**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Global Programs and Cross–Regional Support**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Executive Summary**

Access to safe water and basic sanitation, combined with good hygiene behaviours, contributes significantly to improving public health outcomes. The importance of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) has been acknowledged through a specific Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target – “halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”.[[1]](#endnote-1) Progress towards universal achievement of this MDG target however remains poor. Almost 900 million people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water. The situation concerning access to basic sanitation is even worse with 2.6 billion people not using basic sanitation facilities.

The Australian Government recognises that WASH is a priority sector for investment through the policy framework for the Australian aid program, which identifies “improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation*”* as a key development objective under the strategic goal of “saving lives*”*. In support of this strategic goal, the Government has increased its funding to the sector through a $433.1 million Budget Measure in 2011‑12. This funding, when combined with existing sources, means that a total of around $1 billion will be invested in the sector over 2011‑12 to 2015–16.

The Sectoral Policy Division (SPD) has received around $260 million of this funding to resource global and cross–regional programs and activities in the WASH sector. This aims of this funding will be:

* expanding the geographic reach of the aid program’s WASH investment by working with effective multilateral and civil society organisations;
* improving where appropriate the targeting of WASH activities to ensure aid is delivered to where it is needed most;
* supporting innovation and the development of evidence on good practice which will in turn facilitate the achievement of sustainable outcomes for AusAID’s investments; and
* supporting the improved impact of bilateral and development partner programs through the provision of analytical tools and investing in the capacity of national WASH sector agencies.

This concept note identifies the primary activities to be resourced by the SPD WASH allocation through to 2015‑16. The proposed activities include:

* 1. supporting WASH programs led by multilateral agencies;
	2. resourcing a new Civil Society WASH Fund;
	3. funding capacity building activities; and
	4. investing in research and developing supporting analytical tools and resources.

The package represents a strategic approach focussing on programs and activities which will complement and support country and regional programs where the majority of WASH programs over the next four years will be managed. The design and implementation processes for these activities will be developed in close consultation with AusAID’s country programs and will incorporate the cross–cutting themes of gender, disability, climate change, child protection and safeguards which are particularly relevant to WASH programs and activities. A results framework for the package of activities is provided in Annex 4.

It is proposed that the activities will be resourced through to 2015‑16 to ensure that there is predictability of funding for our partners and that activities are aligned with the Australian aid program’s four year Budget Strategy.

Priority will initially be given to implementing Multilateral Programs (activity A) with all agreements expected to be in place by June 2012. The Civil Society WASH Fund (activity B) involving a competitive grant process is expected to commence in September 2012 with other activities to follow shortly thereafter.

The level of risk associated with implementing this package of activities is considered low as similar activities have been successfully implemented in recent years through the 2008‑09 to 2010 ‑11 Water and Sanitation Initiative (WSI). The challenges of improving WASH outcomes for developing countries is huge, and while WSI was successful, it could only address a very small part of the problem and there is still significant work that is needed. The effectiveness of the package will be assessed against an outputs and outcome framework covering indicators ranging from increased number of households with access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene education through to increased capacity to deliver and maintain WASH systems.

**Context and Rationale**

*Benefits of Investing in WASH*

Access to safe water and basic sanitation, combined with good hygiene behaviours, contributes significantly to improving public health outcomes. More than 1.5 million children around the world die each year as a result of diarrhoea, a water‑borne disease and the second leading cause of deaths for children. Extending access to safe water and basic sanitation and improving hygiene practices will lower the incidence of diseases carried by water and improve public health, especially for women and children. According to one estimate by the World Health Organisation (WHO), achieving MDG target 7C could result in a 10% reduction in global diarrhoeal episodes.[[2]](#endnote-2)

The economic impacts on individuals, communities and countries caused by a lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation, and poor hygiene practices, are also significant. A 2007 World Bank study found that Indonesia lost 56 trillion Indonesian Rupiah (US$6.3 billion) or approximately 2.3 per cent of gross domestic product in 2005 because of poor sanitation and poor hygiene practices.[[3]](#endnote-3) The WHO has also estimated that achieving the MDG target for both water and sanitation would result in an economic return of between US$3 and US$34 per US$1 invested, depending on the region. These returns include global improvements in productivity and savings to the health sector.[[4]](#endnote-4)

