



THE FACTS

- » **In 2020, around one in four people lacked safely managed drinking water at their homes and nearly half the world's population lacked safely managed sanitation.**
- » **Three in 10 people worldwide could not wash their hands with soap and water at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- » **Achieving universal access to safely managed WASH services by 2030 will require a 4x increase in current rates of progress (10x in least developed countries and 23x in fragile contexts).**
- » **Accelerating WASH coverage will require prioritization at the highest levels of decision-making by international agencies, governments, civil society, and the private sector.**

— WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (2021), [Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: Five years into the SDGs](#)

About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, and regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

Global WASH Program Overview

Over the past 37 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. Most recently, between 2011 and 2021 our WASH programming grew by over 500%, enabling us now to directly impact more than 3 million people each year with access to clean water—which is 6.5 times more than in 2011. With more than 1,200 technical WASH staff members guiding our work in 42 countries, World Vision has emerged as a leader in its global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

During the last seven years (2016 to 2022), World Vision reached nearly 25.5 million people with clean water, 18.4 million with improved sanitation, and 31.7 million with hygiene promotion. World Vision's WASH programming is supported by an annual global WASH investment of \$164 million (2022).

Water affects everything. It is [foundational to all areas of development](#), including child health and well-being, providing safe learning environments, reducing gender inequality, improving food security and agriculture, bolstering economic prosperity, and strengthening resilience to climate-related hazards.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our [Global WASH Business Plan](#) (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact across 42 priority countries in six regions (see map on following page), with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

Five-year targets of the Global WASH Program include providing:

- 15 million people with safer, more accessible water
- 14 million people with improved sanitation
- 18 million people with improved hygiene
- More than 3,000 healthcare facilities and 8,000 schools with improved WASH services

To see how World Vision is performing against our Global WASH Business Plan targets, visit [Our Roadmap to Impact WASH Reporting Dashboard](#).

Partnerships for Effective WASH

From local community groups to global private corporations, World Vision works in collaboration to address the most pressing WASH challenges in the places where we work. Together with our partners, we develop joint efforts that leverage resources to achieve shared objectives. World Vision helps build the capacity of government agencies and community-based organizations to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions. Furthermore, our WASH program seeks out partnerships with corporations, multilateral organizations, and learning institutions that complement our strengths and add value to our programming. Some noteworthy examples are below.

World Vision has been partnering with **Grundfos**, the world’s leading pump manufacturer, since 2015. They currently supply affordable equipment to our programs in 18 countries for solar-powered, mechanized, piped-water systems, and provide high-value, responsive technical support. In 2020, our partnership achieved a milestone of reaching 2.4 million people with clean water. In 2022, we signed an agreement to jointly reach an additional 4 million people by 2024.

In terms of multilateral organizations, World Vision has partnered with the **World Health Organization** since 2013, particularly in support of quality WASH services in healthcare facilities and ensuring that drinking water systems meet water quality standards. Most recently, we have been working together to raise awareness globally on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water systems, and to address this important global health concern. We are supporting governments to develop policies, monitoring, and remedial measures to assess and manage contaminants in drinking water.

World Vision also partners with leading global and local research and learning institutions to ensure we have access to world class expertise drawn from both global and local partners. These partnerships facilitate learnings across our country programs to maximize capacity building of our in-country staff as well as the uptake of learnings by key stakeholders at the local level. Recently, we developed a new partnership with the **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine** to assess the impact of Nurturing Care Groups and Market-Based Sanitation Approaches for achieving basic household sanitation and driving hygiene behavior change at scale. We began this work in Malawi with **the Malawi University of Business and Science** leading locally, and we plan to expand to additional counties soon.

The **University of North Carolina Water Institute (UNC)** also is a key learning partner for World Vision, and we have been working together since 2015. Among other research, UNC conducted a 10-country evaluation and a 14-country evaluation of World Vision’s WASH Program, representing some of the largest WASH studies ever done. Under a new partnership agreement, as the first of three projects, UNC conducted a Water Security and Resilience literature review, which World Vision is using to develop program guidance for our country office WASH teams. The findings will be published and shared at conferences to provide information on actions to improve the resilience of WASH services. This is an important topic because the increasing frequency of droughts and floods threaten progress in reaching people with clean water.

