Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to health and wellbeing.

Water for Women is partnering with World Vision in the delivery of SHOMOTA in several communities in Bangladesh, with an aim of reaching an estimated 36,600 people.

Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women. Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in WASH.

Water for Women is the Australian Government’s flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.
SHOMOTA - strengthening gender equality and social inclusion in WASH in Bangladesh

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all.

Despite having made significant gains in increasing water and sanitation coverage in Bangladesh, there are still many who are unable to access basic WASH services that meet the national standard. This includes remote communities and marginalised populations such as minority groups, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities.

SHOMOTA will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

The goal of SHOMOTA is to improve gender and disability inclusive WASH in schools and communities.

In Bangladesh, lack of access to WASH services is an everyday reality for women and people with disabilities. The SHOMOTA project is changing this by breaking down barriers and creating access for those who have been left behind."

- Fred Witteveen, National Director, World Vision Bangladesh

The project will work with change agents to strengthen the capacity of sub-national government officials, schools and community-based organisations (CBOs) to build sustainable institutions and improve engagement throughout the sector to increase efficacy and drive improved WASH behaviours.

The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

Australia understands that equitable WASH access is crucial in developing countries. Water for Women and our partners will provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery in Bangladesh, and contribute to global WASH evidence and research.

The Australian aid program is investing in Bangladesh over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with World Vision Australia in the delivery of SHOMOTA. Other partners we will be working with include: World Vision Bangladesh, SKS Foundation, Centre for Disability in Development, Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association, National Council of Disabled Women, BBC Media Action and Unilever Bangladesh.

Find out more at waterforwomenfund.org