*Global Progress Against Improved Outcomes for WASH*

Almost 900 million people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water. The situation concerning access to basic sanitation is even worse with 2.6 billion people not using basic sanitation facilities.[[5]](#endnote-5)

At the current rate of progress the world will miss MDG target 7C for basic sanitation. At least a billion people, or 17 per cent of the world’s population, still defecate in the open and, at the current rate of progress, the number of people without access to basic sanitation will increase to 2.7 billion people by 2015.[[6]](#endnote-6)

While the world is on track to meet MDG target 7C for safe drinking water by 2015, the level of access varies considerably. Water supply is often intermittent and coverage typically does not reach the poorest people. Many of the gains made through increasing coverage are now at risk due to low sustainability arising from common causes of weak management systems, unmaintained infrastructure and lack of a supply chains for parts. UNICEF estimates that an average of 36 per cent of rural hand pumps in 20 countries in Sub–Saharan Africa are no longer functioning.[[7]](#endnote-7)

*Challenges Facing Improved Outcomes for WASH*

A range of limitations impact on progress in the WASH sector. Governments in developing countries are often constrained by poor capacity in technical and financial management as well as ‘soft skills’ including facilitation, behaviour change and gender analysis. There is often a lack of engagement with communities in decision–making and weak coordination between stakeholders to ensure that WASH service delivery targets the poor and that programs are based on current evidence of what works on the ground. Development partners often retain an infrastructure focus with limited attention to health, hygiene behaviour change and community engagement or accountability.

Significant effort by both research institutions and development practitioners has been put towards identifying the weaknesses in traditional approaches to WASH programming, and identifying innovations that seek to address these, in order to improve effectiveness and impact. For example, community management of WASH infrastructure is increasingly being questioned which is driving a shift in focus to more professional management models[[8]](#endnote-8), and similarly small business sanitation enterprises are challenging traditional subsidy approaches to sanitation. Substantial work is required to identify, document and share learning on successful innovation where it occurs. Practitioners must then scale up what have been characterised as ‘islands of success in a sea of failure’[[9]](#endnote-9) in order to achieve the targets set in the MDGs and beyond.

*WASH and the Australian Aid Program*

“Saving lives” is a core strategic goal of Australia’s aid program. Improving public health by increasing access to safe water and basic sanitation and improving hygiene behaviour is a key development objective that supports this strategic goal. The aid program emphasises that Australia will invest significant resources in this sector because it is a proven way to deliver health outcomes, particularly given the high relative benefit for child survival rates of investments in sanitation and hygiene when compared to other interventions.

The Australian Government’s investment in WASH was significantly scaled up through the WSI. This initiative aimed to improve public health by increasing access to safe water and basic sanitation, improving hygiene behaviour and supporting sustainable service delivery. A broad range of programs were resourced through the WSI to:

* increase bilateral support for effective programs such as the National Target Program in Vietnam and the Hibah program in Indonesia;
* provide greater geographic coverage for the aid program through partnerships with multilateral organisations in Africa and South Asia; and
* work with civil society organisations to provide support for the poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries.

These WSI programs have delivered significant results for the aid program. In Indonesia it has assisted with the provision of access to safe piped water for 77,000 households and connections to sewers for 5,000 households. WSI funding for the Asian Development Bank Water Financing Partnership Facility has contributed to the provision of access to safe water supply and improved sanitation for 29 million people in South, Central and East Asia. Despite these achievements, significant investment is still required to achieve sustained progress against MDG target 7C.