Visit our website to learn more about [World Vision’s key WASH partners](#).

Program Approaches

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities, including a summary of capacities and achievements, along with highlights of our upcoming plans.

Our four WASH technical areas are:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

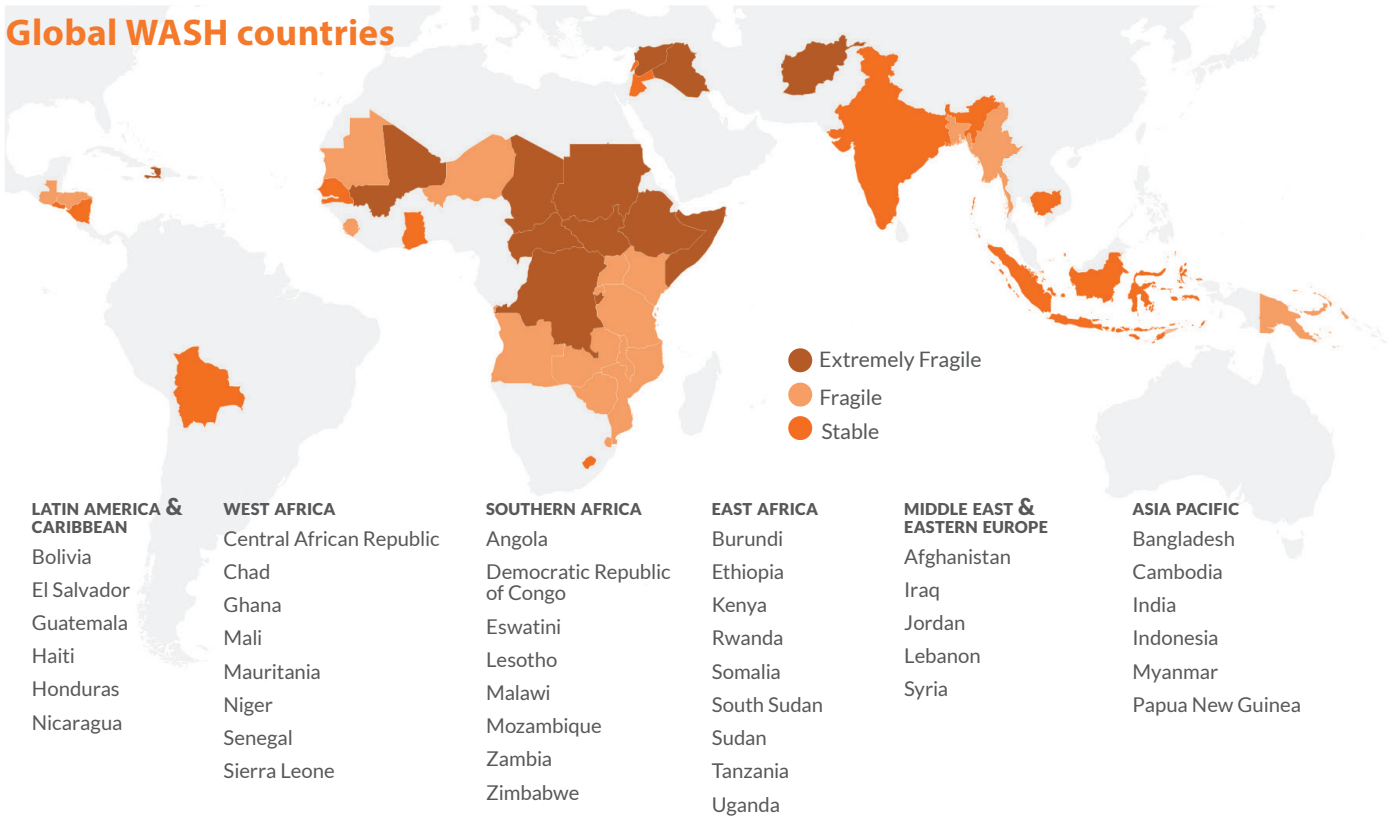
Behavior-change practices and the themes of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) are integrated across all intervention areas as outlined in the global guidance of World Vision’s WASH Core Project Model.



