



LM INTERNATIONAL'S APPROACH TO WASH

**Taking action to ensure the availability
and sustainable management of water
and sanitation for all**



Abbreviations

BMZ	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
CHR	Core Humanitarian Standards
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DERF	Danish Emergency Relief Fund
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECHO	European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Department
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GWP	Global Waters Partnership
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KRIK	Kristen Idrottskontakt
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	Swedish Mission Council
SHF	Sudan Humanitarian Fund
SSHF	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
UN	United Nations
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMC	Water Management Committees

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1. Introduction

LM International is a non-profit global faith-based foundation that aims to eradicate poverty, save lives and empower people. Working from a bottom-up, community-driven approach, LM International supports people in creating sustainable futures for themselves and future generations. In doing so, special attention is afforded to groups in vulnerable situations, including (but not limited to) women and girls, children and adolescents, forcibly displaced persons, and persons with disabilities.

Committed to working in remote areas where aid is difficult to access, LM International has operated in more than 80 countries since 1958. In 2019, International Aid Services (IAS) – Sweden was incorporated into LM International. While most of our operations are carried out by our country offices, several long-standing relationships - including with local civil society organisations, the private sector, academia and governments (“the quadruple helix”) - enable us to expand our reach. Local partnerships constitute a core element of our work and play a pivotal role in driving innovation and development.

Guided by our overall vision ‘Dignified Life-Sustainable World’, LM International works along four thematic areas, each corresponding to a United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), namely: social and economic inclusion, health, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Additionally, and reflecting the intersectional nature of the 2030 Agenda, these thematic focus areas overlap with several other SDGs including gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

This report is intended to introduce LM International’s work around WASH, which is framed around SDG 6 (“water and sanitation for all”). Highlighting the urgent need for global action, UN Secretary General António Guterres has stated that “today, 40 per cent of the world’s people are affected by water scarcity; 80 per cent of wastewater is discharged untreated into the environment, and more than 90 per cent of disasters are water-related.”¹ Building on this, this report will provide relevant background information on WASH (chapter 2) before outlining our WASH strategy (chapter 3) and introducing our WASH project portfolio (chapter 4). The final chapter will offer concluding remarks and reflect on our strategic priorities as we approach 2030 (chapter 5).

2. Background and Context



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This chapter will introduce and provide necessary background information on WASH, thereby providing the backdrop for LM International's work around WASH.

2.1. Core Definitions

WASH is the collective term for water, sanitation and hygiene. Though interdependent, water, sanitation and hygiene constitute separate fields of work, each of which are briefly introduced below:

Water: refers to safely managed drinking water

Defined as: "water from an improved water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free of contamination"²

Sanitation: refers to facilities, behaviours, and services that prevent diseases caused by contact with human waste³

Examples: clean toilets, waste management

Hygiene: refers to behaviours that can improve cleanliness and lead to good health⁴

Examples: handwashing, menstrual hygiene

2.2. International Recognition

Access to safe and clean water and sanitation has been recognised as both a basic human right under international human rights law (IHRL) and an important objective for the international community through its inclusion in the SDGs. In the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres, “quite simply, water is a matter of life and death.”⁵ Given that both international law and the 2030 Agenda inform global action on WASH, this section shall introduce the obligations or targets that each establish. In doing so, it is important to recognise that while international law is legally binding, the SDGs are not.

IHRL: The human right to water and sanitation was formally recognised by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 64/292 (2010) and strengthened in Resolution 70/169 (2015).

The right to water “entitles everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use.”⁶

The right to sanitation “entitles everyone to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.”⁷

SDGs: Ensuring the “availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” has been incorporated into the 2030 Agenda through SDG 6.

SDG 6.1 establishes that universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all should be achieved by 2030.

SDG 6.2 establishes that access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all should be achieved, and open defecation ended, by 2030. It highlights that special attention should be paid to the needs of women, girls, and those in vulnerable situations.

2.3. Access to WASH Services: Global State of Affairs

Despite global recognition of the importance of access to safe WASH services, much work remains to be done. Supporting this, UN data from 2020 reveals that:

- 1 in 4 people – 2 billion people – around the world lacked safely managed drinking water
- Almost half of the global population – 3.6 billion people – lacked safely managed sanitation
- 494 million people practiced open defecation
- 2.3 billion people lacked basic hygiene services, including 670 million people with no handwashing facilities at all.⁸

Moreover, if current trends persist, the UN estimates that by 2030:

- Only 81 percent of the world's population will have access to safe drinking water at home, leaving 1.6 billion without
- Only 67 percent will have safe sanitation services, leaving 2.8 billion without
- And only 78 percent will have basic handwashing facilities, leaving 1.9 billion without.⁹