This concept note proposes that further program design work will draw on the lessons learned from WSI and other global initiatives in the WASH sector to continue to support sustained progress towards this goal. For example:

* **insufficient progress has been achieved in halving the number of people without access to improved sanitation. Both AusAID and partner‑led designs will need to place a greater emphasis on sanitation;**
* **hygiene promotion and behaviour change have a proven impact on health outcomes.[[10]](#endnote-10) Designs must integrate hygiene into water and sanitation activities;**
* **to be effective, community managed water systems must be supported by institutions that are able to provide financial, technical and administrative support;**
* **WASH programs working through government systems are more effective than projects that are delivered outside of government and are more likely to increase sustained coverage and capacity;**
* **the successful engagement of government in the WASH sector will typically require an investment in the capacity of its staff and an improvement in national policy, planning, regulation and budgeting for recurrent costs; and**
* **it is important to support and document successful innovation and ensure that programs are able to keep pace with the development of good practice in WASH.**

The significance of WASH in the aid program has been reinforced through the 2011–12 Budget which provides $433.1 million in new funding for the sector to 2014–15. This funding will complement existing funding sources (eg base appropriations and the Infrastructure for Growth Initiative) for a combined total of around $1 billion from 2011‑12 to 2015–16.

The majority of this funding will be managed and delivered by country and regional programs (approximately 80% or $740 million to 2015–16). Key programs will include in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Africa, East Timor, Indonesia and Vietnam in East Asia and the Solomon Islands in the Pacific. These programs have a history of funding through the WSI and represent AusAID’s primary investments in WASH.

The scope of the WASH investment in country and regional programs will be complemented by the allocation of an estimated $260 million to SPD from 2011‑12 to 2015‑16 to resource global and cross–regional programs and activities. This allocation will focus on programs and activities which will complement and support country and regional programs including by:

* extending the geographic impact of AusAID’s WASH investment into areas where AusAID is not well represented or is not commencing a program of interventions;
* supporting innovation and improving the evidence base for good practice by working with leading edge organisations (including academia, multilateral agencies and CSOs);
* supporting the design and implementation of activities funded bilaterally including through the development of analytical tools;
* funding activities that focus on strengthening the enabling environment at the regional, national and local levels to support improved and more sustainable outcomes; and
* influencing multilateral partner programs and policies to look for opportunities to align with Australia’s aid priorities and to engage more closely with our bilateral programs.

**Proposed Global and Cross–Regional Programs and Activities**

This section identifies the primary activities to be resourced through the SPD WASH allocation. The core objective for the package of activities will be “saving lives” through “improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation”. Programming will be further guided by AusAID’s Thematic Strategy on WASH which outlines the policy framework for our investments in this sector. Further detail is provided in Annex 1.

It is proposed that the package of activities will be resourced through to 2015–16 at a total cost of around $260 million. The proposed budget allocations for each activity based on current projections are listed in more detail in Annex 1.

The proposed activities are:

1. **Multilateral Programs**

This activity will fund a selection of multilateral agencies with a proven record of leading edge expertise in the WASH sector and effectiveness and efficiency in delivering aid. The types of activities expected to be funded include:

* researching and trialling innovative approaches to improving sustainable access to water, sanitation and improved hygiene behaviour
* working directly with governments to improve services in line with country policies, such as connecting homes and schools to clean water sources; and
* using technical assistance to strengthen national policy, coordination and institutional development to support sustainable service delivery options.

These partnerships have the potential to extend the coverage and effectiveness of AusAID’s WASH investment. These arrangements will allow AusAID to have a greater influence over strategic directions and policy agendas of multilateral organisations and to look for opportunities to align them more closely to the direction of Australia’s new aid policy and AusAID’s bilateral priorities. This activity will also allow AusAID to capitalise on the significant investment that multilateral partners are making to strengthen the enabling environment (eg local government and the private sector) to support improved and more sustainable outcomes.

This activity builds on SPD’s history of funding multilateral agencies. Agencies previously funded through WSI include UNICEF, the World Bank, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, the WHO and the Asian Development Bank.

The outcomes delivered through these partnerships are diverse and depend on the nature of the program. Typical outcomes include policy reform for national government, capacity building for utilities and the private sector, research and piloting of innovative practices and interventions to scale up effective programs.

