Project Name: Expansion of safe drinking water, sanitation, and WASH facilities and public awareness activities in disaster-prone areas of the southwestern region.

1. Project Background

For a long time, the southwestern regions of Bangladesh have been at risk from various natural and man-made disasters such as cyclones, storm surges, floods, waterlogging, salinity intrusion, and arsenic contamination driven by climate change. These disasters severely disrupt the livelihoods and public health of local communities by destroying safe drinking water sources and causing increased water salinity, arsenic contamination, and unsafe sanitation conditions.

Against this backdrop, since 1993, IDO has been consistently implementing various activities in climate-vulnerable areas of southwestern Bangladesh. These initiatives focus on establishing and supplying safe drinking water sources such as deep tube wells, Pond Sand Filters (PSF), and Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RWHS) constructing and promoting the use of safe sanitation facilities, and raising public awareness regarding hygiene (WASH).



Over this extended period, IDO has implemented various projects through the active participation of local communities, the involvement of local institutions and volunteers, and the financial and technical support of various development partners and donor agencies. To date, it has been possible to bring approximately 350,000 people under the coverage of WASH facilities, either directly or indirectly.

2. Past Activities and Achievements:

Since 1993, IDO has been conducting activities in the following key areas—

- Establishment and development of sources for safe drinking water free from arsenic and salinity;
- Ensuring the construction and use of PSF, RWHS, deep tube-well, and shallow tube-well systems;
- Safe drinking water supply and storage systems for disaster periods;
- Ensuring the construction and use of safe and hygienic sanitation systems;
- Raising public awareness regarding water, sanitation, and hygiene;
- WASH-related behavioral change activities at school, community, and family levels;
- Involving local populations and community leadership in WASH activities;

- Ensuring safe water and sanitation facilities for vulnerable populations during disasters;
- Building capacity for WASH management and maintenance at the local level.

Various donor and development partner organizations including Oxfam, JADE-Japan, the Australian High Commission, NGO Forum, and UNDP/CDMP have provided financial and technical support for the implementation of these activities. This support has enabled the implementation of need-based WASH infrastructure and awareness-raising initiatives for the local community



3. Current Challenges and Necessities:

The scarcity of safe drinking water remains a critical issue in the coastal and disaster-prone areas of the southwestern region. Due to the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels, the spread of salinity, frequent cyclones and storm surges, and prolonged waterlogging existing water sources in many areas are becoming unfit for use.

On the other hand, many families from poor and marginalized communities are unable to secure safe water sources, hygienic sanitation, and essential WASH facilities using their own resources. Consequently, the risk of waterborne diseases and health hazards for women and children increases, and the overall quality of life is compromised.

In this context, alongside disaster relief, integrated initiatives focusing on disaster preparedness, safe water and sanitation infrastructure, hygiene practices, and long-term community capacity building are crucial.

4. Project Objectives:

a. Overall Objective:

To ensure safe drinking water, safe sanitation, and WASH facilities for disaster-prone and vulnerable communities in the southwestern region, and to enhance the capacity of local communities to address water crises caused by arsenic, salinity, and disasters.

b. Specific Objectives

1. To establish safe drinking water sources and rehabilitate and improve water supply systems.
2. To take necessary measures to protect the population from arsenic and salinity.
3. To construct safe and hygienic sanitation facilities and increase their usage.
4. To foster awareness and behavioral changes regarding WASH at the household, educational

institution, and community levels.

5. Enhance local capacity to maintain safe water and sanitation services during disasters.
6. Involve local communities, volunteers, institutions, and relevant stakeholders in project implementation and maintenance.

5. Objectives of the Proposed Project:

IDO is working towards bringing approximately 50,000 households under the coverage of safe drinking water, safe sanitation, and essential WASH facilities by the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Under the project, activities such as the development or installation of safe water sources, water supply and storage systems, safe sanitation facilities, hygiene awareness programs, and the provision of WASH support during disasters will be implemented based on needs and local realities.



6. Implementation Strategy:

The project will be community-based, participatory, and needs-based. Through the active participation of the local community, the project will address the assessment of needs, selection of beneficiaries, installation of WASH infrastructure, and arrangements for its use and maintenance.

IDO's VS Centers will play a pivotal role in project implementation, local-level coordination, raising public awareness, training, monitoring, and follow-up activities. Additionally, local government institutions, community organizations, representatives of women and youth, teachers, volunteers, and other relevant stakeholders will be engaged as needed.

7. Expected Outcomes:

Upon successful implementation of the project—

- Approximately 50,000 households will gain access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and WASH facilities;
- Health risks associated with the use of arsenic-contaminated and saline water will be reduced;
- Safe water sources and supply systems will be improved;
- The rate of safe and hygienic sanitation usage will increase;
- Access to WASH facilities for women, children, and other vulnerable groups will be enhanced;
- Public knowledge and awareness regarding hygiene practices and the use of safe water will increase;
- Community capacity for managing safe water and sanitation during disasters will be enhanced;
- Sustainable use and maintenance of WASH facilities will be ensured through the participation of the local community.

8. Sustainability and Community Ownership:

A key feature of the project will be community ownership and participation. Priority will be given not merely to infrastructure construction, but to empowering the public in areas such as the use of safe water, sanitation maintenance, hygiene practices, and disaster preparedness.

Initiatives will be taken to sustain the project's benefits in the long term by involving the local population, community representatives, and relevant local institutions in the planning, implementation, utilization, and maintenance of the project.

9. Call for Collaboration:

IDO has long been working to ensure the rights of marginalized and disaster-prone communities in the southwestern region to safe water, sanitation, and healthy living. In the past, with the support of various

donors and development partners, it has been possible to bring approximately 350,000 people under the coverage of WASH facilities, either directly or indirectly.



Building on this sustained success, an initiative has been undertaken to bring approximately 50,000 families under the coverage of safe drinking water, safe sanitation, and WASH facilities during the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

To this end, IDO seeks financial, technical, and institutional support from government bodies, local government institutions, national and international donor agencies, development partners, and private sector organizations. Through concerted efforts, it will be possible to expand access to safe water, hygienic sanitation, and a dignified life for the vulnerable populations of the southwestern region.

IDO believes ***"Ensuring safe water, safe sanitation, and hygiene is not merely a development activity; it is a key prerequisite for building a healthy, dignified, and disaster-resilient society."***

Integrated Development Organization-IDO
Bangladesh.