

REAL WATER —

RURAL EVIDENCE AND LEARNING FOR WATER



Developing and evaluating strategies for expanding access to safe, equitable, and sustainable rural water services.

REAL-Water will support policy makers, development partners, and service providers to make strategic decisions and implement best practices for water management through implementation research. It will also ensure coordination with USAID programs contributing to the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Water Resources Management (WRM) knowledge base, in alignment with the USAID Water for the World Implementation Research Agenda.

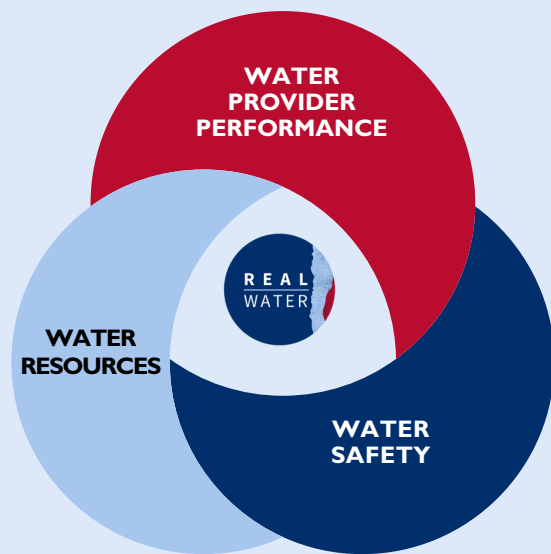
REAL-Water is an initiative of the Center for Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene in USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security with support from the Office for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in USAID's Bureau for Global Health.

USAID cooperative agreement with Aquaya (2021-2026):

- Implementation research that applies scientific methods, international collaboration, and rigorous analyses.
- Evidence for decision-making by national policymakers and government officials, development partners, and public and private sector service providers.
- Coordination and collaboration with related programs that are contributing to the WASH knowledge base.