As part of this activity AusAID will advocate for strengthening results reporting by multilateral partners.  Expected results will be determined based on the organisations funded through this activity, the objectives of an organisation’s programs and the contribution of AusAID funding as a proportion of the whole initiative. These results will be quantified during the design process, with AusAID seeking data on access to water and sanitation, increased awareness and practice of handwashing with soap, and improvements to sector policy and the regulatory environment (amongst others – see Annex 4). The results produced by the multilateral programs activity will be monitored and measured using the AusAID WASH Performance Assessment Framework as well as through partner systems.

An independent evaluation of AusAID’s current multilateral agreements in the WASH sector will inform our choice of future partnerships. This evaluation will assess the performance of current and potential future partnerships in line with the strategic goals and the effectiveness, efficiency and value for money criteria identified in Australia’s new aid policy. The design of this activity will also be informed by the findings of the Australian Multilateral Assessment.

1. **New Civil Society WASH Fund**

A four year Civil Society WASH Fund is proposed to resource Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to deliver WASH programs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The new fund will aim to improve program quality and sustainability by funding CSOs that demonstrate a sound track record of incorporating evidence–based practice into their WASH programs. The fund will utilise performance evaluation feedback mechanisms to guide implementation and will support, document and share innovative approaches.

The approach of using a dedicated CSO fund for WASH is informed by research into CSO work on WASH in Asia and the Pacific which found that these organisations have been successful in facilitating better access for the extreme poor.[[11]](#endnote-11) The Australian aid policy promotes partnering with CSOs to extend the geographic coverage of the aid program and to deliver assistance directly to those who need it most.

This activity will build on the design and achievements of the 2009–10 to 2011–12 Civil Society WASH Fund (a $32 million activity established under WSI). Under the current fund a total of 11 CSOs are expected to provide approximately 330,000 people with access to safe water and an additional 560,000 people with access to basic sanitation facilities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. In addition, up to 474 schools are expected to benefit from improved water, sanitation or hand–washing facilities.

The activity’s goal will be to enhance the health and quality of life of the poor and vulnerable by improving sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. The activity has been allocated a budget of $97 million over four years and based on the expected achievements of the current fund, is estimated to be able to deliver improved access to water and sanitation and education on hygiene to approximately 1.8 million people across Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The design process for the next iteration of the fund will be informed by a mid–term Independent Progress Report of the current fund which reviewed the fund’s structure, management, partnerships and reported on WASH approaches pursued by CSOs. The design will explore opportunities for partnerships with bilateral programs (for example through capacity building initiatives) and will seek to place a stronger emphasis on use of good practice to achieve sustainable WASH outcomes. A competitive grant process is proposed to resource CSOs with funding commencing in September 2012. A final evaluation of the current fund is planned in 2012 and will be used to further improve on the design and outcomes delivered through the new fund.

1. **Capacity Building**

Across most developing countries there is a lack of capacity in national and local governments, private sector, civil society and communities to deliver sustainable WASH services. In–country capacity is a critical factor for development effectiveness and the attainment of MDG targets for water and sanitation.

The broad objective of this activity will be to develop program delivery capacity in countries and regions where Australian development assistance is funding WASH activities. The activity will also consider if it can usefully contribute to the development of policy expertise in these locations and within the funding envelope available.

This activity would target Australian and in–country organisations through activities including training and skill–building in particular, but could also consider ways to improve governance arrangements within the water sector. For example, improvements to financial management and technical support systems in local governments can help countries to better operate and maintain public water and sanitation infrastructure.

As a global program, this activity would enable knowledge and best practice in the WASH sector to be shared more widely and consistently across regions, including with countries where AusAID does not currently have a strong WASH presence. A design process for this activity would identify where the greatest need for capacity building exists and how best to build on current multilateral and bilateral initiatives and partnerships to assist developing countries and implementing partners to improve their capacity for the successful delivery of WASH related services.

This activity would consider options for partnering with Australian and in–country organisations such as universities and accredited training organisations, civil society and local government. This would be guided by an assessment of the ability of these institutions to deliver training and skill–building programs where a need is identified.

