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# URBAN RESILIENCE BY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND APPLYING NEW EVIDENCE IN WASH (URBAN WASH) PROGRAM

## ABOUT URBAN WASH

The Urban Resilience by Building Partnerships and Applying New evidence in WASH (URBAN WASH) project is a five-year (2021–2026) project that will generate evidence to promote impactful, sustainable, equitable and climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) policy and programming in urban and peri-urban areas. The project will partner with local, regional, and global WASH and urban resilience stakeholders to conduct implementation research and ensure broad uptake of lessons learned. URBAN WASH will also support USAID Missions with on-demand technical assistance to support urban water, sanitation and hygiene programming, including support to conduct research, evaluations, and assessments.

URBAN WASH is led by a team of experienced researchers and urban WASH experts and supported by an external Advisory Board composed of WASH and urban resilience innovators and thought leaders. The project is implemented by Tetra Tech in collaboration with a consortium of partners including, Aquaya Institute, FSG, Iris Group, Segura Consulting, Stockholm Environment Institute-US, and WaterAid.

## APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

In collaboration with local, regional, and global partners, URBAN WASH uses state-of-the-art and contextually appropriate implementation research methodologies to address evidence gaps and to generate high-quality evidence across three foundational WASH focus areas:

1. Urban WASH and WRM policies and regulations
2. Approaches for sustainable small and informal service provision
3. Measures to improve source water protection and diversification

URBAN WASH will leverage the networks and platforms of key partner organizations for both refinement of research questions and research design, as well as to inform the approach to research dissemination and the uptake of lessons learned. The project's Advisory Board and country-level working groups will support thought leadership and increase the project's impact, helping to link new evidence to the development of urban and national policies, regulations, and programming.

## URBAN WASH USAID MISSION SUPPORT

Through provision of on-demand technical assistance, URBAN WASH is available to support USAID Missions in the areas of WASH and WRM research and learning, evaluation, and other analytical needs. Our team designs and implements activities using participatory and inclusive approaches for buy-in and sustainability. Illustrative technical assistance activities URBAN WASH can help deliver include:

1. Design and/or implement impact evaluations of urban water security programs
2. Conduct market and financial viability assessments of WASH products and services
3. Perform country-level landscape assessments of urban WASH or related water resource management issues to inform planning and intervention design
4. Identify opportunities to integrate approaches of diversity, gender, social equity and inclusion, and gender mainstreaming to national policy and implementation plans
5. Assess climate change vulnerability, risk, and adaptation approaches for urban water security
6. WASH technical assessments and analytics for service delivery models, regulations, and capacity
7. Analysis of water resources, including environmental flows, water quality, water availability, and vulnerability and risk assessments

## THE URBAN WASH TEAM

Through our consortium, USAID missions have access to a cadre of qualified technical experts who cover a range of WASH sector disciplines.

- **TETRA TECH** brings more than 35 years of successful WASH sector programming and thought leadership. Tetra Tech provides technical assistance in the areas of urban water supply, sustainability assessments, and across a wide range of other technical and analytical service areas.
- **AQUAYA INSTITUTE** offers experienced scientists and field-based WASH researchers who bring a rigorous approach to implementation research. Aquaya provides technical assistance in the areas of water quality, point of use water treatment, market-based approaches, sanitation economic studies, and evaluation.

- **FSG** offers a formal business analytics perspective to understanding successes and challenges of market-based sanitation interventions. FSG provides technical assistance in the areas of market-based WASH services, market assessments, and inclusive market development.
- **IRIS GROUP** brings extensive experience in mixed methods research on women and WASH and gender-equitable approaches to rural and urban sanitation programming. The Iris Group provides technical assistance to URBAN WASH in the areas of gender mainstreaming, social inclusion, and women's empowerment, and will contribute to design, analysis, and recommendations across all project components.
- **SEGURA CONSULTING** is an international consulting firm, specializing in advisory services to public and private sector clients in emerging markets with an established track record supporting USAID WASH sector programming. Segura provides technical assistance in the areas of utility reform, private sector engagement, and WASH financing.
- **STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE-US (SEI)** is an international not-for-profit research organization that has been engaged in environment and development issues at local, national, regional and global policy levels for 25 years. For URBAN WASH, SEI provides technical assistance in the areas of WRM and source water protection.
- **WATERAID** is a non-profit organization with affiliates implementing WASH programs in 27 countries. For URBAN WASH, WaterAid supports the roll out of implementation research in the field by leveraging and convening their local networks and stakeholders.