Thus, with the UN estimating that current rates of progress must be quadrupled to achieve universal WASH coverage by 2030, the world is far from “leaving no one behind.”¹⁰

2.4. Access to WASH Services in Emergency Situations

Existing challenges to the achievement of SDG 6 are often compounded by emergency situations, including armed conflict and climate-related disasters. Conflict and disasters tend to exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and may compromise existing WASH services through infrastructure damage or disrepair.¹¹ Supporting this, UN data from 2020 reveals that “people living in fragile contexts were twice as likely to lack safely managed [water] services as those living in non-fragile contexts.”¹²

2.4.1. Armed Conflict

Armed conflict can disrupt access to WASH services and, often, limited access to WASH services is deadlier than the conflict itself. Supporting this, data from UNICEF reveals that “in areas of conflict, children are nearly 20 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal disease than from the conflict itself.”¹³ While international human rights and humanitarian law protect WASH infrastructure, WASH services continue to come under attack, both incidentally and intentionally. For example, in Yemen, 122 airstrikes took place on water infrastructure between March 2015 and February 2021.¹⁴

2.4.2. Climate-Related Disasters

As determined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “[a] changing climate leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and

climate events.”¹⁵ Recognising that over 90 percent of natural disasters are water related, the challenges that lie ahead are clear.¹⁶ Disasters can have severe consequences for WASH services, including the destruction or contamination of water supplies, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera.¹⁷ Likewise, rising temperatures and increased drought threaten water resources that millions of people rely on, with UNICEF predicting that “half of the world’s population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by as early as 2025.”¹⁸ Amongst other things, exacerbated water stress may contribute to increased competition for, and thus conflict over, water resources.



FOTO: TORLEIF SVENSSON

2.5. Access to WASH Services for Groups in Vulnerable Situations

Groups in vulnerable and marginalised situations are more likely to face discrimination in accessing WASH services and therefore, disproportionately experience WASH shortages. This may include, but is not limited to, women and girls, children and adolescents, forcibly displaced persons, and persons with disabilities. Individuals identifying with one or more of these groups may face intersectional discrimination.

2.5.1. Women and Girls

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is not gender-natural, and women and girls are often disproportionately impacted by WASH shortages. Supporting this, UN data reveals that women and girls bear the primary responsibility for water collection in 80% of households lacking in-home

water access.¹⁹ The long distances they travel to collect water often keeps them out of school and/or acts as a barrier to their participation in income-generating activities.²⁰ It also exposes them to an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence.²¹ Similarly, women and girls have specific menstrual health and hygiene needs and, when these go unmet, their mobility, as well as their participation in community life, is hindered.²²

Women and girls also suffer disproportionately when WASH services are damaged or destroyed by conflict and/or disasters. Over half of the world's maternal deaths - most of which are preventable - occur in countries with armed conflict²³ and, in South Sudan, at least 1 in 28 women is likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause.²⁴ Likewise, increased water stress forces women and girls to travel further and longer to collect water, with UNICEF estimating that by 2040, "almost 1 in 4 children will live in areas of extremely high water stress."²⁵ In Mozambique, increased drought has meant that women and girls now spend three times longer searching for and collecting water.²⁶ This excess time spent collecting water may lead to girls being taken out of school at an earlier age, or never even attending at all.

2.5.2. Children and Adolescents

Children and adolescents are especially vulnerable to the consequences of limited or unsafe WASH services, with data from UNICEF revealing that "over 700 children under age 5 die every day of diarrhoeal diseases due to lack of appropriate WASH services."²⁷ Inadequate WASH services can impact children's overall development, learning and future economic opportunities.²⁸ For example, when children cannot wash their hands, "they face a greater risk of infection and diarrhoeal disease than those who can," putting them at a greater risk of missing school.²⁹ The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of access to handwashing facilities.

Conflict and climate-related disasters further threaten children's access to safe WASH services. In 2021, UNICEF identified that one billion children are "at extremely high risk" of the impacts of the climate crisis.³⁰ Furthermore, in Yemen, a country impacted by both conflict and climate-related disasters, 1 child dies every 10 minutes from preventable causes – many of which are related to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.³¹

2.5.3. Forcibly Displaced Persons

Forcibly displaced persons, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are disproportionately impacted by limited or lacking WASH services. Makeshift camps without toilets and handwashing facilities become hotspots for disease outbreak and people often “have no choice but to drink unsafe water.”³² Likewise, while “formal camps and detention centres for migrants and refugees generally offer better access to WASH than life without a roof,” academic research has found that “the services offered do not necessarily meet the ‘safely managed’ standard.”³³

