



# WATER FOR AFRICA THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

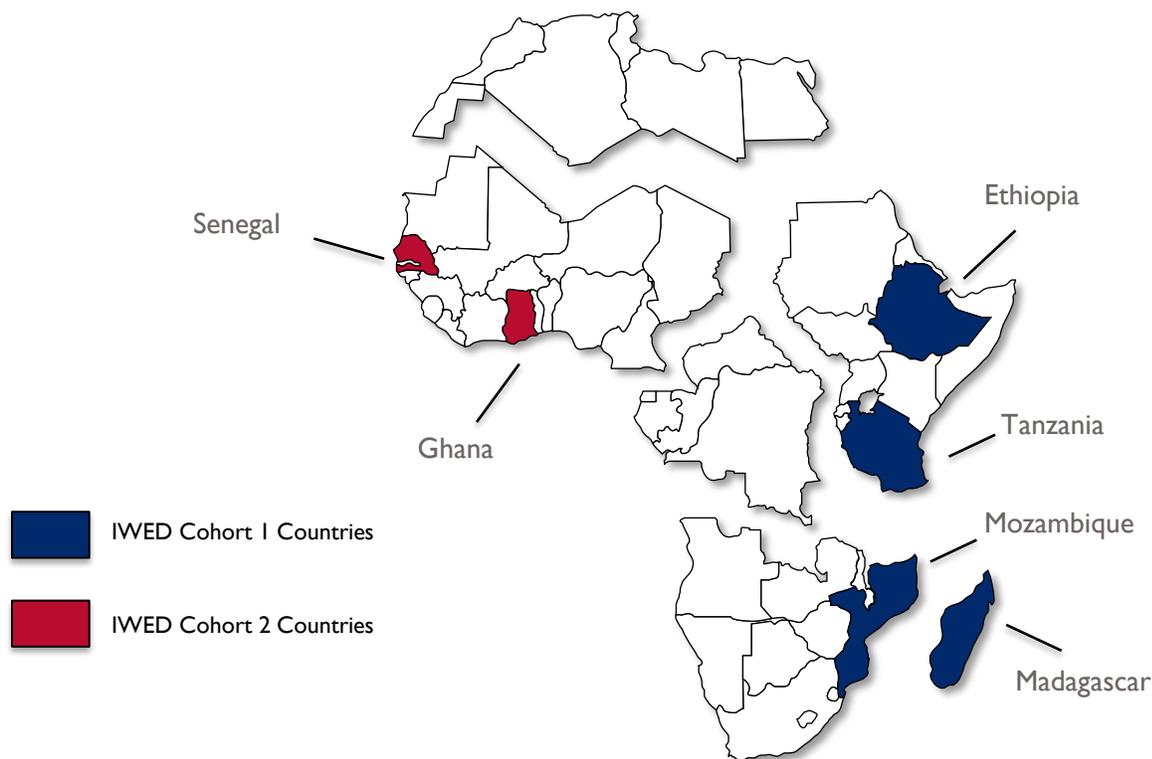
## Improving WASH Evidence-based Decision-making Program

The Water for Africa through Leadership and Institutional Support (WALIS) Program is a six-year task order funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Water and Development IDIQ. WALIS is a flexible program implemented by DAI Global LLC working with sub-Saharan African regional water and sanitation organizations, national governments, and sub-national water and sanitation service providers.

To identify demand-driven, country-led initiatives WALIS developed its Improving WASH Evidence-based Decision-making (IWED) program to provide strategic support to six government WASH agencies in sub-Saharan Africa. The IWED program encouraged a shift towards sustainable services delivery, consistent with the *UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for All*- through smarter use of data, better monitoring, greater emphasis on analysis, evidence-building, strengthening sector policies and strategies, and encouraging learning lessons and sharing experience amongst African governments. To provide this support, WALIS worked closely with cooperating country government agencies and local implementing partners to execute the awards. These awards, divided into two cohorts, supported the agencies to address key bottlenecks by putting in place evidence-based decision-making processes to improve sector performance monitoring and knowledge management.

WATERAID, ETHIOPIA

## IWED PROGRAM COUNTRIES



**IN ETHIOPIA** WALIS worked with the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MOWIE) to improve knowledge management at the national and regional levels. The IWED program helped improve knowledge management in the WASH sector in Ethiopia, with special emphasis on the MOWIE and Oromia Water and Energy Resources Development Bureau’s (OWERDB) internal knowledge management systems. The activity supported the digitization of nearly 2,500 knowledge products from MOWIE and OWERDB and created an online platform to make these products available to staff at both organizations for management, planning and decision-making. The program also successfully (1) developed protocols, procedures, and workflows for compiling relevant documentation generated by MOWIE and OWERDB, (2) set up proper infrastructure and introduced appropriate ICT solutions to improve access, dissemination, and use of information, and (3) built MOWIE’s and OWERDB’s capacities to systematize knowledge management product generation, storage, transfer and use. A video summarizing the program is available [here](#).