World Vision’s safe drinking water partnership with P&G began in 2007, and in 2022 more than 669,000 people in 15 countries were directly reached through water treatment. In Dallow, Somalia, Gacalo Iman Nuur and her family live in an internally displaced people settlement, where they use P&G Purifier of Water packets to treat their water. “Our water quality has greatly improved, and I am confident that the health and safety of my family will follow. We no longer drink water direct from the river without treatment since the introduction of P&G packets,” she says.

GLOBAL WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROGRAM

Global WASH countries



World Vision implements WASH programs in countries that identify WASH as a critical need to improve child well-being, and we prioritize investments in fragile contexts. As evidence of this commitment, World Vision’s global WASH business plan directs 85% of funding toward fragile and extremely fragile contexts.

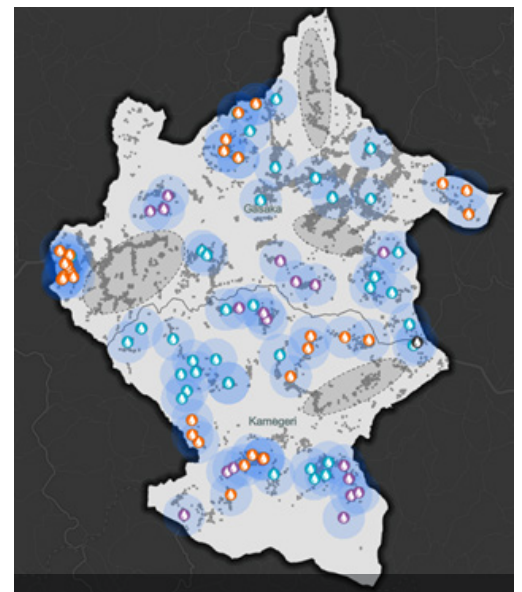
Water Supply and Quality

Since the inception of World Vision’s WASH programming in 1985, ensuring access to life-changing clean water for the marginalized and vulnerable has been central to our mission and organizational identity. Guided by this distinctive, unwavering focus, World Vision has helped establish lasting access to clean water for over 31 million people from 2011 to 2022. In 2022 alone, more than 3 million people were reached with clean water. World Vision embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water service ladder, supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and strengthening of management systems to promote safe and reliable water.

Facilitate universal service coverage

When the SDGs were introduced, World Vision made a commitment to help bring basic water services to everyone, everywhere we work. Since then, World Vision has taken bold steps in collaboration with national governments and other partners to support the development and implementation of WASH universal service coverage plans for 122 subnational districts across 42 countries (out of a five-year goal of 150). These plans include full WASH services in healthcare facilities and schools.

Facilitating universal service coverage requires a comprehensive understanding of where people live, including the most remote communities that are often overlooked. Toward this end, World Vision is embracing technologies that provide



The above graphic combines water point data and population density data to illustrate potentially underserved areas in Gasaka and Kamegeri subdistricts in Rwanda.



Ana Jarquín's community in Honduras needed a plumber for its new water system, a job traditionally done by men. When no one else spoke up, she volunteered. "Every time quality water reaches a household, it fills me with great satisfaction and encourages me to do my job better and better," she says.

the detail needed on population and geography to precisely monitor progress and plan new investments. To learn more, see our [Geography of Clean Water for All](#) story map.

World Vision has created accelerated universal WASH coverage plans in Ghana, Honduras, Rwanda, and Zambia. For example, in Rwanda, we committed to reaching 1 million people with access to clean drinking water with the goal of reaching everyone in the areas we work by 2023. Using geospatial population density data overlaid with the location of community water points through mWater, World Vision has clearly identified underserved areas to more precisely plan construction projects with the district government. To date, 20 (of 39) sectors (subdistricts) have reached universal water coverage, including careful consideration of environmental sustainability and resilience of water systems.

Prioritize piped-water systems

Over time, World Vision's strategy for drinking water systems has evolved from boreholes with hand pumps to piped-water systems with distribution networks that deliver water as close to homes as possible (with household connections when feasible). During 2022, World Vision constructed 1,498 water systems, including mechanized systems, protected springs, rainwater harvesting systems, surface water treatment systems, and other piped systems, with 51,252 taps in communities.

