



Capacity Statement

WASH



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) play a fundamental role in improving nutritional outcomes. The World Health Organization estimates that 50% of malnutrition is associated with repeated diarrhea or intestinal worm infections as a result of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene. Furthermore, the lack of sufficient safe water close to home has many indirect effects on nutrition. The time wasted collecting water or suffering from water-related illnesses reduces the caring capacity of mothers and prevents children from getting an education, which has a significant impact on their health, wellbeing and economic situation.

In cooperation with local partners, WHH has developed a coherent and [diverse portfolio of WASH activities](#) in many low- and middle-income countries covering both humanitarian and development contexts. Putting the user first, addressing sustainability by applying a holis-

tic systems strengthening approach¹, converting needs into demand and promoting hygiene behavior change to effectively block the transmission of diseases, are all fundamental principles for WHH's work in providing sustainable WASH services that can make a successful impact on hunger and poverty reduction.

Welthungerhilfe's WASH Mission Statement

Access to safe water and sanitation is a human right and a prerequisite for fighting hunger and poverty. Together with its implementing partners, Welthungerhilfe strives to make a contribution to the realization of this right, through the promotion of hygiene behavior change and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services that are equitable, and continue providing benefits to consumers over time.

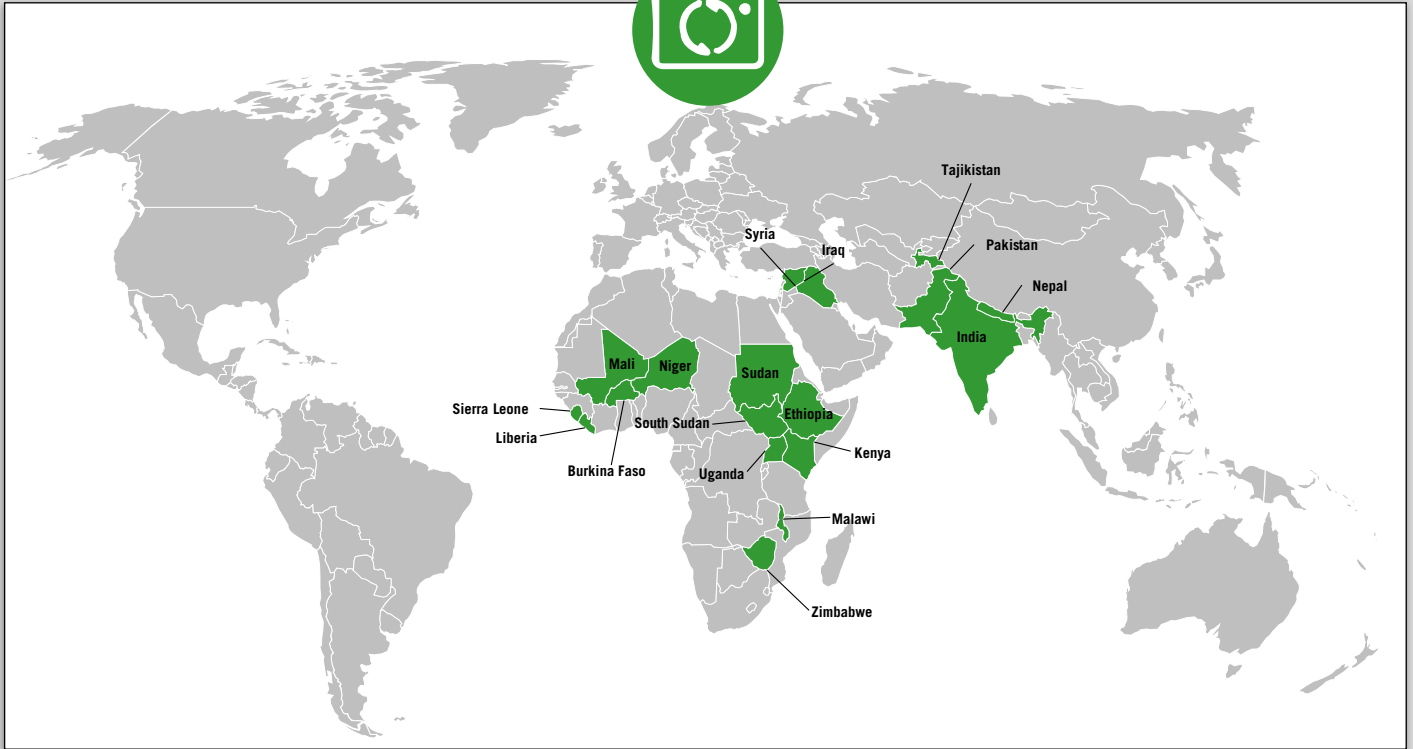
¹ A 'WASH system' can be defined as the entire network of people, organizations and institutions (actors) plus infrastructure, resources and behaviors (factors) that deliver WASH services.

