

3. Rainwater harvesting for safe drinking water in salinity-affected coastal Char Wapda community, Bangladesh

- **Local partner:** Footsteps Community Development Foundation (#029)
Footsteps Bangladesh is a community-focused development organization founded in 2013, working to help vulnerable communities overcome local challenges. The organization works with WASH, public health, climate action, disaster resilience, environmental protection and livelihood development, through programs implemented across Bangladesh.
- **Project cost:** \$2,650 (JWF Fund: \$1,500, other donors \$400, organization: \$500, beneficiaries: \$250)
- **Number of beneficiaries:** 700 (210 men, 260 women, 230 children)
- **Background:**

Char Wapda Union in Subarnachar Upazila is a coastal community where access to safe drinking water is becoming increasingly difficult. The area is exposed to tidal flooding, river erosion, salinity intrusion and seasonal freshwater scarcity. Continuous ground water extraction, especially for agricultural irrigation, has lowered water availability and made many household tube wells weak, dry or unusable. As a result, poor households often depend on unsafe ponds, distant water sources or must purchase water for drinking and daily use.



Declining groundwater makes tube wells unreliable



Large agricultural fields have increased irrigation water demand



Families depend on distant sources for drinking water

- **Project details:**
 - Construct two 2,000ℓ community rainwater harvesting facilities, form a local water management committee, conduct 3 awareness and training sessions, and 1 classroom session.
 - The project is designed to remain functional through community ownership. A small water management group will be formed with 2 caretakers to oversee daily use. Local technicians and suppliers will be linked with the caretakers for affordable repairs, support and replacement materials.