

Watershed empowering citizens is a strategic partnership of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IRC, Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo.

The long-term objective of Watershed is improved governance for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and integrated water resource management (IWRM) so that all citizens, including the most marginalised, can benefit from sustainable services.

The programme is active in Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali and Uganda. Other partnerships are being developed in The Netherlands and with networks and platforms for civil society organisations (CSOs) at regional and international levels.

## Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to influence policy and achieve SDG 6

According to WHO/UNICEF 2017 estimates, 3 in 10 people worldwide, or 2.1 billion, still lack access to safe, readily available water at home, and 6 in 10, or 4.5 billion, lack safely managed sanitation.

WASH service delivery is closely linked to water security and climate change adaptation. Integrated approaches are needed to address these related issues. Collaboration among stakeholders is essential to ensuring that people who have been excluded from basic social services will benefit from development.

Governments are accountable for their formal commitments under SDG6. But neither WASH services nor sector budget allocations are rigorously monitored in many countries. Accountability overall is hindered by several factors:

- Lack of adequate monitoring and reporting on SDG 6
- Limited progress on implementation of commitments
- Limited opportunity for community groups and other civil society organisations to help monitor progress
- Limited space for nongovernmental organisations in holding government and service providers accountable

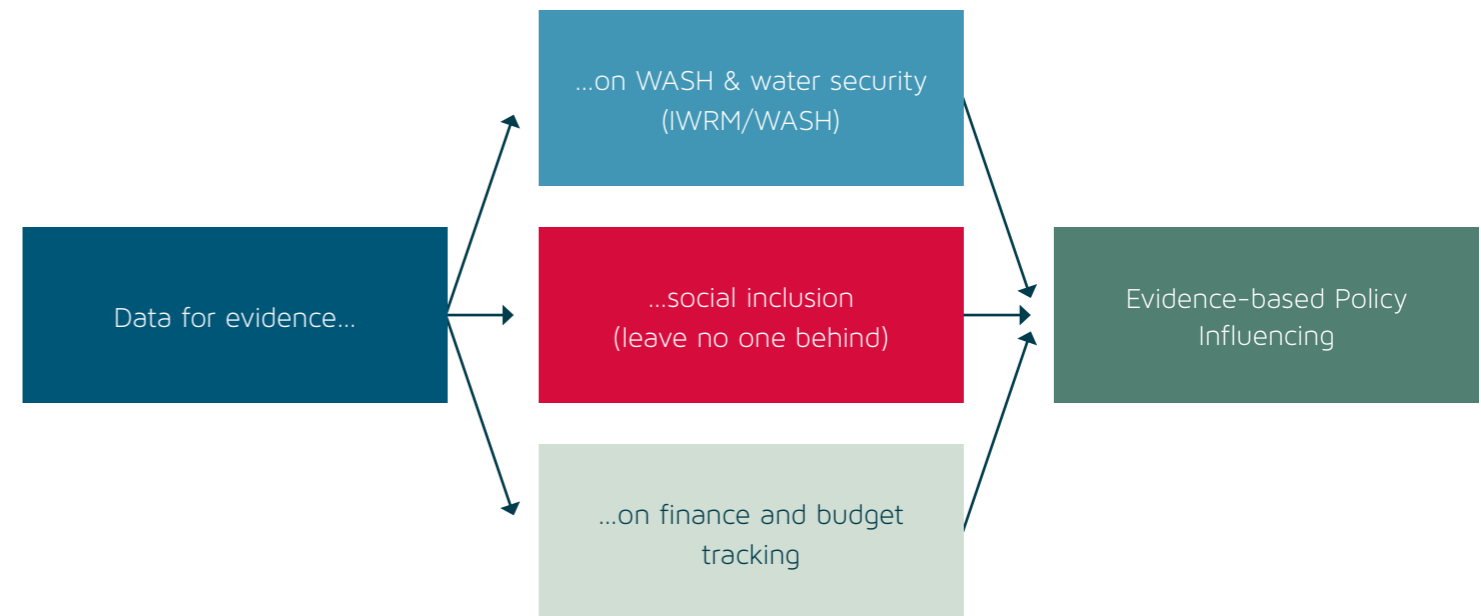
### Priority areas for capacity development

- **WASH and IWRM integration.** Watershed promotes action on WASH and related IWRM policies. Initial analyses of countries' policy frameworks confirm that although policies are in place, plans are still not adequately funded or implemented.
- **WASH and water security.** Elements of water security planning done at a wider landscape level to achieve sustainable WASH services will be addressed with case studies from the countries and used together with other evidence to target decision makers with advocacy.
- **Budget tracking.** Capacity development will help CSOs and other stakeholders monitor funding flows and gain the confidence to address sector finance challenges.
- **Gender and social inclusion.** Teams in Kenya, Mali, Uganda, Bangladesh, India and the Netherlands are conducting research and building capacity to address these important issues.