According to UNHCR, as of May 2022, more than 100 million people around the world were forcibly displaced.³⁴ Standing at the highest level since records began, several factors, including protracted armed conflict and climate-related disasters, have contributed - and are expected to continue contributing to - this upward trend. Supporting this, UNICEF estimates that by 2030, “some 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity.”³⁵

2.5.4. Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities, defined as “long-term impairments that affect the functioning of a person and which in interaction with attitudinal and environmental barriers hinder the person’s full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,”³⁶ face significant barriers to accessing WASH services. These barriers range from a lack of access to appropriate services and infrastructure to marginalisation and discrimination. Though at least 1 billion people around the world have a disability, “persons with disabilities have often been invisible in society as well as within WASH data, [making] them more likely to be overlooked in WASH policies and programmes.”³⁷

When conflict and disasters hit, disabled persons are disproportionately affected due to “inaccessible evacuation, response (including shelters, camps, and food distribution), and recovery efforts.”³⁸ This further limits their access to safe WASH services. Illustrating this, most shelters for displaced persons are not accessible and, even if they are, persons with disabilities are often turned away “due to a perception that they need “complex medical” services.”³⁹

3. LM International's WASH Strategy

This chapter will introduce LM International's WASH Strategy. Divided into three main sections, it will introduce our aims, our approach towards achieving these aims, and selected tools that we utilise to implement our approach and, thereby, further our aims.



3.1. Aims

3.1.1. Objectives

Guided by SDG 6, our WASH work is centred around four key targets:

SDG 6.1 – By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

SDG 6.2 – By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

SDG 6.5 – By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

SDG 6.b – Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Consideration of these targets reveals two broad objectives to our WASH work. Firstly, we aim to provide increased access to WASH services. In doing so, particular attention is afforded to groups in vulnerable situations, especially in the context of conflict and climate-related disasters. Secondly, we aim to promote the sustainable management of water resources and WASH services. These objectives reflect, and directly address, the findings of the Special Rapporteur on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation that “the root causes of the global water crisis lie at the confluence of two major structural flaws in the current development model,”⁴⁰ namely, persistent inequality and discrimination and the unsustainability of aquatic ecosystems.

3.1.2. Cross-Cutting Principles

In addition to these specific objectives, we ensure that our work aligns with and contributes to three cross-cutting principles, namely: gender equality (SDG 5), environment and climate (SDG 13), and conflict sensitivity and protection (SDG 16).

3.1.2.1. Gender Equality

Gender equality is central to LM International's vision and mission, and all our projects include gender mainstreaming and contextual analyses. Recognising that socio-cultural attitudes and beliefs significantly impact the lives and choices of women and girls, we aim to promote gender equality and female empowerment from within a culture, for example by working with religious and cultural leaders.

3.1.2.2. Environment and Climate

Environmental and climate considerations guide LM International's work and, to ensure that we contribute to environmentally sustainable development, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are carried out prior to all our activities. Aiming to support the sustainable use of ecosystems and build the resilience of local communities, particular attention is afforded to initiatives that focus on food production and agriculture as well as small-scale entrepreneurship.

3.1.2.3. Conflict Sensitivity and Protection

Conflict sensitivity and protection, also referred to as the 'do no harm principle,' are central to LM International's work. Conflict sensitivity means "systematically planning and implementing activities in a way that prevents or minimizes negative and maximizes positive effects. A negative effect is everything that exacerbates a conflict, a positive effect is everything that increases the prospects for peace."⁴¹ Operating in some of the most conflict-prone areas of the world, we recognise that conflict sensitivity in programming is a necessity for successful implementation and the achievement of durable solutions.

3.2. Approach

Recognising the breadth of our aims, it is important to highlight that there is no uniform approach to our WASH work. Rather, LM International's approach towards the provision and sustainable mana-

gement of water and sanitation for all is shaped by, and builds on, four frameworks, including: the human rights-based approach (HRBA), the triple nexus approach, the integrated water resources management approach, and the community-led total sanitation approach. Though each constitute distinct approaches, this section will highlight that several of the principles enshrined in these frameworks overlap with each other.

3.2.1. Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

A HRBA aims to empower individuals and develop the ability, and accountability, of states to meet their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. By anchoring development efforts in the rights and obligations established under international law, a HRBA constitutes a key framework for addressing inequalities, discriminatory practices and unjust power relations.⁴² Human rights play a central role in LM International's approach to WASH and, in line with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)'s HRBA toolbox, six core questions ("PLANET") guide our WASH work.

"PLANET" Guide to a HRBA

Participation: Do all relevant stakeholders engage actively, in a way which allows rights holders to contribute meaningfully and influence outcomes?

Link to human rights obligations: How are relevant human rights standards and recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms identified and used in formulating objectives and to advance processes and outcomes?