Transformative WASH services are safe, accessible, plentiful, proven, and sustained. They create lasting changes in communities that enable children and families to flourish.

LEADING WITH EVIDENCE

Currently, WASH sector progress toward meeting SDG 6 is too slow, and there are many evidence gaps for how to effectively deliver transformative WASH services. In response, World Vision is investing at least \$7 million in implementation research from 2021-2025 to better understand how to deliver transformative, sustainable WASH services, strengthen community norms and governance structures, and increase the well-being of the most vulnerable people globally.

This evidence will be built through rigorous monitoring and evaluation of our programming, developing research priorities from gaps identified from our own programs and by the sector, and seeking to fill these gaps with innovations drawn from a combination of the most up-to-date scientific theories and promising approaches already taking place on the ground. Ultimately, we will measure our success not only by SDG indicators, but also by the impact on well-being and human flourishing.

World Vision will leverage our existing WASH programming, as well as our multi-sectoral approach, long-term engagements of 10-15 years in each area program, and partnerships with research institutions. We will promote learning by internally funding evaluations of existing programs and pilot projects and by utilizing external funding where our existing programming can be leveraged by academic researchers to carry out research of interest to the sector. To learn more, see our [Research and Learning Agenda](#).

World Vision will disseminate research findings through a variety of avenues, including peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations, and technical reports or policy briefs to allow wide uptake of helpful findings. Realizing that there is an overwhelming number of studies published, we will further incorporate important sector findings into publicly available evidence briefs, sharing consolidated learnings where World Vision is seeking to move the research agenda forward.

The shift to piped-water systems helps improve water quality by reducing the need for transport and storage of water before use. Piped water close to home also relieves women and girls of the time and burden of water collection and supports improved household and personal sanitation and hygiene. Piped-water systems also provide enough water for use in food production and livelihood activities—such as kitchen gardens or water troughs for livestock—leading to both nutritional and economic benefits.



Students in Kenya use their new ventilated improved pit latrine, equipped with space for menstrual hygiene management and facilities for handwashing.

Another important element of the shift to piped-water systems is the mechanization of high-yield water sources, generally using solar-powered pumps as a sustainable source of energy. Because of our expertise with solar-power, World Vision is exploring opportunities to leverage WASH funding to meet the energy needs of other critical facilities in communities. In healthcare facilities and schools, World Vision is working with local partners to install solar micro-grids and battery storage systems along with WASH infrastructure.

Improve water quality outcomes

World Vision prioritizes improved water quality at the national level, working with governments to promote drinking water that meets World Health Organization and national water quality standards. By building the capacity of government water technical services to perform water quality tests at the source and at households, World Vision supports governments to provide flowing water, free from bacterial and chemical contamination. New water systems are tested and analyzed before they are commissioned for use, and we promote ongoing, routine water quality monitoring and analysis for continual delivery of high-quality drinking water. Further, World Vision endorses water system construction with certified water system components (e.g., pipes) safe for drinking water, so clean water is not contaminated over time by materials that leach potentially harmful chemicals.

Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision embraces a multipronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services. We work simultaneously to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies, identify and fill supply gaps, engender behavior-change through people-centered

WASH IN SCHOOLS

World Vision’s WASH in schools programming jointly supports both SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation for all) and SDG 4 (quality education for all). In addition to helping schools gain access to clean water, we prioritize sanitation service levels beyond basic access. This includes equitable and disability-accessible sanitation and hygiene facilities sufficient for the school population, and facilities to manage menstrual hygiene in privacy and with dignity.

We also endorse the implementation of school WASH clubs, which promote accurate WASH knowledge and behaviors among students. In 2022, World Vision reached nearly 1 million students with access to basic handwashing facilities at 3,616 schools as well as 489,937 schoolchildren with access to basic sanitation facilities at 945 schools. We also established 3,535 school WASH clubs.

World Vision partners with Sesame Workshop to implement two school-based WASH behavior-change programs—WASH UP! and WASH UP! Girl Talk. Using fun and engaging multimedia materials contextualized to local languages and cultures, WASH UP! features Sesame character Raya, who teaches children to practice and share healthy WASH habits, including handwashing with soap, drinking clean water, safe toilet behavior, water conservation, and more.