With funding of up to $19 million available over four years from 2012–13, this activity could provide for 25 regional short courses and workshops (at $100,000 each), two international conferences (at $500,000 each), 60 specialist placements in multilateral/bilateral programs to provide strategic advice for one month (at $50,000 each) and 30 sector analysis and institutional reform placements in multilateral/bilateral programs for three months (at $150,000 each). Other activities would also be considered including sector specialist secondments, twinning arrangements with multilateral and in–country institutions and the development of information sharing systems such as internet portals.

A consultant is proposed to be engaged to manage the design for this activity, in particular to assist with identifying potential partners to work with and what countries and regions can benefit the most from building domestic capacity in WASH program delivery. An assessment on the value of including the development of policy expertise as part of this activity would also be undertaken.

1. **Research and Bilateral Support**

Good research can lead to improved development effectiveness by providing practical evidence upon which policies and programs can be built.

There are still significant gaps in the global knowledge base on how to achieve sustainable WASH outcomes across diverse cultural, environmental, fiscal and political contexts. There is also a shortage of reliable data on the coverage of water supply and sanitation by country and region, particularly for the Pacific. The combined impact of these issues is a constraint on the ability to design programs that will deliver sustainable outcomes for those who need it most.

The activity proposes to resource a range of activities that will:

* invest in both country specific research to support bilateral engagements and general thematic research to build the global knowledge base for WASH. The Australian Development Research Awards (ADRA) and AusAID’s systematic reviews will be utilised to address the need for more evidence on critical issues such as the impact of climate change on water supply and context specific subjects such as how to address cultural practices in hygiene behaviour change programs; and
* develop analytical tools and resources such as country reports on the status of WASH for South East Asia and Pacific countries. These tools will assist AusAID country and regional program areas, bilateral partners and other donors to better target WASH activities by providing robust data and analysis on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector in a given country. SPD will work with multilateral initiatives such as the Joint Monitoring Program (UNICEF and WHO) and academic institutions to develop these analytical tools and resources.

With a budget of $8 million over four years this activity could fund up to 10 research grants at an average cost of $200,000 each. The activity will also examine contributions to existing monitoring and analysis activities, such as the Joint Monitoring Program, at a cost of up to $4 million in total and the development of a suite of specific analytical tools and resources at a cost of around $2 million to support the development and implementation of WASH programs. Consultants and academic partners will be engaged to develop the tools and resources as well as conduct the research. The investments into general thematic research (including towards ADRAs and AusAID’s systematic reviews) will be guided by AusAID’s new Research Strategy (currently being developed) in consultation with AusAID’s Research Section.

**Cross-Cutting Issues and WASH**

The design and implementation processes for the programs and activities identified in this concept note will incorporate the cross–cutting themes of gender, disability, climate change, child protection and safeguards which are particularly relevant to WASH programs and activities.

*Gender*

Recent evidence has found that the active participation of women in all aspects of WASH programming, from design and planning, to operation and maintenance as well as hygiene and sanitation behaviour change, greatly enhances the sustainability of the activities.[[12]](#endnote-12) Since women make many daily household decisions they should be targeted both as consumers and people who can influence change in family behaviours. Furthermore, involving women on management committees of water supply systems and in operational jobs often makes a transformational change in gender roles in the community.

There are a number of ways gender issues will be addressed in the proposed activities. For example, it is intended that the new Civil Society WASH Fund will include improved gender equality as an outcome for the fund as it is known that when women and men have relative equality, economies are more productive, children's health improves and there is less corruption. The Civil Society WASH Fund will address this outcome by requiring CSOs to produce a series of planning products, including a detailed gender and social inclusion plan.

*Disability and Inclusiveness*

Equity of access to water and sanitation is an important goal for WASH programs. For example, designs for latrines must accommodate the needs of all members of the community, particularly the elderly and people living with disability. This can be achieved by including vulnerable community members in decisions on facility designs.

The potential for positive outcomes extends beyond just access to services. When consumers, particularly poor men and women and disabled people, participate in decisions on facility design and service levels, it has been found that they are more willing to pay for affordable and appropriate water services. It is also important to ensure hygiene promotion activities include the elderly and people with a disability in activities as they can have a strong influence on their families.