Accountability: Who are the duty bearers at different levels, and do they have sufficient capacity and interest to be accountable to rights holders? Are there mechanisms for participation and complaints in place for rights holders, civil society and other stakeholders to hold the duty bearers to account?

Non-discrimination and equality: Are rights holders and the root causes of the non-realisation of their human rights identified and taken into account, particularly those most subject to discrimination and marginalisation?

Empowerment and capacity development: How does the intervention contribute to the empowerment of rights holders to claim their rights, as well as capacity development of duty bearers to uphold their responsibilities, and of other relevant stakeholders to contribute to positive outcomes?

Transparency: What measures are put in place to ensure that all stakeholders are able to access relevant information and knowledge regarding the intervention?

3.2.2. Triple Nexus Approach

The triple nexus approach aims to strengthen "collaboration, coherence and complementarity between humanitarian, development and peace actions" to "reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of

conflicts.”⁴³ The triple nexus approach is central to LM International’s WASH work, and we endeavour to strengthen individual and community resilience in all our activities. In humanitarian settings, our immediate focus is on saving lives while, in development settings, we strive to support initiatives aimed at empowerment and accountability. Our humanitarian activities adhere to principles of international humanitarian law (IHL), the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHR) and the Sphere Humanitarian Standards while our development activities are largely guided by the 2030 Agenda and international human rights law.

3.2.3. Integrated Water Resources Management Approach (IWRM)

IWRM may be defined “as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.”⁴⁴ It replaces the traditional top-down and fragmented sectoral approach to water resources management with a community-driven and cross-sectoral policy approach.⁴⁵ Combining water resources management with the 3E’s of sustainable development, namely social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability, IWRM is based around four principles, referred to as the ‘Dublin Principles’.

“The Dublin Principles” on IWRM

Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment

IWRM establishes that water resources must be protected, including for future generations.

Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels

Applying an integrated approach to water resources management means taking the various uses of water – and the range of people’s water needs – into account, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context, LM International recognises the importance of adapting each project to the unique characteristics of that specific catchment area or river basin, including the environmental, social, economic and cultural context.

Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water

IWRM expressly acknowledges that “women have differentiated knowledge that is vital to sustainable resource management, as well as differing responsibilities, priorities, and needs around water use and management.”⁴⁶

Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good

While recognising that water resources have several uses, IWRM establishes that freshwater resources should first be allocated to meet basic human needs, defined by international human rights law. After that, water should be allocated and priced in accordance with its highest value to encourage conservation and protection of water resources.

3.2.4. Community-Led Total Sanitation Approach (CLTS)

Building on the understanding that “merely providing toilets does not guarantee their use, nor result in improved sanitation and hygiene,”⁴⁷ CLTS aims to trigger “collective behaviour change”⁴⁸ by mobilising communities to “identify and find solutions to their sanitation and hygiene needs.”⁴⁹ When adopting this approach, it is essential to respect all members of the community, acknowledge inequality within communities, and empower marginalised individuals.⁵⁰ Most effective in rural communities with strong local leadership,⁵¹ LM International utilises CLTS in several of our WASH projects.

3.3. Tools

To give effect to these frameworks, and thus contribute to the achievement of our aims, LM International utilises several tools to design, implement and manage our WASH projects. This section will introduce four key tools that shape and determine the direction of our projects, namely: theory of change, stakeholder analysis, risk assessments, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL).

3.3.1. Theory of Change

A Theory of Change is used to explain how our actions will achieve our desired changes. In doing so, it links all stages of our work to our overall vision and mission (“dignified life-sustainable world”). This section will introduce our Theory of Change for our thematic focus on WASH.

Our Theory of Change states that if rights-holders are (a) aware of, and mobilise for, safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene resources, facilities and practices and (b) maintain and manage community-based water resources and facilities, then they will have improved access to sanitation and hygiene. This is because it is assumed that better equipping rights-holders with knowledge and tools around water resources management will lead to an increased number of rights-holders drinking and using safe, affordable, sustainable and community-managed water as well as adopting adequate sanitation and hygiene practices.

