

## Learning from the past, leading into the future: Saving lives through inclusive WASH

### Context

1. Following 26 years of civil war (war ended 2009), there are tensions when working with Central Government (as opposed to Local Authorities) in the North. Government and Local Authorities are not ready to share their data and approvals for activities are required from both sides of Government, which takes time and can be political.
2. Lack of fresh water sources to develop, as groundwater is contaminated by improper storage and disposal of generator oil during the war, nitrates from inadequate treatment and disposal of human waste, and overuse of fertilisers and salt water intrusion.

### Highlights of the approach

1. Using Citizen Voice in Action to focus on WASH advocacy, so community based WASH Groups can advocate on behalf of their communities to Government for better WASH services.
2. Train, resource and mentor our partner Local Authorities, disability peoples' organisations and WASH Community Based Organisations (CBOs) on the human-rights based model of disability and principles of disability inclusive development.
3. Using smartphone technology and GIS mapping to undertake baseline, M&E throughout the project.

### Let's celebrate!

Resettlement families struggled to pay expensive piped water connection costs in the post-war context in Jaffna. Representatives from WASH CBOs, World Vision and others advocated with the Ministry of Water Supply and City Planning in Colombo for the connection fee be reduced. This advocacy led to the Ministry reducing the water connection fee from 26,000 Rupees (\$260 AUD) to 5,600 Rupees (\$56 AUD).



People with disabilities involved in training and data collection during the baseline data collection.



A 30,000 litre rainwater harvesting system constructed in schools.



Thanujiya and Thamilperiyam, both affected by a nerve condition leaving them unable to walk or balance, pictured in front of their completed disability inclusive toilet.

### Things to learn

1. Water source options where groundwater is limited and rainfall is low
2. Low cost biogas toilet options
3. Salt and nitrate reduction water treatment methods for households and communities

### Things to share

1. Training and equipping change agents and project staff on disability awareness and principles of disability inclusive development. Involving local people with disabilities and the Christian Blind Mission (CBM, an international disability development organisation) at the outset of a project enhances confidence and willingness to engage with disability inclusion beyond mere tokenism.
2. The Fiscal Transfer Mechanism assists Local Authorities to develop successful proposals to their Provincial Government for funding improvements to WASH services. Funding is initially matched 50:50 with World Vision, then reduces the following two years until government funds the proposal 100%.
3. Partnership with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), who have capacity to construct, operate and maintain urban/peri-urban water and sewerage services.



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