**IN MOZAMBIQUE** WALIS supported the National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation (DNAAS) to develop the National Water and Sanitation Information System (SINAS), a database which would provide reliable data on WASH at the central, provincial and district level. To accomplish this, the IWED program harmonized the methodologies for collecting, processing, analyzing, and sharing data, and stored it in a consolidated and centralized database so it would be useful for planning purposes. WALIS also helped DNAAS transition from manual, paper-based surveys to data collection and validation using a mobile data collection tool, m-SINAS, which helps ensure the data feeding into the centralized database are accurate and timely. Under the project, 84 provincial and district data technicians received training on the new tools and methodologies and conducted 6,500 surveys across four provinces using m-SINAS. The program also supported the integration of WASH data from various regional databases, thus allowing national WASH data to be accessible in one place. The SINAS database now provides reliable, public data

on water and sanitation and helps decision-makers prepare and execute realistic plans for the development of the water supply and sanitation in Mozambique. A video summarizing the program is available [here](#), and SINAS can be accessed [here](#).

**IN TANZANIA** WALIS supported the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children to develop a National WASH web portal. The IWED program objectives were to (1) develop an information system to improve data quality, reporting frequency, storage and dissemination to a wider range of stakeholders for accountability and transparency for the ongoing sanitation programmes, and (2) provide reliable and accurate data as an advocacy tool for decision makers. The program included: development of the National WASH Web Portal which provides detailed WASH data from the National Sanitation Management Information System; strengthening the National Help Desk through a seconded IT officer; improving data quality in 10 regions through data validation workshops; and printing and distribution of 16,000 data collection registers to improve data reporting frequency at the village and sub-village level. Thanks to this program, all government ministries and the public can access Tanzania's national WASH data for the first time. IWED Tanzania closed in early 2020, a video summary of the program is available [here](#) and the National WASH Portal is available [here](#).

**IN MADAGASCAR** WALIS supported the Madagascar Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (MoWASH) to implement the Budget Program per Regional Objective (BPOR) process for the remaining five regional WASH Directorates located in Amoron'i Mania, Diana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, and Vatovavy Fitovinany regions thus completing the process for 22 regions of Madagascar. The BPORs have established the foundation for the Government of Madagascar to develop a more realistic sectoral plan that considers village-level WASH needs obtained through the survey process. Local elected officials and regional officials have been involved in budget preparation and identifying priorities throughout the BPOR process, to bring greater legitimacy to the data used in developing the sector plan. This enabled the Ministry to have reliable and regular data, to improve governance and accountability in the WASH sector, and to coordinate interventions and stakeholders in an effective manner. In November 2017, the government certified the BPOR documents for Madagascar's 22 regions. As a result, the BPOR process improved the WASH services development planning model and financial planning model. The Madagascar Water and Sanitation Monitoring and the BPOR data is available at: [www.bdeah-sesam.mg](http://www.bdeah-sesam.mg) and a video summary of the program is available [here](#).

**IN GHANA** WALIS supported the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) to address one of the strategic challenges the sector faces, the unsystematic collection and management of WASH sector data. This challenge was further compounded by fragmented data management systems (e.g. BaSIS) unlinked to the platform at the national level, the Sector Information System (SIS). To address this issue, WALIS worked with MSWR and other sector institutions to (1) develop and implement standard WASH data collection and reporting procedures (2) develop tools to properly integrate different systems that feed data into the SIS and (3) build staff capacity in different institutions at the national and sub-national levels through trainings on the newly developed procedures and tools. The program helped improve monitoring of the WASH sector in Ghana by providing timely and accurate data from the local level to MSWR at the central level, and by generating sector indicators and reports for evidence-based decision making, policy planning, and global reporting. A video summarizing the program can be accessed [here](#).

**IN SENEGAL** WALIS supported the Ministry of Water and Sanitation's (MEA) Planning, Coordination, and Program Monitoring Unit to work with the MEA's Water Resources Management and Planning

Directorate (DGPRE) and the Sanitation Directorate (DA) to improve the monitoring of SDG 6 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) indicators and the creation of a public sanitation facility asset inventory database. Of all six country IWED Programs, this was the most complex as it worked across not only multiple departments of the MEA, but also multiple ministries and across all of Senegal's five planning regions. The IWED Program improved the monitoring of IWRM indicators through the monitoring of ambient water quality, water-related ecosystems, and water-use efficiency and productivity through training of staff, purchase of testing equipment, analysis of satellite imagery, and two seasonal campaigns to take samples and survey uses for both surface and groundwater. The IWRM monitoring improvements also included a significant upgrade to the country's water resources database to better capture the additional indicators being measured. Furthermore, the IWED Program supported the development of high-level polluters-pays and water-use efficiency strategies. The IWED Program also created the first ever public sanitation facility asset inventory directory database. The directory was designed to capture critical inventory parameters and to aid in asset inventory mapping of all of Senegal's public sanitation facilities. Training of staff to collect data on public sanitation facility assets (e.g., toilets, latrines, and handwashing stations) and manage the data with the directory's database have supported the collection of data on a first cohort of public sanitation facilities owned and operated by Ministry of National Education (e.g., public schools) and Ministry of Health and Social Action (i.e., healthcare facilities). The DA will host the completed inventory on a web-accessible application that is capable of geo-referencing all public sanitation facilities to enable their improved management.



IMAGE 1: IWED SENEGAL LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNER TEAM LEADER COLLECTS INFORMATION FROM VILLAGERS ON LOCAL WATER ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL USES ON THE SHORES OF LAC DE GUIERS IN NORTHERN SENEGAL. Photo credit: Richard Rapier/WALIS

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