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WASH PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY (WASHPaLS) #2

USAID WASHPaLS #2 seeks to enhance global learning and adoption of the evidence-based development programming needed to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal #6. WASHPaLS #2 partners with governments, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders to support learning and improvements in the WASH sector and address challenges to quality, equity, sustainability, and scale of sustainable sanitation services and adoption of sound hygienic practices, particularly in rural areas.

Life of Project:

October 2021 – September 2026

Geographic Scope:

Global

Implementing Partners:

Tetra Tech in partnership with FHI 360, FSG, IDinsight, and Iris Group

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED LEARNING

WASHPaLS #2 conducts implementation research, provides USAID Missions with short-term technical assistance (STTA), and supports USAID participation in strategic WASH partnerships. The program will investigate how proven interventions can best be implemented in real world contexts and synthesize findings to inform evidence-based WASH programming. Research and learning activities will contribute to an improved understanding of area-wide sanitation, which entails effective combinations of systems strengthening and contextually tailored service delivery and behavior change-focused interventions across the entire sanitation service chain. Specifically, WASHPaLS #2 research focuses on four interrelated areas:

1. **Area-wide sanitation approaches.** This area aims to define the AWS conceptual framework and explore factors for successful implementation of area-wide, safely managed sanitation. It also seeks to increase the evidence base on effective targeting and use of subsidies to reach vulnerable populations, and understand

effectiveness of non-financial Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI) interventions to ensure equitable results.

2. **Market-based sanitation.** This area builds strongly on enterprise viability lessons learnt in WASHPaLS I with an increased focus on enterprise potential to progressively address unmet needs of vulnerable populations in an area-wide context. It will also increase the evidence base on effective market rules and conditions and will explore viable rural fecal sludge management business models.
3. **Social Behavior Change approaches.** This area seeks to enhance evidence on the role, effectiveness, and implementation pathways of interventions that address the physical environment inside the home and compound to enable and sustain key behaviors that reduce exposure to fecal contamination, particularly for infants and young children.
4. **Sanitation and hygiene sector workforce capacity needs assessment.** This assessment will seek to increase understanding of sector capacity gaps and modalities for capacity building, as well as understand barriers and incentives to access, recruit, and retain existing workforce capacity. The needs assessment will then generate a sector roadmap to address identified challenges and gaps, particularly in rural contexts.

WASHPaLS #2 also manages a small grants program to support research efforts and provides STTA to USAID Missions and strategic partners in areas such as formative research and background analysis to inform project design; market analysis for sanitation products and services; GESI analysis or assessments; and program impact or performance evaluations. Themes of GESI, co-learning and capacity building, engagement with local systems, and partnerships are woven throughout all program activities.

STRATEGIC WASH PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships are a vital component of WASHPaLS #2 to guide relevance of the research agenda, enable collaborative implementation research, and facilitate uptake of the findings, evidence, and guidance generated. An Advisory Board consisting of key partners in the WASH and related sectors facilitates external strategic partnerships in the implementation of operational research activities and use of findings by policy makers and practitioners across all project components.

The program also assists USAID to identify, engage, and nurture effective partnerships amongst donors, implementing partners, strategic sector partners, and local system actors, as well as amongst several USAID research and learning projects. It contributes to sector learning through strategic communications and outreach, including through judicious participation in selected sector conferences.

WASHPaLS #2 operations are structured in such a way that strategic and effective partner engagement, collaborative implementation research, continuous learning derived from, and newly generated knowledge and tools applied to implementation programs through its technical assistance all contribute to a continuous cycle of learning.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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