

The WASH Alliance International is a multi-national consortium of over 100 partners worldwide working together to make sure everybody on this planet has sustainable access to water and sanitation. To better understand our contribution to the sustainability of WASH services of the last 5 years, at the end of 2015 an external validation of our Track Record was conducted. The external validation took place in three pre-selected countries: Bangladesh, Ghana and Kenya. Document review, interviews with both local and international stakeholders, focus group discussions and observations during project visits were the four primary methods of data collection used by the external assessment team.

In addition to validating our Theory of Change and FIETS sustainability framework, we asked the assessment team to assess our main approaches:

1. Diamond Business model
2. Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)
3. Landscape approach
4. Awareness activities and behaviour change
5. Budget tracking
6. Capacity building of partners
7. Multi-stakeholder approach

*The clear overarching message from the external assessment is that the WASH Alliance, by bringing local NGOs together into a country alliance, is making a contribution that is **far more impactful** than the sum of all the individual NGOs working separately.*



Conclusions

- **The WASH Alliance has created active and well-coordinated innovative country programmes** that create impact on the ground. The programme has enabled growth by the partners, leveraged inputs from many stakeholders and elicited a positive response from government and communities.
- **The concept of sustainability was a clear priority for all partners and was ingrained in the vision, approach and strategy of each alliance.** The vision of tackling the many dimensions to sustainability in a holistic manner in specific locations has helped Alliance partners, local governments and communities see the interconnectedness of water, sanitation and hygiene to finance, institutions, the environment, technology and society. The Alliance has been part of changing mind-sets and showing that new approaches are possible.
- **Moving from the intensity of focus in a few communities in a district to national scale is a focus area.** The WASH Alliance has sought to influence policy in the eight countries. Addressing the challenge of scale and developing efficient ways to influence major investors and donors is a focus area in the future.
- **The WASH Alliance Theory of Change may not be fully understood by all partners.** The more detailed pathways of change have been developed for specific interventions and countries, the higher the success.
- **The family of approaches used by the Alliance partners is impressive.** The application of the Diamond business approach has helped in the difficult area of building the capacity of local authorities whilst increasing engagement of the private sector. The local alliances' work on sanitation credit is an important step forward in making sanitation more sustainable. Engaging with municipal water service providers to try and assure a more reliable source of water supply is a future focus area. Indeed a focus on urban water, sanitation and waste, including faecal sludge management is an important growth area.
- **There has been some important work in terms of strengthening Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) systems and how results are captured.**
- **Each of the Country Alliances is moving towards greater autonomy and local accountability,** a positive and more sustainable move for the Alliance as a whole. The Alliance should be aware of a too sudden growth. A measured staged approach to growth should be considered.

Recommendations



Increase quality control

Roll out quality control processes in every Country Alliance to retain the WASH Alliance brand value and apply performance criteria to maintain a place in the network.



Strategic building of country alliances

Encourage decentralization and a staged in-country expansion, while responding to demand, but retaining brand value and the ability to deliver sustainability principles.



Transitional phase

introduce a transitional phase, whereby Country Alliances need to meet performance criteria to gain autonomy within the Alliance. The criteria for autonomy could include: good governance, low overheads, sound financial structures and having quality control processes in place.



Strategy for scale and influencing policy

Country Alliances should identify ways to bring approaches to scale and identify more influential (international) allies in their countries. Country Alliances should increase analysis and lobbying and advocacy of key lessons learnt.



Integration in government plans

the WASH Alliance should focus even more on integrating its activities into local government plans to get official ownership of approaches that work.



Regularly update of pathways to change

Repeat training and dialogue on the Theory of Change to make assumptions more explicit and to integrate pathways into monitoring systems.



Maintain knowledge focus

Continue to invest in quality documentation of project outcomes and sharing of knowledge, both within the partnership and to key national stakeholders.



Continue financial support to Country Alliances, whilst requiring greater leverage

the WASH Alliance should seek ways to continue to finance the core operations of country alliances whilst setting incentives for leveraging other sources of finance, including from formal partnerships with governments.



This factsheet presents the overall conclusions and recommendations of the study. Read the full report [here](#).
The assessment team was headed by Piers Cross, an internationally renowned advisor on water and sanitation.

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www.wash-alliance.org