It is intended that SPD will promote policy dialogue on disability and inclusiveness through its partnerships with multilateral development agencies such as the World Bank and UNICEF. Such agencies can influence developing country governments and other donor agencies to ensure that investments in WASH are equitable, affordable and sustainable, including for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

*Climate Change*

Increasing sea levels and less frequent but higher intensity storms are potential consequences of climate change that will adversely affect water supply. For example, rising sea levels will result in saline intrusion into fresh water sources which will in turn affect the supply of potable water, particularly for small islands. Less frequent but more intense storms will place pressure on communities that are dependent on rain water catchment. Water run–off during storm events could adversely impact water quality, particularly in densely populated areas.[[13]](#endnote-13)

Building community resilience to climate change is critical to ensuring sustained improvements in WASH, in particular for access to clean water. Research through the ADRA mechanism could encourage investigation into the potential impacts of climate change on communities living on flood plains and low lying atolls. This issue will be further explored through the design for the Research and Bilateral Support activity.

*Child Protection*

Water, sanitation and hygiene activities typically incorporate schools into the scope of work, with hygiene education in particular directly targeting children - the sooner children get into the habit of washing their hands regularly, the better. It is therefore important to ensure that the proposed activities promote AusAID’s child protection policy and to further ensure that sufficient mechanisms are in place to support compliance.

The Civil Society WASH Fund is an activity that will involve direct contact with children through the contracted partners. The design can ensure compliance with AusAID’s child protection policy by requiring CSOs to describe their organisation’s safeguards in their proposals. A dedicated workshop with successful CSOs may also be warranted.

*Social and Other Safeguards*

Appropriate actions are needed to safeguard communities and investments from environmental and social disruption risks. The design processes for WASH activities will further investigate what safeguards should be in place and how they are implemented. For example it is intended that guidelines for the new Civil Society WASH Fund will stipulate that any activities funded through AusAID will need to provide that environmental, social and other impacts of activities are appropriately managed.

**Implementation Plan**

*Design Priorities and Process*

The design processes will be managed centrally by SPD with support from consultants. Priority will initially be given to implementing Multilateral Programs with agreements expected to be in place by June 2012. Priority will then be given to the Civil Society WASH Fund to ensure CSOs are able to begin activities early in 2012–13 to maximise the timeframe available to implement their projects. A table on the implementation timeframes for each activity is included in Annex 3.

*Alignment with AusAID Country and Regional Program Areas*

SPD recognises that activities resourced through the global WASH allocation should not operate independently of bilateral programs. Alignment with country priorities and delivery strategies will, however, vary depending on the activity. For example, research activities can directly contribute to country priorities by exploring a context specific issue, whereas core funding to multilateral partners may not have a direct relationship with bilateral programs (although the funding may contribute to outcomes in a country or region that AusAID operates within). The Capacity Building and new Civil Society WASH Fund activities provide clear opportunities for engagement with country and regional programs. Consultation during the design processes for both activities will seek agreement on the points of engagement and roles and responsibilities for country and regional programs.

**Performance Framework**

The success of this package of activities will be evaluated using an overarching results framework. A draft of this framework is at Annex 4. The indicators range from increased number of households with access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene education through to increased capacity to deliver and maintain WASH systems. The indicators identified will be further refined as part of the design phases for each activity with emphasis placed on linkages to the overarching results framework for the Australian aid program.

The design phase will also consider if individual performance frameworks and/or approaches are needed for each of the activities. In the case of the Civil Society WASH Fund a separate framework will be developed which will assess CSOs against key results areas and performance indicators. This framework will reinforce good practice by identifying key actors (eg women and local government) that must be targeted and changes that need to occur (eg progress to open defecation free status) as per current evidence on sustainability in WASH. CSOs will be further guided by a panel of monitoring and evaluation experts who will independently monitor and report on the progress of CSOs. This panel approach was utilised in the current fund and is considered to be a successful innovation.

**Risk Analysis**

The activities outlined in this concept note generally face low to medium level risks for the agency. Similar WASH activities have successfully been funded over recent years and the current proposal aims to improve and expand on these activities.