World Vision and Sesame Workshop first piloted the WASH UP! program in rural communities in Zambia, and it has since expanded to 16 countries, reaching more than 280,000 children in more than 3,000 WASH UP! clubs. As a follow-up curriculum, World Vision and Sesame Workshop together developed Girl Talk, which educates both girls and boys about puberty, with a specific focus on girls’ menstrual health and hygiene. This program has been successfully piloted in Zimbabwe, reaching more than 50,000 girls and boys between 2019 and 2022, and will now expand to at least three new countries by the end of 2023.

approaches, and improve governance and financing to drive district-wide universal service coverage.

Motivated by results from our [14-country WASH evaluation](#), which showed opportunities for improvement and the need to continue investigating root causes of WASH service gaps, World Vision has prioritized sanitation and hygiene in our current business plan. Moving beyond the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach, we seek to support the entire sanitation value chain—from Sanitation Marketing and demand creation to considerations for financing—to help move communities higher up the SDG sanitation ladder. Market-based approaches help to



The WASH UP! program, which is used for behavior change by World Vision in schools, features Sesame character Raya, who teaches children to practice and share healthy WASH habits.

foster economic empowerment, especially for women, and facilitate access to essential sanitation and hygiene products. World Vision's hygiene strategy has also evolved to include effective behavior-change programming, better handwashing products (supported by increased levels of water service and access to financing), and considerations of environmental cleanliness, particularly in healthcare facilities.

Pioneer new models for behavior change

World Vision integrates behavior-change programming into its WASH work in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities to influence healthy social perceptions and norms that can transform communities and achieve sustained impact. Our [Behavior-Change Guidance for Programs](#) draws from the Behavior Centered Design approach to adapt evidence-based best practices to local contexts. [World Vision's Rapid Behavior-Centered Design tool](#) (Appendix 2 of the guide) helps teams quickly develop effective behavior-change programming with limited resources and is currently being deployed in six countries. We also promote modifying physical environments (and systems for operation and maintenance) to support and sustain new behaviors.

Behavior-change programming focuses on promoting the adoption of essential WASH behaviors, such as handwashing with soap and running water at critical times (see Behavior Change Programming sidebar for more information). One way World Vision delivers behavior-change messages is by engaging and mobilizing community influencers, including faith leaders, educators, mothers in leadership positions, and community health workers. Building on strong community

BEHAVIOR CHANGE PROGRAMMING

Behavior-change principles help to ensure the safe, effective, and sustainable use of WASH services and to change norms that can transform communities for improved health and well-being. Based on learnings from our 14-country WASH evaluation, World Vision has identified eight essential WASH behaviors in households, schools, and healthcare facilities to help maintain health, cleanliness, and prevent the spread of disease. Dedicated approaches to behavior change are guided by locally contextualized programming to alter social perceptions and norms, to see sustained WASH impact.

World Vision's eight essential WASH behaviors include:

- Handwashing with soap and flowing water at critical times
- Safe construction and proper/hygienic use of toilets
- Safe disposal of infant/child feces in a toilet (linked with toilet use)
- Separation of children from soil and animal feces
- Households treat, handle, and store their drinking water with appropriate methods
- Safe use and disposal (or cleaning if reusable) of menstrual hygiene materials
- Food hygiene (including eating utensils and eating area)
- Paying for water use

To carry out formative research on desired behaviors, World Vision developed the Rapid Behavior-Centered Design tool, produced a behavior-change guide, and is rolling out a series of trainings to support implementation of behavior-change programming to help build evidence. Essential WASH behaviors are targeted by delivering key messages based on formative research through a variety of behavior-change approaches that prioritize engaging and mobilizing community leaders and influencers.

For example, the [Nurturing Care Group](#) approach is a model where 10-12 women chosen by neighboring households each meet with a health promoter, and then relay messages back to their neighbors every two weeks. World Vision conducted a controlled before-and-after NCG trial in two districts of Ghana from June 2019 to December 2020, which demonstrated significant impacts in water quality, handwashing, menstrual hygiene management, animal feces management, and basic sanitation. World Vision is now rolling out the successful NCG approach across multiple countries.

ties, World Vision is increasingly applying Nurturing Care Groups (NCGs) as an effective way to reach entire communities with high-frequency behavior-change messages.



