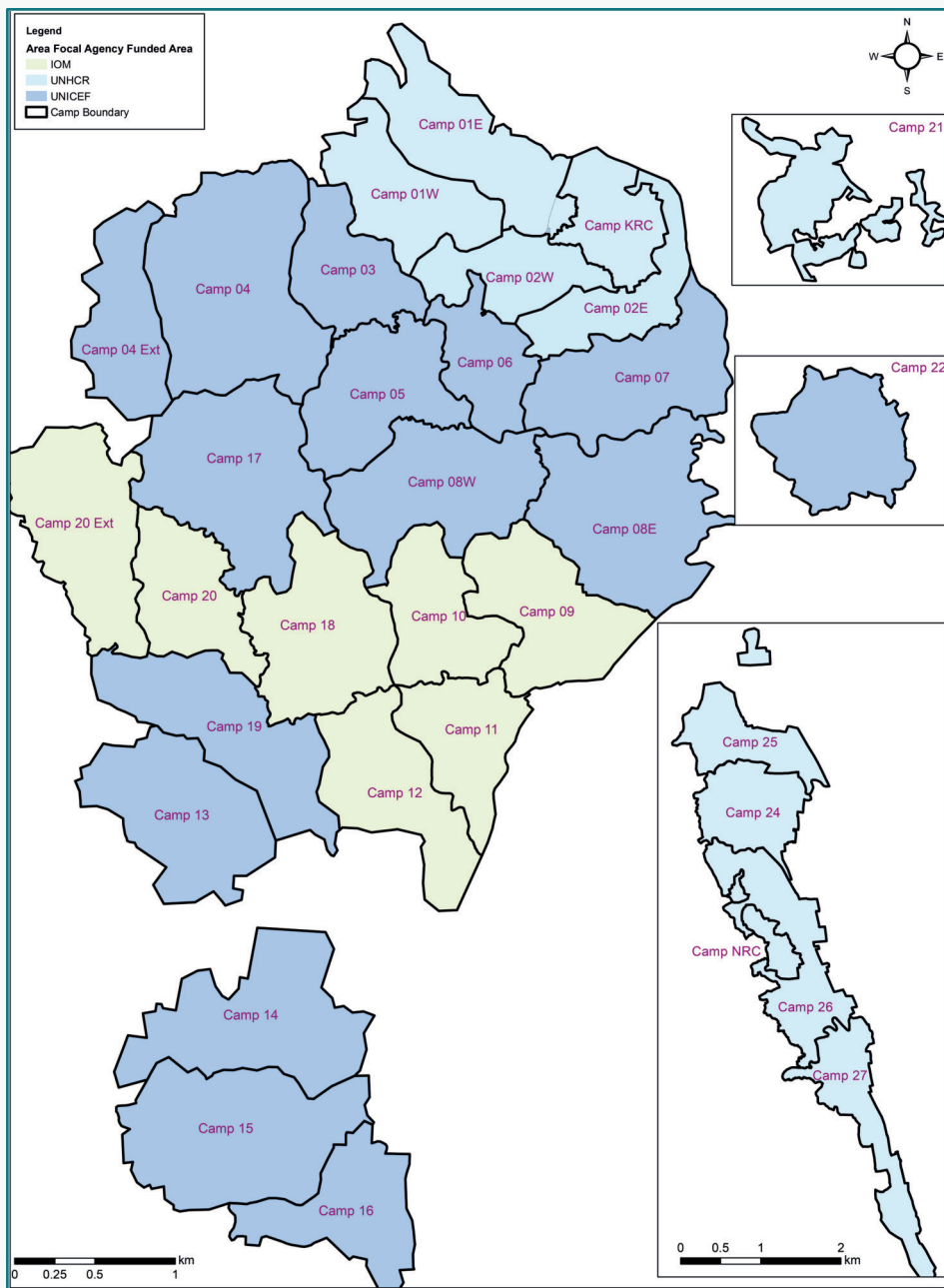
Image (left): Ayesha's daughter entering bathing cubicle at the WHC to clean her period's cloth.

"I used to feel distressed, shy, and unclean during my periods due to cultural and religious restrictions. But now, with access to the Women Hygiene Centre, I can keep myself clean and maintain proper hygiene," Ayesha shares.

The centre has also become a place of solace for Ayesha. She engages in activities like sewing, drawing, and socialising with the helpful volunteers and other women, which alleviates her stress, caused by past traumas and family arguments. The Women's Hygiene Centre has improved her quality of life, enabling her to maintain hygiene during periods and live with dignity.

