

# Midterm Review

## where do we stand?

We work on **inclusive sustainable WASH services** for households, schools and health facilities.

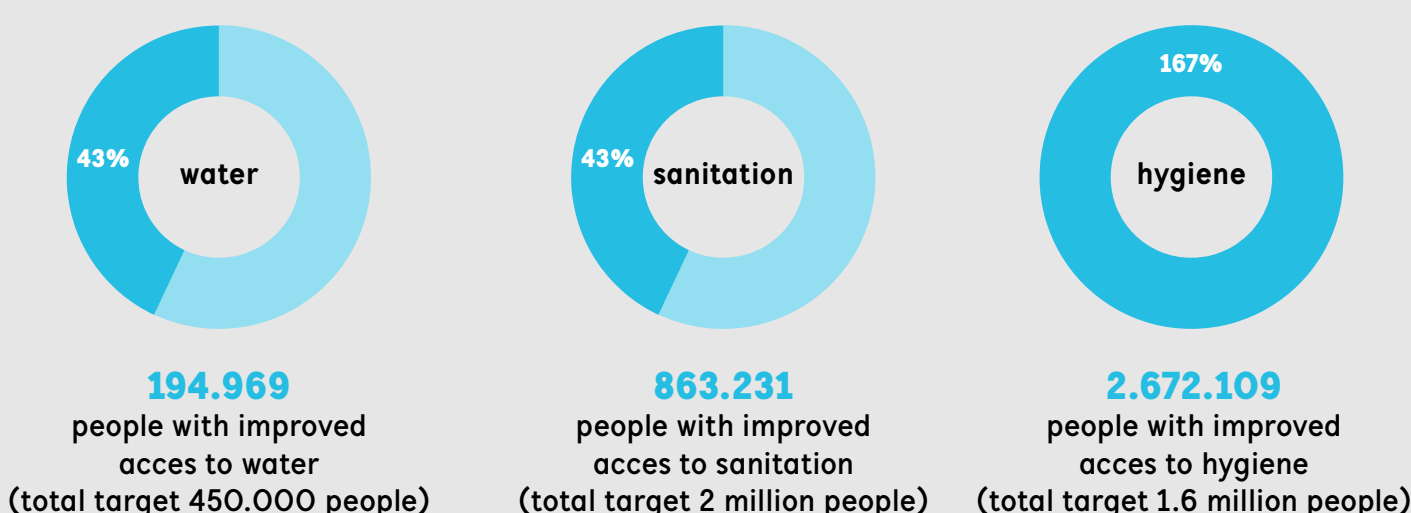


## The WASH SDG Programme

The WASH SDG Consortium is formed by the Dutch partners of the WASH Alliance International<sup>1</sup> (WAI), SNV and Plan International Netherlands, with Simavi in the lead. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directoraat Generaal Internationale Samenwerking (DGIS)/Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) department, and responds to the Dutch commitment to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6, with the aim to reach an improved WASH situation for all. The programme started in 2017 and the MTR was conducted in 2020/2021. The programme is implemented in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Facts	Active in	Working in	Working with	Reaching
	<b>7</b> countries	<b>73</b> locations	<b>59</b> million euros	<b>9,5</b> million people

## Progress towards goals



For more details on challenges and opportunities, see separate blue text box below.

Despite the impact of corona, a global overview of consolidated mid-term data shows that good progress has been made to date. The clear link between WASH and COVID-19 prevention were also favourable to advance in some key result areas of the programme, particularly as can be seen from the high increase in people accessing basic hygiene.

The Consortium acknowledges that although these results are encouraging, progress in lower wealth quintiles remains slower than for others, and needs continuing (and sometimes intensifying) efforts to address their specific barriers. The level of advancement towards the global programme outcomes does suggest that overall targets are likely to be achieved by the end of the programme period. The challenge will be to sustain progress so far, with increased attention for WASH, after COVID-19 fatigue sets in whereas the global threat of COVID-19 continues to affect implementation.

**Increased behaviour change interventions:** The programme has made good progress towards the implementation of behaviour change strategies, leading to increased demand and improved WASH practices. Furthermore, more households have invested in WASH facilities or contributed to user fees for WASH services.

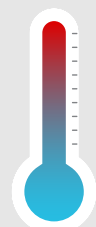
The participation of women and girls in the WASH decision-making structures and WASH activities in the communities has improved and is progressing towards a level in which they are increasingly making decisions about their own lives. In addition, the participation

of marginalised groups has also made progress compared to the baseline, with participants from some sub-programmes expressing that they are more comfortable speaking up and feel they are being listened to.

**Improved WASH service provision:** Within the programme areas, there is an increased availability of WASH products and services for the bottom of the pyramid, which is the largest but poorest socio-economic group. Yet, this stays behind as not in all sub-programmes the WASH entrepreneurs are sufficiently aware or have the capacity to reach this group.

Promising however, is the increase in the presence of female WASH entrepreneurs. In addition, the governmental policy and legislation environment for WASH for all have been substantially improved at the district and municipalities level, where the programme is implemented. It is expected that by the end of the programme, more and more people from the poorest socio-economic group are reached.

**Strengthened WASH governance and institutional framework**  
The programme currently works in 73 administrative units (with 72 sub-national authorities) for which 72 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with subnational authorities were signed, all but one including a sustainability compact. The sustainability compacts and checks are a useful tool that spearheaded valuable discussions and dialogue with local government representatives around sustainability of WASH services, beyond the programme interventions.



## GESI Temperature Check

- The 'excluded' have more scope to raise their voice in various WASH platforms and also to hold duty bearers accountable
- Efforts have also been made to engage the resisters of change and norm settings to create more space for women and minority groups to engage in decision-making.

## Climate vulnerability and resilience (CVR)

It is usually the women, girls and other marginalised groups (in the lower wealth quintiles) who are among the groups that are hardest hit by climate change effects.

Building on its GESI experience, the Consortium will expand its learning agenda with a specific focus on WASH and climate change.

## Collaboration



Consortium connections in all seven countries were mostly pre-existent and are embedded in already existing (sector) networks and relationships. These ongoing connections reinforce the fact that collaboration exists beyond the WASH SDG programme and that partners are also working with other national networks and partners to achieve WASH goals.

These results are a selection of the full MTR results



## Drinking water challenges and opportunities:

- Challenges persist mainly around rural water sources, where the water quality remains an issue.
- Inequalities persist between and within countries, with main progress made in the higher wealth quintiles.
- Both in urban and rural areas, access to basic water services increased, but more people at the lowest wealth quintile have decreased their access to improved water sources. This is mainly owing to the effects of climate change, which shows that it hits this part of the population the hardest, especially when it comes to sustainable water supply. For this reason, additional and tailored support is needed to reach the poorest wealth quintiles.



## Sanitation challenges and opportunities:

- While there is an increase in safely managed services in urban areas, sustaining this level remains a challenge if emptying services are not in place or not carried out in a timely manner.
- Focus on further eliminating inequalities between wealth quintiles is also needed.
- Both in rural and urban areas, people are moving up the sanitation ladder, indicating the availability of WASH services to do so. Nevertheless, the lowest wealth quintiles are more likely to slip back on the ladder and will need more support for a sustained period of time.