Good water governance includes effective collaboration and integration of WASH, IWRM and ecosystem management and restoration

## Watershed's thematic areas for developing capacity and influencing policy



At the **international level**, the focus in 2018 is working with End Water Poverty, the African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation, Coalition Eau in West Africa and Freshwater Action Network for South Asia to strengthen their evidence base for effective advocacy at regional and global levels. The goal is to influence WASH and IWRM policies so that investments are sufficient to promote universal, sustainable service delivery for the poor.

In **the Netherlands**, the work follows two main pathways:

- Ensuring that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) budget supports its WASH goal of delivering sanitation services to 50 million new users and drinking water services to 30 million new users by 2030
- Advising MFA and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (MIE) on linking WASH and IWRM and integrating them into Dutch water policies

### Data for Evidence

Watershed focuses on making sure stakeholders have accurate data to support their advocacy. The Data for Evidence theme focuses on ensuring that the right data are available to support stakeholders' messages.

In Mali, where water quality regulations are inadequately enforced, Watershed will train CSOs to collect data on water quality. Their analyses, shared through multi-stakeholder forums, will help mobilise citizens to advocate for public sanitation and clean water.

In Kenya, local partners Neighbourhood Initiative Alliance and Kenya Water for Health Organization are convening stakeholders to develop fact-based materials for coordinated advocacy at the local and national levels.

### WASH and Water Security

In 2018, India, Uganda and Mali will document case studies about both failures and successes from WASH interventions, demonstrating the importance of integrating WASH with water resources management and climate change adaptation.

In Uganda, Watershed partners will work closely with local groups and technical committees to support implementation of catchment management plans that aim to conserve water resources and improve water quality.



Leave no one behind: public finance and taxation are critical sources of funding for the poorest and most vulnerable

In India, the states of Bihar and Odisha have prioritised WASH as a developmental objective and designed a programmatic framework in line with national programmes. National guidelines prescribe local water security planning and the creation of village water and sanitation committees to manage local WASH schemes.

### Social Inclusion

Seven CSOs in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, India and Bangladesh are focusing on social inclusion in marginalised groups, such as the pastoralist Masai in Laikipia, Kenya; the river nomads in Bhola, Bangladesh; and the low-caste Mahadalits in Bihar, India. The CSOs are looking at power relationships within these societies and determining the effects on access to WASH services.

In Bangladesh, gender-sensitive WASH budget monitoring and analysis tools will be developed in 2018. Evidence generated with these tools will be used to improve advocacy messages. The Netherlands and the International teams are generating information on how donors address social inclusion in their policies.

### Financing

Watershed is helping local partner organisations understand budgeting and financing for WASH and IWRM. Topics for advocacy include the need for accountability and transparency in public funding, earmarked allocations in national budgets for addressing equity and the need to increase public allocations for WASH. In India and Bangladesh, budget tracking will be used to advocate for equity and ensure that funds go to the communities that need it most.

We seek results by supporting increased WASH and IWRM investments that promote universal, sustainable service delivery for the poor as the central element of SDG 6.

Visit us at [www.Watershed.nl](http://www.Watershed.nl)

Civil society organisations play a pivotal role in achieving SDG 6 by holding governments accountable



## WATERSHED PARTNERS

### IRC

IRC is a think-and-do tank. Our approach is different, and it is transformational. It involves everyone, in every part of the process, thinking and acting in new ways to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. [www.ircwash.org](http://www.ircwash.org)

### Simavi

Simavi has been making structural improvements to the health conditions of people in marginalised communities in Africa and Asia since 1925. We invest in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)—basic services that enable people to lead healthy lives, build a better existence and find a way out of poverty. [www.simavi.org](http://www.simavi.org)

### Wetlands International

Wetlands International safeguards and restores wetlands for people and nature. We believe that this is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health. Wetlands International is a global not-for-profit network with 16 independent offices around the world. We bring together knowledge, policy and practice with a wide range of public and private partners. [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

### Akvo

Akvo creates open-source, internet and mobile software and sensors. We work with those who improve infrastructure and services for disadvantaged populations. We encourage and enable organisations to capture useful data in better ways and provide training to improve skills in gathering, mapping and visualising data over time. We help partners integrate and analyse their data to improve understanding of complex situations. [www.akvo.org](http://www.akvo.org)