The WASH Alliance International envisions a world in which all people have sustainable access to WASH services. To realise this, we need to drastically change the way we approach this challenge. Traditional solutions focusing on building infrastructure are not sustainable and cannot meet the needs of a growing population.

It is our mission to change mind-sets and create systems for sustainable and affordable WASH services that can accelerate. This is the only way to adapt to newly emerging challenges such as fast population growth. A guiding principle in our work is therefore facilitating the development of a system in which all stakeholders, including businesses, governments, citizens and NGOs effectively work together.

For the period 2016-2020, together with our partners we aim to facilitate the provision of safe water to at least 2.5 million people and improved sanitation to 5 million people against €17 per person.

Doing more, for less
The WASH Alliance International stands for a shift from hardware-construction towards WASH sector development. Our innovative approach will not only sustain after our programs stop, it will also accelerate and meet the needs of a growing population.

Our work focuses on three areas:

1. Developing a functioning and enabling WASH market, in which businesses provide quality WASH products and services and financial institutions facilitate access to finance for both businesses and consumers.

2. Developing an enabling public sector for WASH, in which the government creates a supportive policy and regulatory environment for sustainable WASH services and allocates sufficient budget for WASH.

3. Empowering, informing and organising citizens for sustainable WASH. These citizens will demand and pay for sustainable WASH services, practice healthy behaviour and hold the government accountable for delivering quality WASH services.

The WASH Alliance International works in eight countries in Africa and Asia: Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nepal and Uganda.
**Drivers for accelerating WASH**
Focus areas with the WASH Alliance International programme 2016 - 2020

**Acceleration**
Reaching scale and trigger acceleration of sustainable WASH service delivery requires a different mind-set focused on reaching everyone ('thinking big'). This asks for standardisation of services, cost efficiency, and using effective techniques for lobbying the government, community mobilisation and generating demand. In the ‘Accelerating WASH Programme’ we will train businesses, NGOs, financial institutions and communities on their role in accelerating WASH and support them with peer-to-peer learning programmes.

**Sustainability**
The lack of sustainability of WASH facilities and services is a structural problem in the WASH sector. Much of the investments of donors or national governments in the WASH sector are lost due to bad management, inappropriate technologies, lack of savings for adequate maintenance, or lack of embedding into IWRM in the wider landscape. Partner organisations and governments alike find the complexity of sustainability hard to grasp and address in their interventions. Based on our expertise, we will train them on sustainability of three WASH thematic areas: water service delivery; household sanitation facilities and hygiene practices. We will also build their capacity to monitor the sustainability of WASH facilities by using among others Akvo FLOW for data collection.

**Gender and social inclusion**
We incorporate the social aspects of WASH interventions in all our programmes, in particular gender equality and social inclusion. Depending on the context, we use a variety of approaches to ensure that everyone irrespective of age, income, position or physical/mental state enjoys access to and use of sustainable WASH services. This includes fostering social accountability processes helping all to express their WASH needs and ensuring that the poorest are included in the programmes of the governments.

**Innovation on finance**
We are determined to help develop the WASH sector in such a way that it becomes financially sustainable. WASH services should be increasingly financed by the government and paid for by households, rather than by donor funds. To realise this, we will continue to work on private sector development, collaborate with MFIs and leverage our Guarantee funds to expand funding. In order to reach scale, we will investigate the possibilities of blending grants with (soft) loans and social investments from social impact investors. Promotion of payment systems, such as innovative electronic payment systems, will be another new element in our programme.

**Integrated Water Resource Management, food security and climate change**
WASH is not an isolated topic but has to be placed in a wider context. It can be connected to a multitude of important issues such as food security, energy and the challenge of providing sufficient water for all the different competing purposes at household level. Therefore, we will expand our work placing WASH in the larger context through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approaches and through connecting WASH to food security, energy and climate change.