



Bangladesh





Place: where is this and what is it like?

Where is this case study located? (country, region, continent etc)

Signal Tower Colony - a small community of residents next to the Pashur river, in Ratarati Slum, Mongla, Bangladesh, Asia.

What is it like here? (physical, political, economic, social)

*Little fresh water.
People struggling - high poverty levels, poor health.
Little or no community support from authorities - illegal settlement.
Not connected to infrastructure.
Homes mostly built from tin or palms as not permanent [Community Profile].
It floods but the government built an embankment to prevent this. [Community Profile].*

What can you find out about this place?

*This area has about 3000 people. [Community Profile]
It began to be populated in 1971 when 300-400 households arrived overnight. [Community Profile]
The community is mostly made up of climate-induced migrants. [Community Profile]
Bangladesh is a poor nation with a young population. [In the Frame: Bangladesh]*



How might it feel to live in this place?

It could be worrying for you and your family. You might feel tensions or stress. You might be thirsty or unwell. You could feel upset or angry that the situation is as it is. Maybe you feel let down by those in authority. It might be hard to be optimistic about the future. Relief when you could get water and were not ill.



Issues: what is happening here and why?

What are the issues here?

*Little fresh water – the river is saltwater.
No water connection.
Rainwater harvesting pond over an hour away.
Contaminated and unreliable water points.
Water is too expensive to buy from a vendor.
No electricity or good roads (until recently).
No secure housing agreement (tenure).
A legal water point would only be available for a short time also.*

Why might these issues be important?

*Because housing is not secure, people are scared to spend a lot of money on a water connection in case they are forced to move.
The contaminated water makes people sick.
Dehydration makes people sick.*

How might the issues create tensions?

*In the queue for water – if some people get it and others don't this can cause tensions.
Silpi's daughter is autistic – this may cause tension and worry for Silpi, and perhaps between her and other community members.*



What if water were not available to you?

*Practical: thirsty, personal hygiene, diet (cooking), tired (having to find water somewhere else), headaches, concentration, energy.
Feelings: worried, anxious, angry, frustrated, despairing, unfair.*



People: who is involved?

Who are the different stakeholders involved?

From the **Stakeholder Cards**, learners might identify some of the following:

Community management (water committees), Government, Local Government, Women, Children, Men, Families with additional needs, Local vendors, NGOs, Grassroots community organisations.

Who is affected?

Silpi and her neighbours, and their families.

Who is responsible?

Residents themselves, partly, Government, NGOs, industries and agriculture (for pollution in water).
Global community for their part in climatic changes and its impact on water resources.

How might people be differently impacted? Are some more vulnerable than others?

Those with more stable incomes can buy water.
Single parents and women may be more vulnerable. Working at the same time as caring for young children and a child with a condition such as autism may be extremely challenging.



Who do you most connect with? What would you want to ask them?



Solutions: how is the situation being addressed?

How do people respond?

*They campaign to the mayor.
They buy water.
They walk far for water.*

Are there any solutions to the situation?

*Working together is a part of many of the solutions.
Communicating with the government and NGOs might help to identify solutions.
The local government could charge less for connecting the community to the water infrastructure, and for monthly bills.
The community could dig a water pond themselves.
They could campaign for tenure security to help them feel secure in their houses and so willing to invest in water supplies.
The government and NGOs could subsidise rainwater harvesting tanks for individuals or groups of families sharing a larger tank.*

What is needed to make the solution possible?

*Individuals, community groups and grassroots organisations working with local government and NGOs.
Funding as the community are too poor to afford the full cost of technologies.*



If you lived here what would a solution mean to you?

Peace of mind, improved health, save time and money, happier.



Why might being involved in a solution be important?

Empowerment, confidence, resilience, personal wellbeing, self-esteem, dignity.