



# Living Water International

## *WPA Model Overview*

The Living Water WASH Program Area (WPA) model is a defined geographic region that is the focus of a multi-year program thoughtfully integrating and contextualizing principles of water access, sanitation, hygiene, church mobilization, gospel proclamation, and sustainability—resulting in ongoing impact in that region through water infrastructure, health, and spiritual transformation. With each WPA, we focus on a target population of 35,000 to 100,000 individuals where at least 50% of the population lacks access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The Living Water WASH Program Area model includes these five thematic areas and program components:

***Water Access.*** Living Water began working in water provision, and it continues to be a cornerstone of our work. Water access is about more than installing water systems; it's about installing the right systems, which might include protected springs, piped systems, boreholes, hand dug wells, rainwater harvesting, or household treatment. In the WASH sector, success has often been measured by tracking the number of systems installed. However, we believe that success or failure should include measuring water access in terms of water quantity, quality, accessibility, and reliability.

***Sanitation.*** In places where there is no safe, clean place to go to the toilet, people struggle with disease, lack of privacy, and indignity. Once communities have access to safe, sustainable water, they can improve their sanitation, dramatically raising their quality of life. Sanitation promotion primarily focuses on creating demand for, and use of, sanitation facilities. This is accomplished through community engagement approaches that generate an awareness and understanding of the risks associated with practices such as open defecation. Construction of latrines is often carried out with local resources by households and communities. In some cases, Living Water will partner with schools and health clinics to assist with construction of larger-scale institutional WASH facilities that include multiple latrine stances for both men and women.

***Hygiene Promotion.*** Safe water and sanitation systems are important, but to have an impact, people need to use them effectively and consistently. Education helps people understand how to prevent diseases through hand washing, proper water storage, and using a latrine. Head knowledge is just the beginning; helping communities identify important behaviors and make their own plan to use them is the end goal. Changing and improving long-held behaviors takes time, and requires well-developed, culturally appropriate, participatory approaches. Success can be realized over time with universal community hygiene commitments and practices that reduce health risks and prevent environmental contamination. These must continue beyond Living Water's activities in a community if sustainable healthy changes are to transform the community.

***Church Mobilization & Gospel Proclamation.*** Our concern is for whole people—physical and spiritual. We believe Jesus has the power to transform people, restore relationships, and heal factors that lead to poverty, hunger, and thirst. We believe that the church, a stable presence in many of our target areas, shares our mission to serve the thirsty and maintains lasting relationships with our intended beneficiaries. We work in coordination with local churches and larger church networks or denominations wherever we find them and seek to equip and mobilize them with resources that will help them not only bring more people to

know and follow Christ, but also serve as organizers and leaders in meeting the physical needs in their community.

**Sustainability.** For Living Water, sustainability is the state where outcomes brought about through all of the above program areas will persist over time. We define sustainability as a state in which water supply and sanitation services—along with good hygiene practices—continue and deliver benefits indefinitely. For the benefits of the WPA model to last we have to involve the community, local churches, and other local stakeholders from the very beginning—cultivating community ownership and management of not only the water point, but all of the above programmatic areas.

The WASH Program Area model has represented a significant shift for Living Water and for the communities we serve. It has produced learnings and positive results, including operational efficiency, greater collaboration with mission aligned partners, and the ability to more easily and accurately measure impact over time. Once we could think about medium- and long-term change from a holistic standpoint, we developed an evaluation framework that includes baseline studies, midterm reviews, and final evaluations that help guide program implementation and measure impact.

Focusing on a cluster of communities for several years brings benefits to those we serve and positions our teams to have a greater impact in each community. Residents access sufficient clean and ongoing water, improve their hygiene and sanitation practices, and experience an active local church. Long-term relationships with community leaders, pastors, and other stakeholders allows us to develop customized, locally-led plans to adapt community hygiene and sanitation behaviors, and cultivates the gradual growth of long-term operation and maintenance capacity that extends the program’s impact over time.

Below are key performance indicators for a WPA. Targets for these performance indicators are set individually for each WPA based on the goals and needs of that region. In addition to collecting quantitative data used to measure progress against these targets, each WPA also collects qualitative data to measure impact. This approach is particularly helpful when trying to measure the impact of church mobilization and gospel proclamation activities.

<b>Objectives &amp; Outcomes</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
<i>Objective 1: Increased access to safe water services</i>	
<b>Increased access to clean water</b>	% of households with a basic service level for water access — a user has at least 20 liters of water per day and a total collection time of 30 minutes or less for a roundtrip from a reliable source that meets LWI/national water quality standards
<b>Communities actively manage the operations and maintenance of water systems</b>	% of newly installed water systems that remain functional five years after implementation
<i>Objective 2: Improved sanitation and hygiene practices</i>	
<b>Households practice hand washing with soap at critical moments</b>	% of households practicing improved hand washing techniques  % of households with soap and water at a handwashing facility commonly used by family members
<b>Households properly store and treat drinking water</b>	% of households storing drinking water in safe, covered containers
<b>Open defecation is eliminated</b>	% of households practicing open defecation
<i>Objective 3: Thriving churches</i>	
<b>Increased local church engagement in the community</b>	% with positive perception of local church