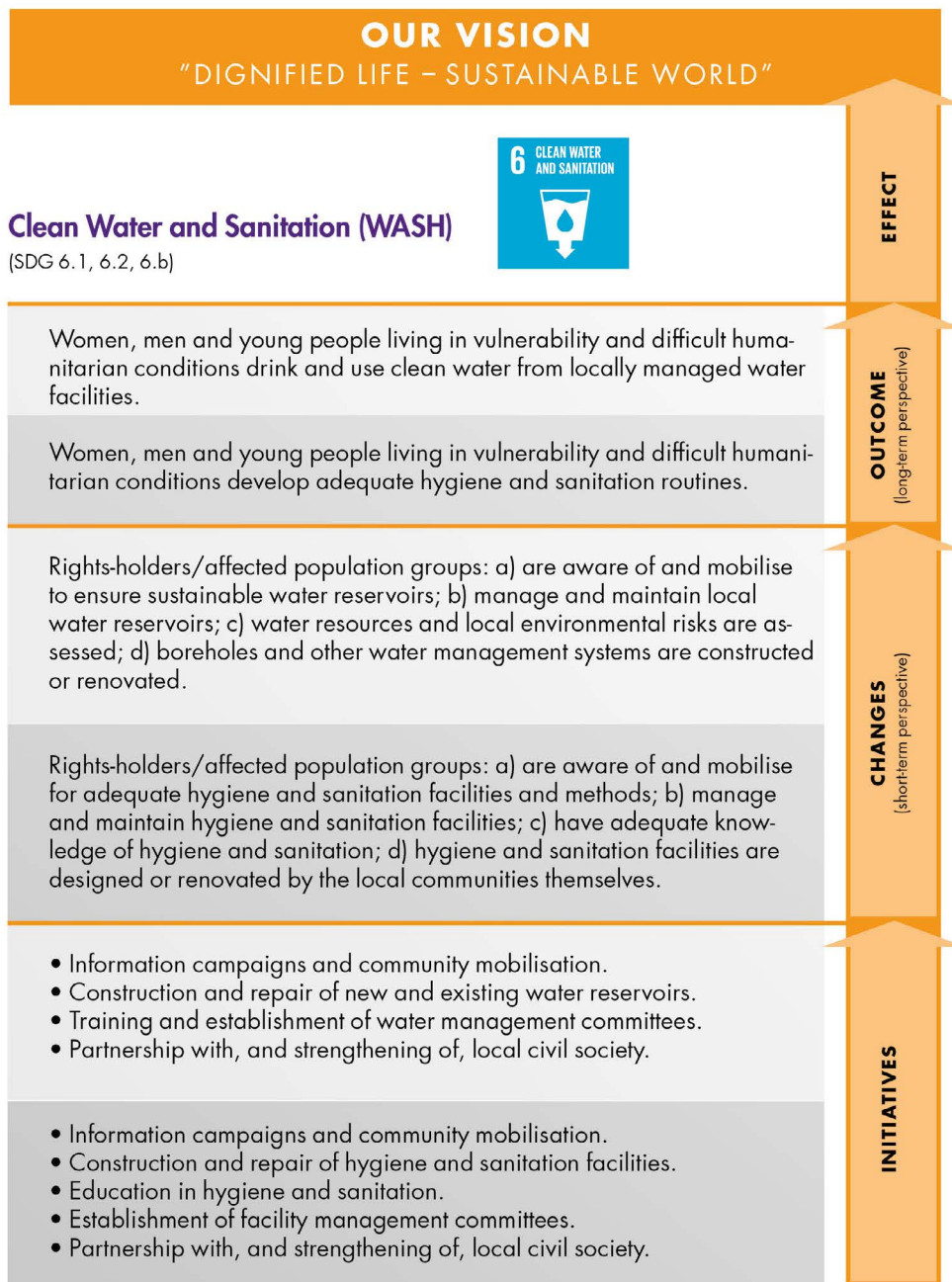


FIGURE 1: THEORY OF CHANGE (WASH)

3.3.2. Stakeholder Analysis

LM International engages with a range of stakeholders as part of our WASH work. Cooperation across a range of actors not only encourages more open, inclusive, democratic and localised solutions, but it has the potential to lead to more sustainable outcomes; it may lead to the incorporation of specialised knowledge, more innovative solutions, increased cooperation and reduced risk of conflicts over water resources.⁵² While a unique stakeholder analysis is conducted for each project, this section shall briefly introduce the main stakeholders that LM International engages with across our WASH work:



FOTO: TORLEIF SVENSSON

Target group: marginalised and impoverished communities

LM International's WASH initiatives target marginalised and impoverished communities. This is because the rights of individuals within these communities, including their rights to water and sanitation, often are not fully realised. In this context, our efforts are generally directed at communities in emergency situations, such as those impacted by conflict or disasters, and special attention is afforded to groups in vulnerable situations.

Recognising that fostering local ownership of water projects offers “substantial, long-term benefits to water security and water management,”⁵³ LM International actively strives to engage the local community at all stages of our WASH work. In doing so, we address the target group as partners for the sustainable provision of services rather than as recipients of aid. Our projects are designed according to local communities' needs and, often, local communities approach LM International to request a water point or other WASH services. Community members are responsible for monitoring and maintaining the project to ensure that it meets its objectives and matches the community's expectations and priorities.