A healthcare facility worker in Mali cleans equipment. In FY22, World Vision reached 927 health clinics globally with handwashing facilities.

Behavior-change programming is especially important during outbreaks of diseases such as COVID-19 and Ebola. Integrating behavior-change programming with WASH response efforts in schools and healthcare facilities helps ensure disinfection of facilities and promotes sustainable healthy handwashing behaviors. This is essential for containing outbreaks and reducing disease transmission and, in turn, improving healthcare quality and saving lives. In addition, when people are healthy, they have more time to engage in economic activities, which is important as communities recover from economic setbacks such as those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support market-based approaches

World Vision supports market-based approaches to sanitation and hygiene because they have the advantage of promoting local innovation and sustainability, while helping households move up the sanitation ladder. As an example, [Ethiopia's WASH Business Centers](#) are retail and wholesale outlets promoting sanitation and hygiene products. Since 2018, they have shown impact through bringing more affordable products closer to households, including a total of 12,000 latrine slabs sold. A survey of those living within 3.1 miles of WASH business centers found that half of those who had heard of the centers had made a purchase from them, and those who had heard of them were more than twice as likely to have an improved toilet as those who had not. World Vision is replicating the effective WASH Business Center approach in multiple countries.

It's important to understand that market-based approaches tend to favor customers with more money and function better where the enabling environment is already strong. Therefore, World Vision is developing and testing a market assessment tool to understand how to optimally decide when to start new

WASH IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

World Vision's focus on WASH in healthcare facilities plays a critical role in preventing and controlling infections and outbreaks, improving the quality of care, and saving lives. Our work aligns with the universal health coverage targets of SDG 3 (good health and well-being), particularly targets 3.1 and 3.2 aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.

World Vision applies a framework called BabyWASH in many of our WASH in healthcare facility programs. BabyWASH is an initiative that integrates WASH with interventions in maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development to improve health outcomes for mothers and children, and increase chances of survival during a child's first 1,000 days of life.

In response to a global call to action by the U.N. secretary-general in 2018, World Vision and its partners committed to provide WASH services on-premises in 800 rural healthcare facilities in 35 countries between 2019 and 2021. We significantly exceeded our goal by reaching 1,460 clinics with water, 1,117 with sanitation, and 4,559 with handwashing facilities. Based on this success, during World Vision's five-year global WASH business plan, we increased our commitment to reach more than 3,000 clinics with water and handwashing facilities, and support more than 2,600 clinics to establish cleaning policies and protocols.

World Vision's minimum standards for WASH in healthcare facilities follow the basic service levels in the first WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme global report on WASH in healthcare facilities. We also promote best practices for WASH services in healthcare facilities for greatest impact and long-term sustainability. These include:

- Close partnership with government services and other organizations
- Cross-sectoral coordination between WASH and health sectors
- Behavior-change programming for healthcare workers and patients
- Demand-creation for health services (e.g., using targeted messaging and interventions to encourage use of healthcare facilities when needed)
- Establishing or strengthening operation and maintenance systems for long-term sustainability

enterprises or strengthen existing ones, how pro-poor targeting can be achieved with different financing approaches, what role well-designed but affordable products can play in driving behavior change, and how our long-term presence in area programs



World Vision’s GESI-focused programming works toward equitable and inclusive WASH services that empower meaningful participation by marginalized groups. This requires removing barriers and reinforcing positive and equitable social norms, enabling decision-making and personal agency.

can best support sustainable enterprise development. The market assessment tool is currently being tested in Malawi. World Vision plans to roll out the tool in at least eight countries.

Governance and Finance

Improved WASH governance and financing—including re-engineering community-based management approaches, strengthening regulatory oversight, and implementing innovative financing approaches—are critical to achieve progress under SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation for all) and ensure the long-term impact of our work. World Vision embraces a systems-based approach to implement sustainable WASH solutions by leveraging the capacities of local stakeholders, such as district and national governments, which are critical actors in the system. We take every opportunity to build the capacity of local governments, community leadership, and private businesses to serve their communities.