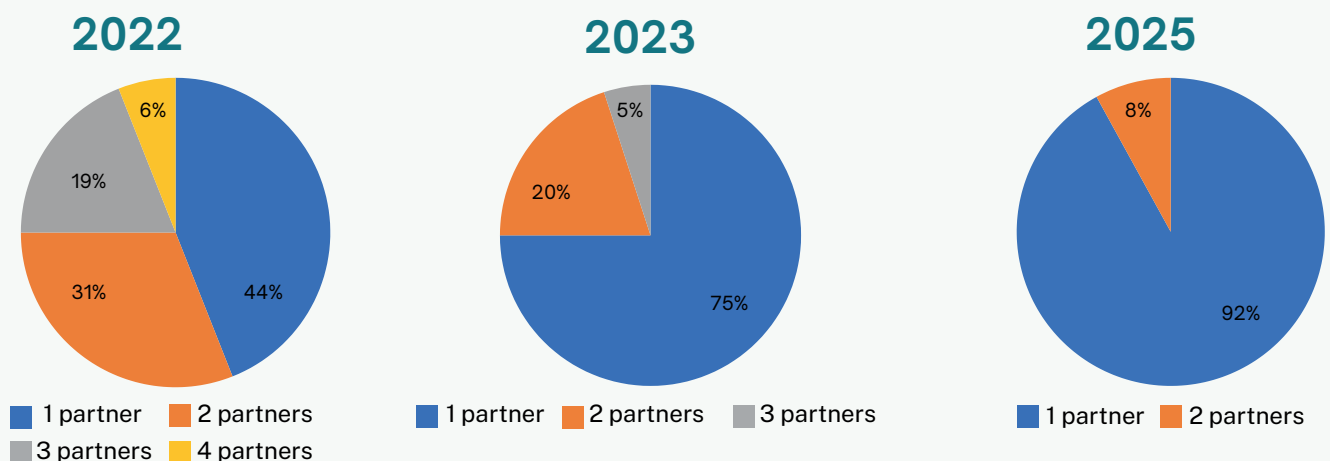


Geographical Rationalisation



- From 2025, UNICEF is going to scale up with seven additional camps.
- Teknaf is fully covered by UNHCR.
- The NGOs are taking more responsibilities as operational partners through co-funding.
- As the area focal agency, UNICEF is covering 50 per cent, UNHCR 31 per cent and IOM 13 per cent of the refugees.

Evolution in the number of WASH partners per block



Programmatic rationalisation efforts

Achieved

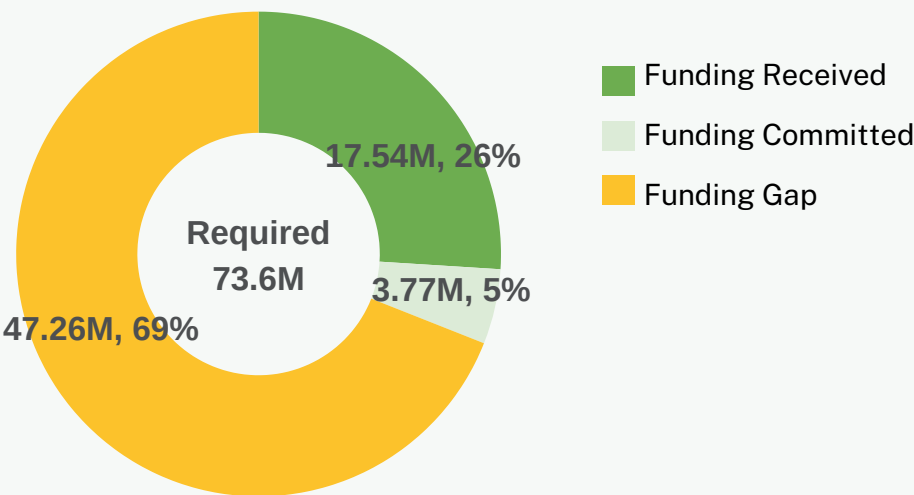
- Collaboration with livelihood on producing MHM kits in the camps by vulnerable women, which are cheaper to procure (\$0.6 million savings/year).
- Decrease standards for soap (\$4.0 million savings/year) HH segregation?? and collection of waste (proving cost efficiency).
- Strengthen Community engagement and ownership (guidance on SWM).
- Reduce the number of small FSTPs for bigger and more cost-efficient sludge treatment plants with sewerage networks.
- Decrease contingency capacity of the beneficiaries from 30 per cent to 10 per cent.

On-going or planned

- Possible collaboration with livelihood on local production of soaps.
- New long-term water strategy with stronger community involvement (e.g., shallow tube-wells to be repaired by the communities concerned), and better performing water-networks.
- Review all WASH facilities – provided in kind: reduce package and harmonization.
- Transition on HP (stronger focus on community engagement and collaboration with the CHWs).
- Collaboration and advocacy with World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