Community-based organisations (CBOs)

LM International has long-standing partnerships with several local CBOs across our countries of operation. In addition to the local community, local partner organisations are often well suited to identify local needs and capacities as well as participate in the planning of our WASH projects. Our partner organisations provide valuable contextual background and insight as well as links to other relevant actors.

Faith actors

LM International engages with faith actors, and in multi-faith environments, across our WASH projects. We recognise that faith leaders often hold a central role in communities and can be effective agents of change; while community members may not always listen to a government agent, they often listen more carefully to local faith leaders.

The State

LM International strives to support national and local governments in meeting their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights, including the rights to water and sanitation. In order to do so, we collaborate with local and regional authorities as well as relevant ministry departments across our countries of operation.

The media

Recognising that the media is often the best way to reach a significant number of people, LM International utilises diverse media sources to disseminate our WASH campaigns and other relevant information.

International partners and networks

LM International works with several international partners as part of our WASH projects, including intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisation (NGOs), the private sector and international donors. These include UN entities such as UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM as well as NGOs such as Save the Children, Neverthirst and World Vision. These partnerships cover a range of activities from dialogue development to project implementation.

LM International is also part of several Networks, including the EU-CORD Network, the CHS Alliance, CONCORD Sweden, the European Union Humanitarian Partnership, and the IAS-Alliance. Our membership and participation in these Networks enables us to expand our reach in providing life-saving WASH services.

3.3.3. Risk Assessments

Conducting risk assessments as part of our WASH projects allows us to identify, manage, minimise and monitor risks including governance, operational (including security), financial, environmental and compliance-related risks. Examples of commonly identified - and mitigated - risks include the persistence of socio-cultural barriers to women's participation in WASH projects as well as security threats to our staff. Conducting risk assessments therefore both makes our projects more resilient and helps keep our staff safe.

3.3.4. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) constitutes a central part of LM International's everyday work. We utilise MEAL to track our projects/programmes, make adjustments, and assess outcomes. This enables us to both continuously improve our operations and remain accountable to our stakeholders through information sharing and feedback mechanisms.

When developing and evaluating our projects, we conduct a feasibility study as well as baseline and endline surveys. Our performance is measured through a number of indicators and assessments, including:

- Technical reports from the drilling teams
- Geological and geographical data
- Water quality assessments
- Feasibility studies
- Baseline and endline surveys including the local community's quality of life and distance from water sources

Quantitative and qualitative population data is always disaggregated by sex and age.

Key Definitions

A feasibility study is the analysis and evaluation of a proposed project. Project feasibility is determined based on the analysis of relevant factors, including economic, technical and legal considerations.

A baseline survey is the collection of data to assess the situation, or status, of relevant variables in the target community prior the planned intervention. This assessment provides a starting point against which progress can be measured and comparisons can be made.

An endline survey is a study conducted after the end of an intervention. The results of the endline survey are measured against the baseline survey as part of an impact evaluation.

4. LM International's WASH Project Portfolio

This chapter will introduce our WASH project portfolio. Recognising that LM International has implemented several WASH projects across our countries of operation, this section shall not aim to provide a comprehensive overview of all our projects. Rather, it shall introduce our WASH project portfolio by highlighting common practices and key achievements across our countries of operation. This chapter is based on the analysis of selected WASH projects listed in Appendix 1.

4.1. Overview of Operational Areas

Recognising that sub-Saharan Africa is most affected by WASH shortages, LM International's WASH projects concentrate on this region. Countries of operation include Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia and Kenya, and field operations are coordinated



FIGURE 2: OPERATIONAL AREAS (WASH)

by our regional office in Kenya. Many of these countries suffer from both armed conflict and climate change, with the Horn of Africa currently experiencing the most severe drought in 40 years.⁵⁴ As of August 2022, the drought had affected more than 36.1 million people, having significantly increased from an estimated 19.4 million affected people in July 2022.⁵⁵ The region faces severe food insecurity, with a declaration of famine predicted to be imminent in Somalia.⁵⁶

Operating primarily in remote and inaccessible locations, our long-standing local presence in our countries of operation facilitates the work that we do. It enables us to continue working throughout political instability, economic crises, humanitarian emergencies and severe security threats. Highlighting this, in 2021, we were able to provide life-saving WASH services throughout (and despite):

- A worsening of the internal conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia
- The fall of the fragile transitional government in Sudan
- Natural disasters exacerbating the humanitarian situation in South Sudan
- Regional instability around the Lake Chad area in Niger and Chad

4.2. Common Practices Across Our WASH Projects

While the specific activities, outputs and outcomes for each project are highly contextual, three common practices and features may be identified across LM International's WASH projects. These are briefly introduced below.