We also explore creative financing measures, such as leveraging capital markets, facilitating public-private partnerships, and tapping microfinance institutions for household water connections and better sanitation facilities. World Vision supports the development of district-level WASH service plans and uses lifecycle costing to build awareness among users of how much annual funding is required for the upkeep and maintenance of water systems.

Forge agreements with district governments

As part of our commitment to reach everyone, everywhere we work with sustainable water services, World Vision intentionally builds partnerships with subnational government

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Meaningful participation and leadership by women, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups remains a key challenge in global WASH programming, resulting in WASH services that do not always meet their needs. World Vision is accelerating access to equitable WASH services for all by deepening our focus on gender equality and social inclusion.

Beyond just access, equitable and inclusive WASH services empower meaningful participation of marginalized groups by removing barriers, enabling decision-making and personal agency, and reinforcing positive and equitable social norms. [World Vision’s GESI approach](#) strives to actively examine and change harmful social norms and power imbalances in every context. See [World Vision’s guidance for addressing GESI in WASH programming](#) to learn more.

World Vision’s past work accommodated the needs of vulnerable groups, specifically in infrastructure design. Going forward we aim to provide transformative WASH services that appropriately respond to and reflect the choices and desires of the most vulnerable members of communities where we work. Ideal GESI-transformative programs not only address the immediate effects of inequality, but also identify and tackle its root causes to bring about lasting transformation. World Vision strives to make all programs GESI-transformative, which sets the tone for inclusion and equality throughout entire communities.

Our increased focus on GESI-transformative WASH services is clearest in World Vision’s emerging [Strong Women Strong World™](#) program. With an initial focus in four countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, and Zimbabwe), this program aims to integrate evidence-based WASH and economic empowerment interventions with a specific focus on removing barriers that prevent women and girls from engaging, leading, and thriving in their communities. With support from our learning partner, Emory University, World Vision intends to develop a stronger framework for integrating WASH and economic empowerment for women and girls, leveraging program learnings to expand and scale-up the approach across our global programming.

representatives and service authorities to develop universal service coverage plans for WASH services. As of the end of 2022, World Vision has supported 122 subnational governments (out of a five-year goal of 150) to develop a plan for universal WASH service coverage. These plans increase the likelihood of a local government’s long-term involvement and investment after World Vision’s work in these communities has concluded.



World Vision helps to strengthen water system management by advocating for private operators, training and equipping repair technicians, organizing spare parts suppliers, and promoting water-user fee-collection systems to pay for long-term maintenance and repair.

Engage at the national level for systemic change

At the national level, World Vision also helps governments develop and improve WASH service policies, standards, and oversight. Our technical guidance for programs states that World Vision WASH programming must align with government standards, and where policies and standards are insufficient or non-existent, World Vision must work to help set those standards and ensure policies are formed, implemented, and monitored. In each country where we work, World Vision partners with the lead government agencies of Hygiene and Sanitation, Water, and Health to highlight WASH as a key development issue, build the capacity of national and local governments to support WASH improvements, and help ensure adequate policies and public services for WASH improvements to be maintained.

Develop sustainable management practices

Everywhere World Vision works, we seek to empower community leadership and prioritize local water system maintenance and repair for sustainable service delivery. World Vision helps to strengthen water system management by promoting and supporting rural utility businesses and the use of private operators, training and equipping private repair technicians, and organizing private spare parts suppliers to help ensure spare parts are available when needed. Where appropriate, we also support communities to form WASH committees or water-user associations with fee-collection systems to pay for maintenance and repair. Members are trained in water point operation and maintenance before

infrastructure work begins. These women and men also receive training on water system management and learn to promote safe hygiene and sanitation practices at the water point and in their community.

Address WASH financing gaps

World Vision is exploring alternative financing options to fund critical WASH infrastructure and services. Where suitable, we work with microfinance institutions to provide capital for families who cannot afford a household water connection or toilet. In other places, World Vision has been investigating the viability of [private insurance policies](#) as an approach for developing financially sustainable mechanized water systems. For communities that make claims for repairs, significant costs can be saved through this approach. At the same time, growing the business model attractiveness will encourage more insurance companies to offer water system insurance policies, opening more insurance options for communities and incentivizing responsiveness by insurance companies.

