

The WASH Alliance Kenya (WAK) is a nationwide network of around 10 partners working together to collectively achieve WASH results and provide local communities with sustainable access to water and sanitation. The Alliance consists of NGOs, businesses, local governments and knowledge institutes. 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.

In addition to validating our sustainability framework, we asked the assessment team to review our activities related to the four main objectives of the WAK:

- Empowered communities, specifically women and girls, who demand and achieve sustainable access to and use of safe water, improved sanitation and hygienic living conditions.
- Relevant service providers in the business sector, public sector and civil society co-operate to respond to the need for sustainable, accessible, affordable and demand driven WASH services.
- Policy makers and key actors promote and enable the sustainable realization of the right to water and sanitation through their policies, programmes and budget allocations, and are held accountable for their achievements in WASH.
- A stable, complementary, effective and accountable alliance (in North and South), in which participating actors will feel ownership, share knowledge and coordinate work towards sustainable integration of WASH into policies, strategies and programmes, in order to increase the access to and use of WASH facilities.



The clear overarching message from the external assessment is that the WASH Alliance Kenya, 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.

In the approach of WASH Alliance Kenya to achieve their goals, the main strengths and challenges of working in an alliance in Kenya are identified. The three main strengths are: 1) building capacity across a number of organisations; 2) knowledge sharing, and thereby capturing emerging learning and having a collective voice and; 3) therefore, being able to work together for advocacy and to influence other parties. The three main

challenges can be identified as: variation of partners, the need for agreement or increased consensus on used criteria for evaluation of success and the issue of quality and criteria for regulating memberships at the alliance.

Also, DWA and WAK outlined a sustainability framework called FIETS. FIETS incorporates the Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technological and Social principles of sustainability. Assuring continuity in the delivery of WASH products and services, because activities are locally financed (financial sustainability), or placing WASH interventions in a wider context of the natural environment (environmental sustainability) are examples of this approach.

Conclusions & recommendations



Participating in the alliance has been seen as a very positive experience. There is less competition and more collaboration and building on the good work of other partners for replication and scale.



There is a sustainable and responsive alliance arising for Kenya. On the one hand WASH Alliance Kenya is growing and finding itself in a transition towards greater independence. On the other hand we benefit from being facilitated by and under the wings of DWA. This is making the alliance more sustainable and responsive to and for Kenya.



The study has detected limitations among the beneficiaries and stakeholders in perceiving the possible risks in the services and structures created by the programme. This may jeopardize the sustainability focus of the programme as well. The BWA will make special efforts to strengthen the risk perceptions of all concerned, including the community groups and help them adopting necessary risk reduction measure.



Learning and knowledge sharing to maximise the opportunities for county government and to ensure that key lessons by the alliance in Kajiado can be shared more broadly in Kenya should be mainstreamed. The Alliance will maintain its strong knowledge sharing and learning focus and consider this as an 'offering' to non-alliance partners in order to generate income and also to maintain technical and institutional sustainability. The WAK should consider how to formalise knowledge exchange processes.



The concept of sustainability is a clear priority for all partners and was ingrained in the vision, approach and strategy of each alliance. The WAK will continue to focus on quality assurance procedures to ensure partners are delivering robust results cost-effectively.



There has been some important work in terms of strengthening Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) systems and how results are captured. Also the strengths of being an alliance with the ability to draw on a range of partners and capacities and approaches to solving problems are important selling points of the WAK. The Alliance should maintain the strong focus on sustainability and ensure all alliance members have this mainstreamed in their approach. To strengthen the results, the alliance must also review and analyse how to integrate the projects more into the county water officer or county public health officer. This can help to capitalise their main selling points and differentiate the work of the alliance from other implementing partners in Kenya.



Alliance members need to consider how to co-finance with private sector and public sector to maximise financial sustainability. More attention should be paid to in-country fundraising, also to reduce the reliance or dependency on WASH Alliance International partners.



It is worthwhile discussing whether WAK should become a Water Service Provider (WSP) in Kajiado. Having a WSP registration could potentially open up new work streams particularly in terms of private sector delivery, which would further contribute to sustainability. As a next step, the Alliance will integrate partner activities as an alliance with county development plans.

*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.*