

# Clean water helps protect families.

## Bhetkhali, South Bangladesh

Today, Bangladesh is the seventh most climate-change-affected country in the world. Situated on low-lying flood and tidal plains, it has one of the most disaster-prone deltas on earth. But for a country that sees so much water (there are 24,000kms of river) much of it is undrinkable.

In the north the rivers are contaminated with arsenic and in the south, where Bhetkhali is, the rivers are too salty due to saltwater intrusion. Bangladesh is prone to cyclones, floods and periods of drought.

## Clean water will empower more women like Komola

**Komola Munda, Rainwater Plant Caretaker.**

A respected member of the community, Komola was elected to take care of the rainwater harvesting system in her community, Kolbari, which she enjoys. She also makes mats for a living and looks after her daughter.

Before the rainwater harvesting system, Komola would have no choice but to make long journeys to a pond to collect dirty water. As a result, she often suffered from diarrhoea. With more time and better health, Komola now attends training sessions on women's rights. She is determined to share her newfound knowledge with her community.



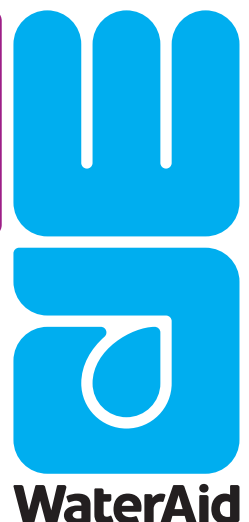
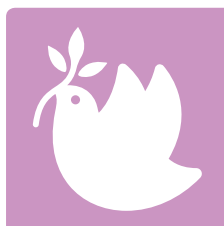
In Bangladesh:

**3.79**  
million people don't  
have clean water

**45%**  
of the population  
doesn't have toilets



**"I want to teach my community that boys and girls are equal, they have equal rights, and that there should be no discrimination." Komola**



### Debendranath, village elder, storyteller.

Debendranath has worked as a farmer most of his life and has a wife and six children. The work has been hard and over the years, he's seen everything he owns destroyed by a cyclone, twice.

His water sources dried up, forcing him to buy water, and the washroom he started building for his family remains unfinished as he had to spend all his savings on a lifesaving operation for his daughter.

The most important thing for Debendranath is providing for his family. He hopes his children and grandchildren won't face as many hardships as he has.



**"The water situation in my community has worsened over the years. We cannot source the water directly from the pond because of the hot weather, which has dried them up."**  
Debendranath



WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir

## The solution: A rainwater harvesting system.

The Munda people have very few options for clean water in their village, but what they do have a lot of is rain. Rainwater can be some of the cleanest and naturally found water anywhere.

To establish the system we will work together with the community and local partners to erect a specially constructed roof in a communal area that will collect the rain water. A carefully installed guttering system will divert water from the roof to the large water tanks for collection.

### Advantages of rainwater harvesting

- Low maintenance
- Easy to install
- Rainwater can be used without treatment (providing a clean surface has been used)



WaterAid/ Fabeha Monir

Komola, Caretaker of the Rainwater Harvesting System (RWHS), collects clean water at the RWHS pump, Kolbari, Bangladesh

**Clean water means life.**

**Please work together with the Munda community and donate today. Thank you.**