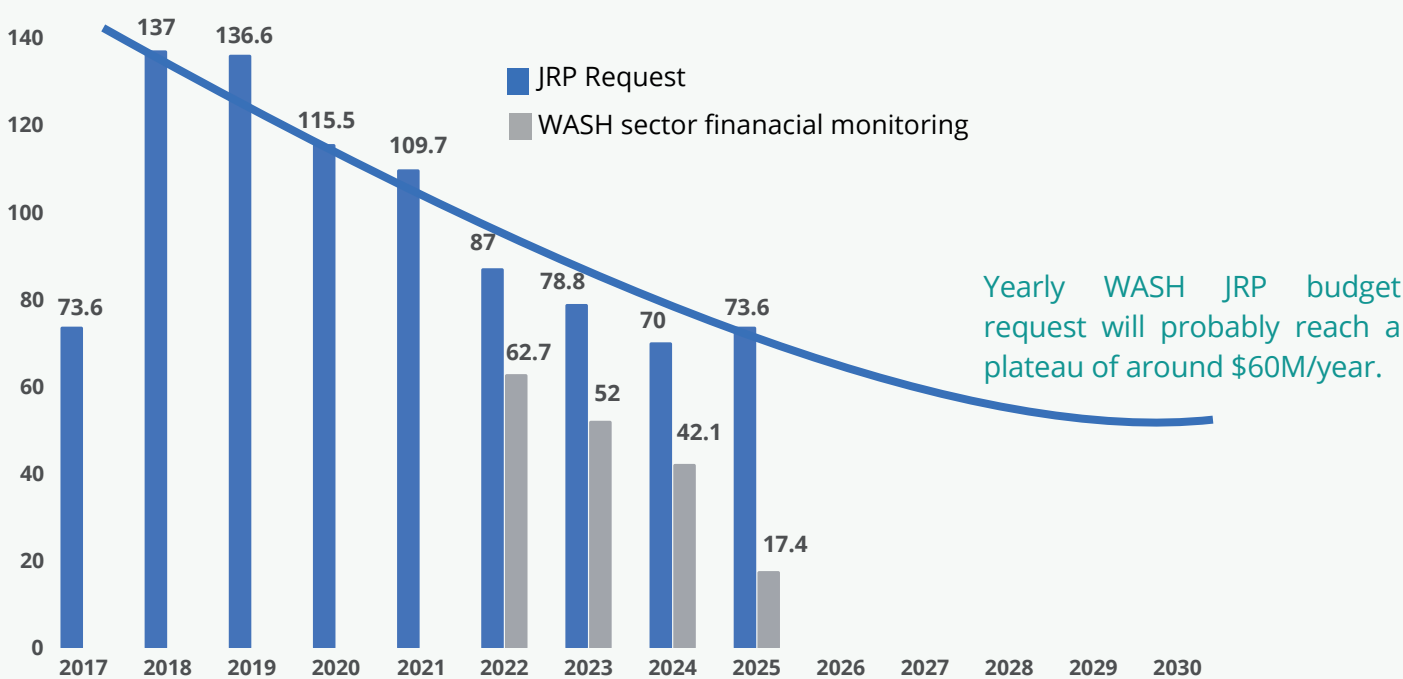


2025 WASH Funding (February)



- The WASH sector has secured 31 per cent of its total JRP request for 2025 until February 2025 (**below the average of all sectors at 41 per cent**) while UNRR (March 2025) has identified WASH as a “firewall” sector (at least for Water & sanitation).
- 21.3 million USD are secured as of February 2025; in 2024, it was \$16.2M and \$25.7M in 2023.
- This new drop-down is within a context when 2023 and 2024 were significant years of budget reduction for WASH (**18 per cent per year on average**).
- WASH has made a significant effort on rationalization (the JRP 2024-2025 request has decreased by **47 per cent compared to the emergency years 2018-2019**) while JRP total budget has decreased by only 7% over same timeframe. WASH is encouraging financial partners to considered significant rationalization efforts already done by WASH as a cost-efficient and life-saving sector.

WASH Sector Funding forecast (needs)



Lack of Funding: Concerns and Impacts



Unliveable living condition:

- 140 tonnes of waste per day
- 1,000m³ of sludge
- Environmental impact

Dignity and Privacy compromised:

- 640,000 MHM Kit/year
- Lack of safety to access toilets at night



Increasing conflict:

- Disparities among the camps
- Drop-down of water table in HC, and Waste over-flowing



More Water/hygiene borne-Outbreaks:

- Cholera
- Dengue
- Scabies
- Covid-19

Dignity and Privacy compromised:

- 50 per cent of the water networks are delivering water below standards (quality/quantity).



Aging WASH Infrastructures:

- Underfunding is leading to limited maintenance and accelerated aging of the infrastructure, and higher long-term costs.



The brief note is prepared on the basis of raw data, collected from the WASH partners. We thank them for their contributions as well as their tireless work on WASH activities.

The WASH Sector is also conveying thanks for the financial supports from ECHO.



WASH Sector Cox's Bazar

Contact

WASH Sector CXB DPHE, Old Sayemon Hotel
Road, Baharchara Cox's Bazar

rohingyaresponse.org 
washcoxsbar@gmail.com 
[@WASHSectorCXB](https://www.facebook.com/WASHSectorCXB) 



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

unicef 
for every child

WASH SECTOR CXB WASH
BRIEFING NOTE 2025