

ACHIEVING SAFELY MANAGED SANITATION IN BANGLADESH: AN OVERVIEW OF THE URBAN SANITATION (CWIS AND FSM) INITIATIVES

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Abstract

Given the nature of haphazard and unplanned urbanization and current sanitation practices in Bangladesh, implementing safe sanitation appears to be much more challenging in cities than in rural areas. Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) has emerged as a holistic approach to address this challenge, and it is now the primary agenda of the Government of Bangladesh to achieve the SDG 6.2 target through safely managed sanitation services in the cities. CWIS ensures equitable, adequate and affordable access to sanitation services for all citizens through appropriate systems. Fecal sludge management (FSM) is considered a viable solution for paurashavas, where on-site sanitation is predominant. However, existing and new infrastructure should be operated in a planned mechanism so that services are delivered to a wide range of stakeholders in a well-synchronized and coordinated way. The CWIS service framework has been designed to achieve this objective. The framework has been divided into three service outcomes and system functions. The service outcomes (equity, safety and sustainability) are achieved through successfully implementing three system functions (responsibility, accountability and resource planning and management).

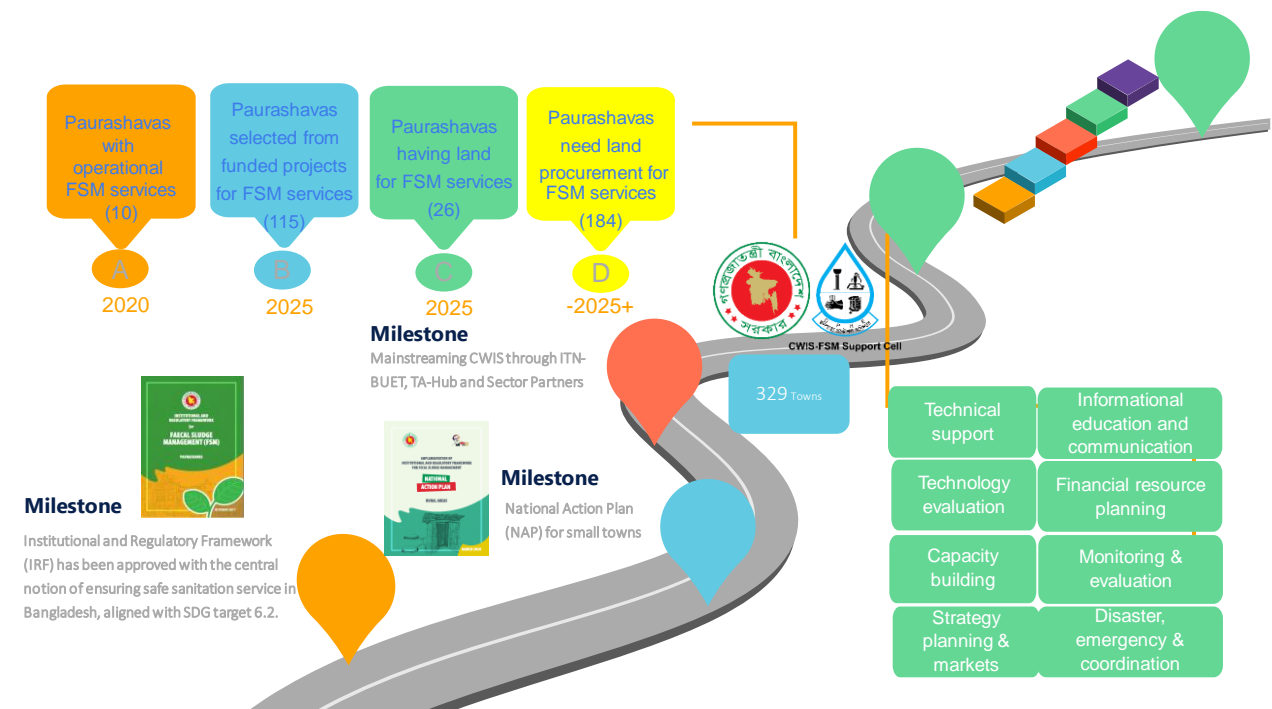


Figure: Roadmap for safely managed sanitation in Bangladesh to achieve SDG 6.2 (Ref: DPHE CWIS-FSM Support Cell)

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has activated its CWIS journey through the formulation of the Institutional and Regulatory Framework for FSM (IRF-FSM) in 2017 and later through the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP), for guiding the phase-wise sanitation project implementation in 329 paurashavas in the country upto 2030. The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders have been clarified in the IRF-FSM, where DPHE acts as a nodal agency for implementing CWIS projects in paurashavas. I/NGOs played an instrumental role through action research and the FSM value chain demonstration. The GoB and development partners have committed significant resources, adopting the CWIS strategies to address the sanitation challenges in cities in Bangladesh. However, much depends on the successful implementation of these projects and the capacity of the paurashavas to adopt the CWIS service framework to achieve safely managed sanitation services in Bangladesh.