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## Aim

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Faith-Based WASH intervention through religious centres, and schools

## Study countries

Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal

## Intervention development

The intervention package was developed from religious textbooks focusing on safe water, hygienic toilet, child feces management and menstrual hygiene management. It was reviewed by community members.

## Intervention Delivery Mechanism

Delivered by teachers, students groups, mosque preachers, priests, WASH leaders and peer educators

## Number of activities

Training of trainers: 19  
Community meetings: 19  
Peer group trainings: 19  
WASH in Friday prayer: 42

## Number of beneficiaries

### *Bangladesh:*

Islamic school teachers: 171  
School students: 2550  
Adult male: 40  
Adult female: 60

### *Indonesia:*

Teachers, and Priest: 60  
School students: 4745  
Adult male: 1200  
Adult female: 845

### *Nepal:*

Islamic school teachers: 30  
School students: 200  
Adult male: 548  
Adult female: 548

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# Research Brief

## Evaluation of a Faith-Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene intervention

### Background

Faith-based programmes are believed to be potential for promoting behavior change and attribute to improved health and were successful to improve general health maintenance, cholesterol and blood pressure levels, weight, and cardiovascular health but have been unheeded to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) status. We designed a Before-After-Control-Impact study to evaluate the effectiveness of a faith-based water, sanitation, and hygiene intervention.

### Methods

A faith-based WASH behavior change communication (BCC) intervention was designed to improve the WASH situation in Islamic schools, their associated mosques and corresponding communities in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal. Christian communities in Bangladesh and Indonesia were also covered. Ten villages from Bangladesh, six from Indonesia and two from Nepal was chosen as study villages. Half of the villages in each country received the behaviour change intervention and remaining were monitored as controls. We conducted a baseline survey in all villages and delivered the intervention for six months to the intervention groups and then conducted the endline survey among 192 households from Bangladesh, 236 households Indonesia and 248 from Nepal. Structured questionnaire for the data collection to determine current hygiene practices, facilities and knowledge was used. The data collector conducted face-to-face interviews, spot checks of facilities and observed hand washing demonstrations. Data were processed and analyzed using STATA (version 13) software.

### Interventions

Using the Islamic and Christian textbooks the intervention package was developed and was reviewed by community representatives before finalization. The dissemination protocol for the finalized BCC package allowed teacher and students groups in Islamic schools, preachers in the

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## Policy Recommendations

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- ~ Further study should be conducted to generate proper evidence
- ~ Faith-based intervention should be merged with other existing intervention
- ~ Water should be made more available in the households
- ~ Availability of soap and water inside or nearer to toilet can improve the hand washing practices
- ~ Awareness campaign should be carried out about the necessity and proper hand washing system
- ~ Very little work has been done on menstrual hygiene, should be more explored and supports should be provided
- ~ Proper disposal system of human excreta should be there in every household
- ~ A multisystem approach by both government and non-government organizations should be there to improve the existing situation

mosque, peer educators in the Muslim community and Priest and WASH leaders in the Christian community to deliver the messages. All of these people delivering the intervention were trained through formal “Training of Trainers” sessions on effective WASH awareness dissemination. The student’s groups were trained to arrange monthly students’ meetings, teachers were requested to conduct the monthly session, preacher to talk during Friday prayers, Priest and WASH leaders requested to train community members on WASH. The peer educators conducted one community meeting using flip charts in each community among adult and adolescent women focusing on safe water, hygienic toilet, child feces management and menstrual hygiene management.

## Results

In Bangladesh, our intervention improved the hand washing behaviour, increased the use of improved toilet, increased the knowledge on safe water and increased the practice of washing rag with soap for managing menstruation. In Indonesia, our intervention increased the use of improved toilets, increased the use of potty for children of <3years age, caregivers were more likely to dispose child faeces into pit or toilet and increased the knowledge on safe water. In Nepal, more children of <3years age used a potty, more people gained knowledge on safe water due to our intervention and women and adolescent girls significantly reduced the use of old cloth as absorbent during menstruation.

Our intervention improved the perception of safe water, perception on water borne disease, knowledge on importance of hand washing among beneficiaries. Our community meetings and adolescent student group meeting increased knowledge, awareness, and practice on proper menstrual hygiene management among adolescent girls and adult women.

Our study demonstrated improvement in knowledge and practices among intervention communities compared to control, suggesting that faith-based approach to be effective for delivering WASH messages to improve handwashing practices and child feces management. This is the first study focused on the Islamic faith-based approach to design and promote WASH interventions, which could be further tested as part of a broader intervention.

Country	Type of Intervention	Target Group	# of Participants	Method	Total Number
Bangladesh	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam	Adolescent Boys	120	Training of Trainers	4
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam	Adolescent Girls	120	Training of Trainers	4
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam and MHM	Adult women and adolescent girls	120	Monthly community meeting by peer educator	4
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam and MHM	Madrasa Teachers	120	Training of Trainers	4
Indonesia	WASH	Imams and community	60	Training of Trainers	2
	Behavior change communication regarding hand washing and MHM	Islamic Boarding School students	4645	Hand washing campaign	4
	Behavior change communication regarding hand washing and MHM	Community Adult male, women and adolescent boys and girls	100	Monthly community meeting by peer educator	2
	Behavior change education	Islamic Boarding School students	100	Training of Trainers	1
Nepal	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam	Adolescent Boys	120	Training of Trainers	2
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam	Adolescent Girls	120	Training of Trainers	2
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam and MHM	Community Adult women and adolescent girls	120	Monthly community meeting by peer educator	2
	Behaviour change communication regarding WASH & Islam and MHM for female teachers	Madrasa Teachers	120	Training of Trainers	2