Firstly, our WASH projects are multi-dimensional, providing both hardware and software services. Hardware services generally relate to the construction and maintenance of WASH infrastructure, including boreholes, mini-water yards, hand pumps and solar pumps. Software services generally focus on building the capacity of beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders to operate and maintain the sustainability of the WASH services. This includes the establishment and training of Water Management Committees (WMCs) as well as targeted sanitation and hygiene sensitisation campaigns. WMC trainings tend to include courses on leadership, gender, conflict mitigation and peace building, communication, community ownership, infrastructure maintenance and hygiene education.

Secondly, our WASH projects are integrated with our other thematic focus areas, namely, health, education and social and economic inclusion. For example, we strive to provide - and improve - access to WASH services in schools, health care facilities and refugee/IDP settlement camps. Likewise, recognising that water is indispensable to livelihoods, our WASH projects provide water points for irrigation and agriculture. This both addresses the prevalence of malnutrition and promotes increased economic empowerment as surplus crops can be sold.

Thirdly, we support and drive innovative WASH solutions. This includes our ongoing partnerships with organisations such as Solvatten, a Swedish-based social enterprise revolutionising the provision of clean water, and Spacerpad, a Swedish-designed affordable and reusable sanitary pad. Similarly, several of our WASH projects aim to foster and promote local entrepreneurship; we equip individuals with skills ranging from crop cultivation to soap production.

4.3. Key Achievements

This section will highlight selected achievements from WASH projects implemented by LM International. As an introduction, it suffices to say that our WASH projects have changed the lives of thousands of people across the world. In 2021, LM International provided 230,000 people - including more than 74,000 women and 130,000 children - with access to clean water. Likewise, in 2020: 217 functioning water sources were constructed or restored, ensuring access to clean water for more than 180,000 people; 17,000 households benefitted from the installation of improved latrines; 4,000 custom-made latrines were constructed for persons with disabilities; and nearly 720,000 people were sensitized on improved hygiene and sanitation.

4.3.1. Water (SDG Target 6.1)

Installation, maintenance and optimisation of infrastructure

- Including water pumps, solar pumps, boreholes, mini water yards and water harvesting dams.
- In 2021, we optimised existing high yield boreholes with solar pumping systems in targeted refugee camps and sites in Ndjamen and Farchana (Chad).⁵⁷
- In Jebel Moon (Sudan), we rehabilitated 9 handpumps and 2 mini water yards in 2022.⁵⁸
- In 2022, the installation and maintenance of handpumps in Borena (Ethiopia) has reduced the average water collection time by more than 3 hours.⁵⁹

Increased access to drinking water

- In Ambo (Ethiopia), our WASH project increased the proportion of people within our target group with sustainable access to safe drinking water by 50% between 2020–2022.⁶⁰
- In Al Radoum, Alsunta and Ketaila (Sudan), we provided 36,5000 people with access to drinking water between 2021–2022.⁶¹
- In Bor Ex PoC (South Sudan), we provided 2,693 IDPS with at least 20 litres of safe, clean water per person per day between 2021–2022.⁶²
- In 2022, we addressed the immediate drinking water needs of 2,100 people in Somaliland (Somalia).

Waterborne disease prevention

- Our distribution of Solvatten water purification containers in several countries, including Uganda and Kenya, reduces the risk and occurrence of waterborne diseases.
- In Bor (South Sudan), we provided 34,764 individuals at risk of disease outbreak with access to safe water between 2021–2022.⁶³
- In Somalia, we have developed and distribute Bio Sand Filters (made from locally available materials) to filter water and kill germs.

4.3.2. Sanitation (SDG Target 6.2)

Installation, maintenance and optimisation of infrastructure

- Between 2019–2020, we constructed 50 household latrines with bath shelters in Rhino and Kyingwali refugee settlements (Uganda), reaching 365 persons with special needs.⁶⁴
- In Bor Ex PoC (South Sudan), we provided 2,693 IDPs with access to new safe and user-friendly sanitation and hand-washing facilities between 2021–2022.⁶⁵
- In 2022, we constructed 30 emergency bathrooms and 46 emergency communal latrines for IDPs and host communities in Jebel Moon (Sudan).⁶⁶

Increased awareness and practice of good sanitation and hygiene practices

- Sensitisation campaigns are a common feature of LM International's WASH projects, including in both Goudomaria⁶⁷ and Guecheme⁶⁸ (Niger).
- Between 2021–2022, we conducted 35 intensive hygiene promotions in 4 IDP camps and for IDPs integrated into host communities in Ezo and Nzara (South Sudan).⁶⁹
- In Bor (South Sudan), 54,163 individuals were reached between 2021–2022 through integrated hygiene promotion, sanitation and COVID-19 messages.⁷⁰
- Between 2020–2022, 47,100 individuals in Western Equatoria (South Sudan) have become aware of and practice at least 3 improved hygiene behaviours (hand washing, use of latrines, and household water treatment & safe storage).⁷¹

