

WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)

PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN) SECTOR PROFILE



Profile summary

Worldwide, PIN has been implementing long-term integrated WASH programs as well as humanitarian relief operations since 2003. Our primary beneficiaries are rural and semi-urban communities as well as institutions such as schools and health centers. **The main goal is to ensure sustainable water services for all.**

Rather than delivering donations, or focusing on construction and rehabilitation of water delivery schemes and sanitation infrastructure, we build solid **WASH systems**. Our work is based on capacity building, education and knowledge transfer. We provide support to technical education through TVETs, artisans and operators training. Capacity building of multi village management bodies and town water utilities is part of our routine programming. Therefore, the focus is on **professionalization of WASH services**.

WASH programing has been an essential part of our country strategies. In war torn Afghanistan we helped hundreds of rural communities with access to drinking

water in connection to improving livelihoods. In *Angola*, the PIN sanitation approach is a part of the government program that aims at behavioral change in hygiene and sanitation practices through community led total sanitation (CLTS) projects. In *Cambodia* and *DR Congo* we integrate WASH into health programs, working closely with health institutions in order to reduce water borne diseases. In *Ethiopia*, we deliver integrated WASH services through a multi-sectorial approach in order to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable. In emergency operations in conflict areas such as *Syria* and *Ukraine* we cooperate closely with water utilities and provide material support to rehabilitate complex water delivery networks. WASH is also part of the large relief operations after earthquakes, floods and droughts. In countries like *Pakistan*, *Sri Lanka*, *Cambodia* and *Myanmar* we have helped thousands recover from disasters via the provision of drinking water and sanitation services.

Problem statement

Most developing countries today struggle with a lack of good-quality drinking water. There are no reliable water supply or sewerage systems, and the existing water sources are often fragile and contaminated. Local women and children in many regions spend much of the day carrying water from sources that are miles away. Unsafe water consumption causes many diseases and epidemics that plague entire regions.

The problem is further aggravated by the fact that in developing countries there is usually insufficient awareness of hygiene and the risks related to the consumption of unsafe water. Improper hygiene and sanitation practices lead to an increase in waterborne diseases. Lack of management causes low sustainability and thus the efficiency and effectiveness of WASH interventions is at stake.

Root causes

Poor access and non-sustainability of water facilities



Sustainable access to safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation practices are crucial for achieving social and economic development, improving health and livelihoods. With the IPCC predicting increasing disruption of weather patterns due to climate change¹, combined with population growth, surface water supplies are becoming less reliable, thereby increasing the pressure on groundwater supplies that require more complex systems of management.

However, concentration on water source provision through infrastructure construction is not a stand-alone solution. If a solid and lasting management system is not in place, water sources are likely to become non-functional within a short period of time.

The administrative, financial and technical capacity of the water management structures remain a challenge. The modality for ensuring adequate financial resources to cover the long-term costs of water schemes has not been sufficiently evaluated, standardized and implemented.

The WASH sector has for too long focused on the idea that rural communities can cope left on their own. The assumption that they should be able to cover all costs is flawed and there is a need for alternative cost-sharing agreements.²

Inadequate hygiene and sanitation practices



There is a general lack of awareness, which along with certain social norms, prevent good hygiene and sanitation practices. In some countries governments adopt country-wide strategies such as Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Sanitation Marketing to eradicate open defecation. Implementation of such strategies requires the involvement of and investment into local administrations and/or CBOs. KAP surveys conducted by PIN in

rural areas reveal that despite regular hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns, provided by various actors, the practice of safe and hygienic behaviour remains low even though knowledge of the topic is often high.

Solutions

The above mentioned root causes can be solved by an integrated multi-sectoral approach which includes components of education, health, food security, natural resource management and resilience. Apart from the provision of new sources of drinking water, which goes hand-in-hand with thorough training courses on hygiene with plenty of demonstrations, we focus on water resource management and sustainability.

PIN's strategy for its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program has been to ensure **high program quality and to add value** to existing national and international initiatives. It uses the lessons learnt and acquired expertise from PIN's global experience to target the root factors of resilience, health and nutrition security. The strategy was developed using the Theory of Change methodology.

The quality of WASH projects must be measurable by not only immediate results like infrastructure built or trainings provided but by long-term benefits, it provides to its final users. Guiding document called Basic principles of SWAP (**Standards in WASH Programming**) describes the steps that should be taken to ensure and measure quality of interventions where a WASH component is present.

Sustainable water services are a crucial part of WASH programming. **Service delivery approach** and model of building blocks of WASH

systems are a part of PIN WASH strategy. For example we support professionalization of rural WASH via shift from community management to community participation. Management entities are supported to move away from voluntary arrangements towards more professional service provision embedded in local and national policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks. Models ranging from self-supply to public-private partnerships are promoted.

Service delivery approach also includes principles of good water governance: open information exchange; transparency; accountability; inclusive, equitable, and ethical participatory processes; rule of law and conflict resolution.

Innovative approaches are also applied through long distance automated communication and the internet of things. Water Report is an innovative communication system (based on the citizen observations concept) which enables responsive management of water sources. PIN uses Water Report in rural areas to ensure effective communication between water committees, government water administration offices and service providers. This improves monitoring and functionality of water sources and ultimately increases the local population's access to drinking water.

1 http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WGIAR5-Chap22_FGDall.pdf

2 Carter R.C., Harvey E. and Casey V. "User financing of rural handpump water services", IRC, The Netherlands"