The immediate concern for SPD is the need to expend the 2011–12 budget allocation of $25.8 million before the end of the financial year. It is SPD’s intention to direct this funding to Multilateral Programs, following completion of an evaluation and subsequent design processes. High level risks are further detailed in Annex 5.

**Annex 1 – AusAID’s WASH Thematic Strategy**

In support of the Australian aid program the core goal for the package of activities will be “saving lives” through “improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation”. Each activity will also contribute to the three pillars in the WASH Thematic Strategy:

1. **increased access to safe water and basic sanitation** – facilitate increased access to safe water and basic sanitation by funding activities that result in the provision of universally accessible facilities;
2. **improved hygiene behaviour** – support the development of increased capacity and tools to ensure hygiene promotion services bring about sustainable behaviour change; and
3. **creating sustainable services** – support policies and strategies that keep services operating after they are built. This includes better governance through public sector reform and improving service delivery though partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

The proposed activities in this concept note will contribute to pillars 1 and 2 (providing access and promoting hygiene) through a mix of direct contributions (for example, resourcing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to improve access for poor people in given communities) and indirect contributions (eg funding to multilateral WASH programs).

The proposed activities will also place a particular emphasis on supporting pillar 3 to ensure that efforts to improve access and hygiene behaviour result in sustainable outcomes. Activities will include: assisting with the development of appropriate national and sub–national policies and regulations; training skilled technicians to install, operate and maintain facilities; and supporting the development of supply chains to provide new materials and parts. Sustainable outcomes will also be supported by funding research activities that will contribute to strengthening the evidence base on effective WASH practices.

**Annex 2 – Indicative Funding Allocation in $million by Activity Based on Current Projections**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed Activity** | **Funding** | **Total** | **Funding Process** |
| 2011–12 | 2012–13 | 2013–14 | 2014–15 | 2015–16 |
| A | Multilateral Programs | 25.8 | 10 | 20 | 35 | 37 | 127.8 | Direct Source |
| B | New Civil Society WASH Fund | 0 | 15 | 22 | 30 | 30 | 97 | Competitive Grant |
| C | Capacity Building | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 19 | Competitive Grant |
| D | Research and Bilateral Support | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | As Required |
| **TOTAL** | **25.8** | **30** | **48** | **73** | **75** | **251.8** |  |

**Annex 3 – Indicative Implementation Timeframes for the Package of Global Programs and Cross–Regional Activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Evaluation** | **Design Process** | **Peer Review** | **Tendering Timeframe** | **Commence Implementation** |
| Multilateral Programs | December 2011 to February 2012 | February –March 2012 | March 2012 | Direct Source April - May 2012 | May to June 2012 |
| Civil Society WASH Fund | Mid–term Review (February 2011)Final Review(June 2012) | October 2011 to January 2012 | March 2012 | May to July 2012 | September 2012 |
| Capacity Building | N/A | April to May 2012 | June 2012 | July to August 2012 | September 2012 |
| Research and Bilateral Support | N/A | January to February 2012 | N/A | Ongoing, as necessary | May 2012, beginning with ADRA round |

