

Global Reach, Local Impact



Access to adequate and safe water and sanitation services saves lives. Yet millions of people still live without these basic human needs.

884 million people do not have access to safe water. 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation.

Source: Joint Monitoring Program of the World Health Organization and UNICEF, 2006

WSP is a global organization created in 1978 and administered by the World Bank with offices in 25 countries across four regions: Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia. Our mission is to support poor people in obtaining affordable, safe, and sustainable access to water and sanitation services.

WHAT DOES WSP DO?

WSP provides technical assistance, facilitates knowledge exchange, and promotes evidence-based advancements in sector dialogue. WSP's work in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, alongside our partners, has shown that specific and well targeted policies and institutions with clearly defined roles, accountability to citizens, and a strong focus on asset management are critical to delivering improved and sustainable services at lower cost.

HOW DOES WSP SUPPORT CLIENTS?

WSP's long term country commitments help cultivate strong relationships with client governments and partnerships with stakeholders. Drawing on these relationships and the global knowledge and lessons gathered from country activities WSP is committed to participate in, coordinate, and support governments to improve service delivery in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors.

ON WHAT THEMES DOES WSP WORK?

WSP promotes knowledge exchange in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector through global communities of practice on:

- Financing the sector
- Hygiene
- Rural water supply and sanitation
- Sanitation
- Strategic communications and consumer voice
- Urban water supply and sanitation



WSP approaches water and sanitation within a service delivery framework, always emphasizing that the sector cannot be viewed in isolation from wider service delivery and governance challenges.

WATER: Many countries are on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in water. WSP focuses on countries that are behind, with the aim of ensuring that the underserved and poor people do not get left out. WSP also focuses on the quality, standards, and sustainability of services for longer term poverty alleviation and improved quality of life.

SANITATION: Several countries are at risk of not meeting their MDG sanitation targets. The lack of access to improved sanitation, especially for poor rural and urban households, is a priority concern. WSP is working to develop and promote adequate and sustainable sanitation tailored to the diverse needs and capacities of communities. WSP also works with partners to improve the monitoring of service provision.

HYGIENE: Despite proven benefits, rates of handwashing with soap remain low throughout the developing world. Large scale promotion of handwashing behavior change remains a challenge. WSP is implementing global projects to develop and share evidence, practical knowledge, and tools for improving hygiene. WSP aims to render hygiene a core component of improved water supply and sanitation.

What outcomes do WSP's activities achieve for its various clients?

Increase well being of the most vulnerable groups by promoting large-scale programs that improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Improve effectiveness and accountability of service providers and improve capacity in local governments.

Strengthen regulatory and institutional bodies.

Strengthen the capacity of governments to track progress on and impact of water, sanitation, and hygiene indicators; and

Improve alignment and partnerships with multiple donors and sector stakeholders.





WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WSP'S ACTIVITIES?

Domestic Private Sector Participation

Since the public sector serves only a portion of poor populations, coordinated efforts from all parts of society are needed. WSP launched the Domestic Private Sector Participation Initiative (DPSPPI) to leverage effective and competitive local private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector, while also placing the local private sector on the global agenda in a coherent way. Through delegated management public-private partnerships, self-financing, and outsourcing of maintenance and monitoring of water supply systems, the local private sector is well suited to provide services to the poor because of their ability to adapt and respond to community needs. The Initiative currently supports 25 projects in four regions.

Services to the Urban Poor

A growing trend towards urbanization has left many in cities without access to proper water and sanitation. Formal service providers have often failed in performance efficiencies and in delivering services to the urban poor. Alternative service providers often lack the organization, regulation, and appropriate pricing needed to be effective. WSP provides a platform to develop innovative approaches and solutions to provide access to water and sanitation services for the urban poor, including the use of local private sector, delegated management, and community-managed commercial approaches.

Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing

The TSSM project focus is on learning how to sustainably scale up access to improved sanitation and positively impact the poor through improved health and wealth. The project is being implemented by national and local governments and the domestic private sector over four years in India, Indonesia, and Tanzania.

WSP is providing technical assistance, capacity building and facilitating the learning process. The project seeks to stop open defecation in communities and increase access to improved sanitation for 3.5 million people living in poor rural communities by creating large-scale demand for sanitation and sustainable range of supply of sanitation products and services that are affordable to the poor. The project strengthens the enabling environment to ensure long-term sustainability on a national scale. TSSM focuses on capturing and disseminating rigorous, evidence-based learning to sector practitioners, government clients, and donors.

Scaling Up Handwashing with Soap

The Scaling Up Handwashing with Soap Project focuses on learning how to sustainably scale hygiene behavior change, such as handwashing with soap, and positively impact the poor through improved health and wealth. The project is working with national and local governments in Benin, Peru, Senegal, Tanzania, and Vietnam to improve the handwashing behaviors of 5.4 million mothers, care-givers, and school children through a behavior-change approach based on social marketing principles. WSP is providing technical assistance, capacity building, and facilitating the learning process. The project focuses on a strong enabling environment to support long-term sustainability on a national scale. It also gathers rigorous, evidence-based learning of the health and poverty impacts resulting from the work to share with other professionals interested in replicating improved handwashing programs in other countries.



Economics of Sanitation

The Economics of Sanitation Initiative (ESI) is a response by WSP to major gaps in evidence among Southeast Asian countries on the economic aspects of sanitation. The study provides evidence that supports sanitation advocacy efforts and that helps policy-makers choose between alternative sanitation programs and technical options. The completed phase 1 study found that the economic costs of poor sanitation and hygiene amount to over US\$9.2 billion a year in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The ongoing phase 2 study is a cost-benefit analysis, conducted in representative rural and urban field sites in partner countries (now also including Yunnan Province, China). The study results will enable governments, donors, and households to make decisions about sanitation investments based on the relative costs and benefits of the available options. ESI is now ongoing in South Asia and Africa.

Country Status Overview

In Africa, WSP supports the preparation of Country Status Overviews (CSOs) to track progress towards achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs. The CSO transformed how the sector is monitored, looking beyond access monitoring to expose underlying factors preventing access. The CSOs collate existing information on investment and service delivery and identify successes and challenges in delivering sanitation and water supply services in each country. In line with the Paris Principles, the CSOs are also an opportunity to make specific suggestions to international development partners about where and how they engage


in the sector in given countries. The regional process is driven by the African Ministers Council on Water in collaboration with other development partners, including UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and regional civil society partners. This work has led some countries to establish national systems for more systematic monitoring of the state of the water and sanitation sector.

The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Wastewater Utilities (IBNET)

Urban water and wastewater providers worldwide are under increasing pressure to perform. Unstable energy prices threaten the financial viability of utility operations. Fresh water reserves are shrinking. Regulators and citizens are demanding water and wastewater services meet ever higher standards for environmental, social, and economic sustainability. To meet rising expectations, the WSP-administered IBNET provides the first global benchmark against which utilities and national policy-makers can measure their performance across providers, countries and regions, and gain a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. Information on more than 2,500 utilities in 100 countries can be found in the database. (www.ib-net.org)

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