For new WASH infrastructure, World Vision has applied blended financing strategies with promising results. We join local governments to co-invest in new infrastructure. For example, in Rwanda, as of 2022, World Vision has signed partnership agreements with 14 districts to share the cost of new water systems, with district governments covering 40% of expenses. This includes contracts for 63 projects totaling \$14 million of district government investment.

World Vision also supports governments to set aside a dedicated budget annually for water system maintenance, ensuring that ongoing costs do not become a barrier to sustained WASH access. Traditionally, funding for operation and maintenance is raised through user fees, which are often set by the national government. Where appropriate, World Vision assists in creating an automated fee-collection system to ensure consistent and equitable collection of water-user fees.

Mobilize communities to advocate for change

World Vision also works to empower citizen participation in decision-making in WASH governance, using the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) local advocacy model. CVA equips citizens to understand their rights and express their needs in constructive dialogue with government institutions. By amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable, CVA aims to increase access to information and empower communities to hold their government and other authorities accountable to deliver on their promises. This approach also empowers citizens to advocate for a greater commitment of public funding toward WASH services. In 2022, World Vision supported development of 1,217 CVA groups across 28 countries. This included 5,229 female CVA members (55% of total members).



A student in Angola carries water she collected from a mechanized water system tap. World Vision uses solar power as a sustainable source of energy for mechanized systems.

Recently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CVA efforts resulted in the government building quality sanitation facilities at 100 schools and healthcare facilities in response to CVA community groups advocating for improved quality of sanitation facilities.

Water Security and Resilience

The continuous availability of water—in sufficient quantity and quality—is fundamental to the expansion of clean drinking water and sanitation services under SDG 6. Embracing strategies for integrated water resource management enables downstream water supply services while also improving the management of the upstream water resources on which those services depend. Improving water security is highly relevant to ensuring the long-term viability of World Vision’s WASH service investments.

Our approach to water security looks “beyond the pipe” to the integrity of ecosystems and catchments and the mitigation of pollutants. Our interventions aim to improve integrated water resource management—such as forest conservation, farmer-managed natural regeneration, erosion control, and groundwater recharge—and help to safeguard investments in drinking water infrastructure. World Vision’s business plan offers multiple entry points for action—including awareness-raising, advocacy, planning, and evidence-building—as we seek to partner with communities and governments to build a water-secure future.

Strengthen resilience to climate change

World Vision supports the resilience of households and communities by helping them prepare for, endure, and recover from recurrent crises that can affect water security. Recognizing that climate change has the potential to both reverse decades of progress on water access and impact local hydrological cycles, World Vision prioritizes climate-resilient WASH services, helping households, communities, and governments thrive under today’s conditions while also planning for how those conditions may evolve.

Preparing resilient WASH services takes many forms, including infrastructure siting in relation to flood zones, increasing water storage capacity for protracted droughts, maximizing the use of solar power to reduce dependencies on grid power, and helping households anticipate seasonal rain fluctuations and the resulting impact on water for domestic and livelihood needs. In our 2021-2025 Global WASH Business Plan, 88% (3,678 out of 4,183) of piped-water systems from mechanized boreholes are solar powered, a rate that continues to increase as World Vision emphasizes solar pumping technologies.

Protect watersheds to improve groundwater recharge

Simply stated, the life-changing impact of a community drinking water system requires the sustained availability of water in the surrounding environment. Protecting and rehabilitating project site ecosystems helps ensure that water resources can be plentiful and accessible when needed while protecting communities from the effects of extreme events (floods and droughts). As an example of our work to improve water resources management in 2022, 33,656 farmers in Niger benefited from natural regeneration training, helping improve farm outputs, support reforestation, protect nearby watersheds, and promote groundwater recharge.

The four key entry points for improved water security in our business plan are to: 1) advocate for watershed protection and/or rehabilitation; 2) support water resource planning and water allocation decisions; 3) integrate climate change scenarios into infrastructure planning; and 4) develop evidence on climate resilient WASH programming. To learn how World Vision applies these activities to address complex water security challenges, see our story map, [Sustaining Access to Clean Water](#). Specifically in Somalia, World Vision is using innovative [remote water sensors to monitor groundwater](#), providing real-time data on this critical resource.