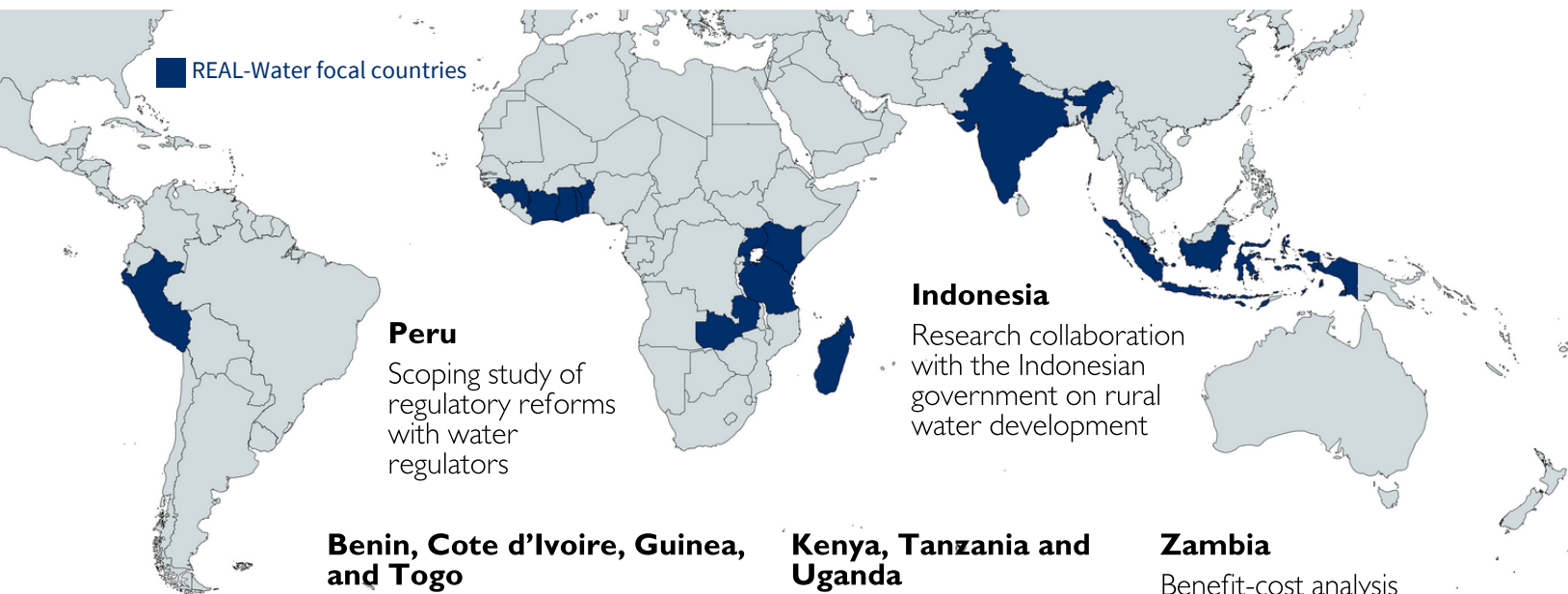


Fieldwork: Water quality testing in Ghana.



The three REAL-Water focal areas address critical elements of rural water supply systems that are interrelated.

REAL-Water Activities



Peru
Scoping study of regulatory reforms with water regulators

Indonesia
Research collaboration with the Indonesian government on rural water development

Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Togo
Water Resource Scarcity and Conflict Assessment

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
Evaluation of the Water Quality Assurance Fund

Zambia
Benefit-cost analysis of on-premises supply

Ghana

- Observational study of performance drivers among 150 rural water supply systems
- Evaluation of the Water Quality Assurance Fund
- Evaluation of Water Safety Plan implementation
- Benefit-cost analysis of on-premises supply
- Water Resource Scarcity and Conflict Assessment

Madagascar

Assessment of interventions to support water resource development in the arid south

India

- Hydroclimate modeling via a Land Data Assimilation System (LDAS) and coupled land surface / surface water / groundwater models.
- Benefit-cost analysis of on-premises supply

REAL-Water partners



Aquaya is an independent, nonprofit research organization dedicated to building the evidence base that guides WASH decision-making for international development. Founded in 2005, Aquaya conducts implementation research across an array of rural and urban WASH priorities.



Aguaconsult is a UK-based consulting company founded in 2003 to support public and private sector organizations to improve water, sanitation, and environmental services globally. It is recognized as a global thought-leader in the field of rural water service delivery.



Johns Hopkins University is America's first research university, founded on the principle that by pursuing big ideas and sharing what we learn, we can make the world a better place. For more than 140 years, our faculty and students have worked side by side in pursuit of discoveries that improve lives. REAL-Water partners at the Morton K. Blaustein Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences work in a tireless pursuit of discovery, continuing our founding mission to bring knowledge to the world.



The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has a strategic mandate to provide higher education, undertake research, disseminate knowledge, and foster relationships with external individuals and institutions in Ghana. Its Regional Water and Environmental Sanitation Center Kumasi (RWESCK) is one of the university's centers of excellence.



The Skat Foundation is based in Switzerland and hosts the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) a global network of more than 13,000 water professionals in 168 countries. Since 1992, the network has been a trusted knowledge hub and expertise platform on practical planning, implementation, research, and innovation.



Safe Water Network is a nonprofit organization seeking to advance the scale and impact of decentralized local market-based solutions as a safe water solution for low-income populations in emerging economies. Since 2006, it has provided expertise to governments, partners, and local communities in Ghana and India to demonstrate successful small water enterprise approaches.



The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), established in 1997, is an independent research institute within the University of Technology Sydney. ISF conducts transdisciplinary, project-based research in line with their vision of creating positive change towards sustainable futures.



Water Mission is a Christian engineering nonprofit organization that builds safe WASH solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than seven million people in 57 countries through 2,800 rural safe water and sanitation projects.



Hydroconseil is a French consulting firm created in 1995 that specializes in improving essential public services for low-income populations in emerging and developing countries. Under REAL-Water, Hydroconseil supports the project buy-in from the USAID/Madagascar Mission "Southern Madagascar Water Assessment: Coordinating data and action for sustainable development of water resources in the arid south of Madagascar."