**Annex 4 – Results Framework for the Package of Global Programs and Cross-Regional Activities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Output** | **Outcomes or Impacts** |
| 1. Multilateral Programs
 | Increased engagement and alignment with Australian aid program and AusAID’s country and regional activitiesIncreased multilateral–led WASH events supporting capacity building of developing country partners.Increased number of households with access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene education.Increased number of new government policies and regulations for WASH managementImproved methods for development and implementation of WASH infrastructure and sustainable maintenance | Improved capacity of WASH sector practitioners and institutions in developing countriesIncreased access to safe water and basic sanitation and improved hygiene behavioursReduced rate of water–related diseases such as diarrhoea, intestinal worms and parasitic infectionsImproved quality, allocation and affordability of water and sanitation servicesImproved enabling environments to support sustainability of WASH services |
| 1. New Civil Society WASH Fund
 | Increased number of household connections to piped water supply systems or improved point source water supplyIncreased number of households with an improved sanitation facilityIncreased number of schools and other community facilities with water, sanitation and hand washing facilities with soapIncreased number of education programs provided on improved hygiene practices | Increased access to safe water and basic sanitation and improved hygiene behavioursReduced rate of water–related diseases such as diarrhoea, intestinal worms and parasitic infectionsIncreased geographic spread of AusAID’s involvement and improved targeting of the poorest and most vulnerable |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Capacity Building
 | Increased number of partnerships established to provide training and capacity building programsIncreased number of training and capacity building opportunities provided (eg workshops, seminars and conferences) | Improved capacity of WASH sector practitioners and institutions in Australia and developing countriesImproved financial and technical support to maintain public water and sanitation services |
| 1. Research and Bilateral Support
 | Increased number of ADRA awards granted and systematic reviews undertaken on WASH–related issuesIncreased number of analytical tools and resources developed for AusAID’s country and regional programs  | Improved global knowledge base for WASH through the publication of high quality thematic researchAnalytical tools and resources of relevance and use to AusAID’s country and regional programsImproved results delivered by AusAID’s country and regional programs due to a stronger WASH evidence base |

**Annex 5 – Risk Management**

The following high level risks have been identified for the package of activities:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Risk Level** | **Mitigation** |
| The suite of activities does not deliver the intended outcomes. | Medium Risk | Design and implementation processes will be guided by Australia’s aid policy and the WASH thematic strategy.Development and implementation of an overarching results framework which will be used to measure performance. Consideration as part of the design phases as to whether individual performance frameworks and/or approaches are needed for each of the activities.Multilateral program investments will be guided by the outcomes of an Independent Evaluation. The chosen partnerships will be with effective agencies that have a track record for consistently delivering on outcomes.The design for the Civil Society Fund will subject CSOs to a more rigorous quality assurance process as well as ongoing support through an effective monitoring and evaluation panel.  |
| The suite of activities does not align with other WASH activities across AusAID. | Medium Risk | SPD will ensure teams representing cross-cutting issues and country and regional programs are given the opportunity to engage through consultation.SPD will proactively build relationships with relevant areas to ensure parties remain informed of progress and opportunities for complementarity are identified early. |
| The 2011–12 budget allocation cannot be expended | Medium Risk | Project plan is in place for activities A. This plan will assist to monitor progress against deadlines and identify downstream impacts.Consultants will be engaged to assist with the design and other processes for activity A. This will help ensure timely achievement of deliverables with no impact on quality. |

**Endnotes**

1. Millennium Development Goal target 7 C is listed under Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. These gains are associated with achieving MDG target 7C. The WHO estimates that around US$11.3 billion will need to be invested per year over and above current investments to achieve these gains.

World Health Organization, *Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level*, 2004, Executive Summary.. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Water and Sanitation Program, World Bank *Economic Impacts of Sanitation in Indonesia*,p. 22. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. World Health Organization, *Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level*, 2004, Executive Summary. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. UNICEF and WHO, Joint Monitoring Programme, Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water 2010, p. 6. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid, p. 8. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. UNICEF presentation by Clarissa Brocklehurst at WASH Conference 2011, Brisbane, Australia, <http://www.watercentre.org/wash2011/wash-2011-keynotes> (accessed on 30 June 2011). [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Ibid [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Schouten, T, Moriarty, P. & Postma, L., 2003: Scaling up Community Management, presented at the 29th WEDC International Conference. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Fewtrell, L, Kaufmann, R, Kay, D, Enanoria, W, Haller, L & Colford Jr, J. Water, sanitation and hygiene interventions to reduce diarrhea in less developed countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com) Vol 5, January 2005. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. International WaterCentre and the Institute for Sustainable Futures, *NGO Partnerships and Capacity Building in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector* (2008), Part 1, p. iv. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. *For Her, It’s a Big Issue: Putting Women at the Centre of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene*. Evidence Report produced by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and WEDC, 2006. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. AusAID, *Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Draft Guidance for Activity Managers*, 2010, p. 13. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)