Sector Snapshot

With more than 120 projects that contain a WASH-component, WHH reaches around three million beneficiaries, primarily located in the rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. WASH focus projects are implemented over a period of almost 3 years covering the broad spectrum of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

WHH's WASH projects under implementation (status 05/2021)

Number of integrated projects with a WASH component	126
Number of projects with a main focus on WASH	32
Total WASH volume	94 Mio. EUR
Average project volume	1.43 Mio. EUR
No. of direct beneficiaries	3.22 Mio.
Average project duration	34 months
Spatial context	Rural (69% of projects)



Partnerships / Networks

Welthungerhilfe has access to a broad network in the WASH sector, which provides opportunities to exchange with research, sector platforms, to publish learnings and for getting access to international forums. Welthungerhilfe is a member of.



partner of
sustainable
sanitation
alliance



Thematic Competencies

In its 50 years of existence, Welthungerhilfe has gained sufficient experience in all three dimensions of WASH, including solid and liquid waste management in the sanitation subsector.

Besides water supply, sanitation services and hygiene behavior change we have particular expertise in the areas of WASH in Schools, Menstrual Hygiene Management, WASH as a Business, Sanitation Marketing, WASH Self Supply and - owing to the fact that we are an organization with focus on nutrition security – on the link between WASH & Nutrition. Together with local partner organizations, Welthungerhilfe strengthens structures from the bottom up and ensures success of the project work in the long-term. In addition, we inform the public and take an advisory role on policy – nationally and internationally.

Special attention is paid to sustainability dimensions. Like many other INGO Welthungerhilfe had to realize painfully that the functionality of established WASH infrastructure decreases significantly 3-5 years after the end of the project terms. As a consequence Welthungerhilfe launched the [Sustainable Services Initiative \(SSI\)](#), an internal programme improving the sustainability of Welthungerhilfe's WASH programmes, primarily through encouraging the uptake of a systems strengthening approach and to advocate across the sector and partner countries for a more sustainable approach to WASH programming.

Publications / Links

Orientation Framework WASH:

With the Orientation Framework Welthungerhilfe introduces quality standards and good WASH practices for its' WASH staff and for partners in the project countries .

WASH Country Profiles:

The document provides an overview of WHH's WASH work and features 18 WHH WASH focus countries on one page each.

SSI Toolbox:

The SSI Toolbox is designed for country or field-based WASH practitioners seeking guidance and reference materials to understand and apply systems strengthening approaches. The Toolbox is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

Institutional Capacities

WASH sector support for country programmes is provided through the Sector Strategy, Knowledge & Learning Unit, based at Welthungerhilfe's HQ, in Bonn, Germany. The unit is responsible for: i) the development of standards, and guidelines, ii) advisory services with regards to grant applications, internal consultation and professional back stopping, iii) knowledge exchange and internal networking, and iv) external networking and advocacy. Regional knowledge exchange workshops on specific topics are organised and facilitated by the unit regularly. A regional WASH advisor based in Lilongwe/Malawi provides in-country support to WHH's WASH teams with a focus on East and Southern Africa.

Our Country offices support the operations in terms of M&E, logistics, finance administration and security. Capacity building of WASH staff is supported on all levels. We make use of external technical assistance whenever we need to develop new thematic areas to keep Welthungerhilfes WASH portfolio state of the art. External WASH partners in this regard are currently Aguaconsult, GTO and WASH United.

Future challenges/upcoming topics

In the future, Welthungerhilfe's WASH sector will focus on the further integration of WASH with other sectors of Welthungerhilfe, a better connectivity to emergency WASH, the linking of WASH with IWRM and a further strengthening of systemic approaches.

WASH Indicator Manual:

An indicator compilation including service delivery and WASH sustainability indicators as well as indicators for menstrual hygiene management, WASH and nutrition, waste management, WASH and climate change and emergency WASH.

Minimum Requirements WASH:

A checklist to guide the planning process and implementation of WHH's WASH projects.

Contact:

WASH@welthungerhilfe.de

Sector Strategy, Knowledge & Learning Unit

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V.

Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 1

53173 Bonn, GERMANY