Two billion people do not have access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. The WASH Alliance envisions a world where all people have access to sustainable water and sanitation services that they can afford, and where all people can live under hygienic living conditions to improve their health, dignity and economic living standard.

Having access to WASH services has a great positive impact on people’s health, amongst others by reducing diarrhoea and illness. It impacts dignity if people can have the privacy of a toilet, especially for women and girls this reduces the risks of sexual abuse. It contributes to gender equality in many ways, for example if girls and women spend less time on fetching water. Also school sanitation contributes to less drop-out of especially girls. And finally it also contributes to sustainable economic and green growth in diverse ways. Jobs are created in provision of WASH services, and there is more time to work if illness is reduced. Faecal sludge management not only contributes to a cleaner environment, but can be used to make biogas and quality manure, and contributes to jobs in the sector.

Accelerating WASH
The WASH Alliance aims to provide full coverage with sustainable WASH services for all in the areas where we work. To realise sustainable access to WASH services for all, we need to drastically change the way we approach this challenge. We contribute to a shift from a hardware-construction approach towards a sustainable service delivery & sector development approach. This approach will not only sustain after our programs stop, it will also accelerate and be able to meet the needs of a growing population.

In the countries in which we are active, we therefore work on changing mindsets and creating systems for sustainable and affordable WASH services that create structural change and can accelerate. This is the only way to adapt to fast population growth and urbanisation.

We facilitate the development of a system in which all stakeholders, such as private sector, public sector, organized citizens and NGOs, work together and know their roles and responsibilities. Finding the right financial blend for our work between donor funds, government funds, impact investors, financial institutions and by households is another guiding principle. With this, we can reach scale in WASH service provision.

Sustainability
The FIETS sustainability approach has five elements of sustainability: financial, institutional, environmental, technological and social sustainability. Special focus within our sustainability approach is the recognition of the interdependencies between water, energy, food security and climate change. In our work we highlight an integrated approach whereby we can manage the risks of water, energy and food scarcity, while realising inclusive green growth.
Theory of Change

To reach our ambition, we use a unique Theory of Change that is built upon three integrated pillars:

1. Developing a functioning and enabling WASH market, in which the private sector is providing quality products and services at an affordable price.
2. Developing an enabling public sector for WASH, in which the government takes up its responsibility as duty bearer and creates supportive policies and regulations for sustainable WASH services.
3. Empower, inform and organize citizens for sustainable WASH: informed citizens will demand sustainable WASH services and practice healthy hygienic behaviour; organised citizens will enforce high quality WASH services from the market; and empowered citizens hold the government accountable for taking up their role as duty bearer.

We, all members of the WASH Alliance, many of which are NGOs, have a crucial role to play in the development of the three pillars, to facilitate cooperation between the three pillars and stimulate that the three pillars are built in a sustainable way.