



USAID



Convenient Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Expertise

ABOUT WASHPaLS

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Partnerships and Learning for Sustainability (WASHPaLS) project is a five-year (2016–2021) Task Order working to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming by identifying, sharing, and guiding the use of best practices for the delivery of WASH services and sustained behavior change. Through operational research, small grants, and technical assistance, the project works with USAID, governments, key sector donors and implementers to fill evidence gaps related to rural sanitation and behavior change. WASHPaLS is implemented by Tetra Tech in collaboration with a team of globally renowned NGOs and small business partners, including Aquaya Institute, FHI 360, FSG, and Iris Group.

PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Led by an internal technical committee of leading academics and supported by an external Advisory Board of distinguished practitioners and policymakers, WASHPaLS offers USAID missions and technical bureaus ready access to thought leaders and analytical expertise across a wide range of WASH themes. WASHPaLS can provide bespoke technical expertise that is responsive to analytical and programmatic needs and grounded in the unique economic, social norms and local systems of each country or context. Our short-term technical assistance (STTA) assignments apply evidence-based technical acumen based on international best practices and stress participatory design and close engagement with national stakeholders, local systems, and ongoing programs.

The illustrative assignments for your mission, implementing partner, or sector stakeholders include:

1. Conduct market assessments for WASH products and services and private sector engagement.
2. Develop a learning agenda, engage in operational research, and support key sector stakeholders to identify, build consensus, and utilize best practices across a variety of WASH thematic areas.
3. Assess opportunities to integrate WASH into other sectors: nutrition, maternal/neonatal/child survival programs, Feed the Future/food security/agriculture, climate change, education, and livelihoods.
4. Examine the national landscape of rural WASH to inform planning and design of investments.
5. Identify opportunities to incorporate approaches to gender, social equity and inclusion, and gender mainstreaming to national WASH policy and implementation plans.
6. Design and/or implement evaluations of ongoing WASH interventions.
7. Assist national and district level monitoring systems to effectively track the Sustainable Development Goals for WASH.

CORE SERVICES

- Provide mission-specific technical assistance in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene, behavior change, monitoring and evaluation.
- Conduct implementation research on WASH interventions, with a focus on behavioral and market based interventions for safe disposal of feces and hygienic play spaces for young children.
- Investigate and share innovative approaches to WASH behavior change programming.
- Develop and share an information and communications technology (ICT) tool that supports CLTS.
- Engage with missions, national stakeholders and the global WASH community of practice to advance the adoption of evidence based policy and programming.

In addition to tailored technical assistance, WASHPaLS:

- Applies rigorous and contextually appropriate operational research expertise to investigate three foundational WASH practice areas, including Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and other methods for increasing consumer demand for improved sanitation, market-based sanitation approaches, and maintaining hygienic environments for babies and young children, recognizing their interconnectedness.
- Designs and test the effectiveness of innovative programming for achieving key hygiene behaviors by providing technical support and oversight to at least 10 recipients of small grants.
- Promotes the uptake of WASHPaLS-generated evidence through engagement with a broad range of practitioners and policymakers both globally and within local systems.
- Enhances USAID's participation in strategic partnerships and coordinate closely with other USAID implementing partners to ensure the value and visibility of the Agency's participation in key global policy and programmatic fora.
- Uses approaches that are gender-aware and engage local systems so that WASH programming is inclusive, responsive to, and embedded within local structures.

WASHPaLS STTA

- *Available:* WASHPaLS can absorb up to \$15M in buy-ins for STTA.
- *Accessible:* WASHPaLS offers access to demand-responsive and state-of-the-art STTA through consortium partners and a cadre of expert consultants.
- *Flexible:* WASHPaLS develops scopes of work developed jointly with the TOCOR and mission; assignments may range from a few weeks to many months.

THE WASHPaLS TEAM

Tetra Tech and our partners possess complementary and internationally recognized expertise in state-of-the-art WASH programming and research that is available to USAID missions and technical bureaus through STTA. WASHPaLS also has access to a cadre of highly qualified technical experts covering a range of WASH disciplines who are available for STTA assignments.

TETRA TECH has over 30 years of successful WASH sector programming and thought leadership. Tetra Tech provides technical assistance in the areas of rural water supply, sustainability assessments, the sanitation value chain including fecal sludge management, and environmental compliance.

AQUAYA INSTITUTE offers experienced scientists and field-based WASH researchers who bring an objective, nimble, and rigorous approach to implementation research. The Aquaya Institute provides technical assistance in the areas of water quality, market-based approaches, research design, data collection, and program evaluation.

FHI 360 brings three decades of experience in integrated WASH programming, implementation research, and behavior change approaches. FHI 360 provides technical assistance in the areas of WASH integration including WASH and nutrition, WASH in schools and healthcare facilities, monitoring and evaluation, hygiene, social and behavior change communication and comprehensive behavior-centered programming.

FSG offers a formal business analytics perspective to understanding successes and challenges of market-based sanitation interventions. FSG provides technical assistance in the areas of market-based WASH services, market assessments, and inclusive market development.

IRIS GROUP brings extensive experience in mixed methods research on women and WASH and gender-equitable approaches to rural and urban sanitation programming. The Iris Group provides technical assistance to the WASHPaLS knowledge management and learning strategy in the areas of gender mainstreaming, social inclusion, and women's empowerment.

CONTACT

Missions and technical bureaus interested in more information on WASHPaLS, including how to access the technical assistance services should contact the USAID Environmental Health Team Lead, **Jesse Shapiro** (jeshapiro@usaid.gov).