Elimination of open defecation

- The elimination of open defecation is an important target for several of our projects, including our ongoing project in Goudoumaria (Niger).⁷²
- Between 2020–2022, 30 villages in Western Equatoria (South Sudan) celebrated open defecation free status.⁷³

Special attention to the needs of women and girls

- In Al Radoum and Keteila (Sudan), we created 2 women's centres between 2021–2022, defined as safe spaces with latrines and hand-washing facilities.⁷⁴
- Between 2021–2022, we constructed 50 gender friendly communal temporary latrine blocks and distributed menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits to 1,000 people in Ezo and Nzara (South Sudan).⁷⁵
- In 2022, we distributed 1240 dignity kits to women and girls in Jebel Moon (Sudan).⁷⁶

Sanitation and hygiene in schools

- Between 2020–2022, we implemented WASH programmes in 5 schools in Western Equatoria (South Sudan), benefiting 1,548 children. As part of the same project, we also reached 500 adolescent schoolgirls with MHM kits.⁷⁷
- By improving the health of target communities in 2022 in Borena (Ethiopia), our WASH project contributed to increased school attendance.⁷⁸
- In Jebel Moon (Sudan), we rehabilitated 4 community latrines in schools in 2022.⁷⁹

4.3.3. IWRM, including through transboundary cooperation (SDG target 6.5)

Between 2017–2020, we conducted an IWRM programme across several states in Sudan.⁸⁰ Reaching more than 37,302 people in West Sudan and 33,107 people in East Sudan, the programme aimed to encourage the implementation of IWRM at all levels of water resources management. The success of this programme has encouraged the adoption of similar approaches in our other areas of operation, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Catchment level

- Between 2017–2020, we established and trained Catchment Committees across Sudan, made up of representatives from each village in a given catchment area. These representatives are members of village committees, such as Water User Committees, and are responsible for smaller water points within the area.⁸¹
- In the Red Sea (Sudan), we conducted IWRM awareness campaigns and trainings for villages within catchment areas between 2017–2020.⁸²
- As part of our 2020–2023 Uganda Country Program, we aimed to establish more Catchment Management Committees, taking special efforts to ensure that refugees are included.

State level

- In Sudan, we collaborated with several ministries including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Production, as well as the State Water Corporation, between 2017–2020.⁸³
- We conducted 5 state-level forums to introduce and promote IWRM in the Red Sea (Sudan) between 2017–2020.⁸⁴
- In Borena (Ethiopia), we organised and led capacity development workshops for government officials in the WASH sector between 2019–2021.⁸⁵

Transboundary cooperation

- In 2022, we became a strategic partner to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, which aims to promote women's leadership in high level decision making in transboundary water basins. Through this partnership, we supported the Network's engagements at World Water Week 2022, including the convention of the first ever Global Network Forum, which brought together more than 70 participants from across the world to catalyse collective action on inclusive water diplomacy, as well as the launch of the Network's Global Strategy, 'A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security'.⁸⁶

4.3.4. Community Participation (SDG target 6.b)

Supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management is an essential component of our WASH projects. Amongst other things, this aligns with both a HRBA and IWRM.

Establishment and training of community committees

- WASH Management Committees
 - 40 WMCs throughout Western Equatoria (South Sudan) between 2020-2022.⁸⁷
- Water Management Committees (WMC)
 - 43 WMCs in Ezo and Nzara (South Sudan) between 2021-2022.⁸⁸
 - 4 WMCs in Borena (Ethiopia) as of August 2022.⁸⁹
- Water User Committees (WUC)
 - 17 WUCs, with a total of 204 members, in Bau (South Sudan) in 2022. The WUC rehabilitated two handpumps, benefitting an additional 1000 people.⁹⁰
- Sanitation Committees (SC)
 - 5 SCs in Bor Ex Poc (South Sudan) between 2021-2022.⁹¹
- Disaster Risk Reduction Committees (DRRC):
 - 6 in Borena (Ethiopia) between 2019-2021.⁹²

Literacy promotion

- In recurrent projects in Goudoumaria (Niger), we promote literacy to empower individuals to claim their human rights.⁹³
- Between 2019-2021, we educated pastoralist women in Borena (Ethiopia) on their human rights, resulting in an increased number of individuals claiming their rights.⁹⁴

Youth empowerment

- Between 2019-2020, 899 youths in Rhino and Kyangwali refugee settlements (Uganda) were enrolled in centres for social life skills training. They are now acting as behavioural change agents and are sensitizing their communities on topics including good hygiene practices and GBV.⁹⁵
- In Kyngwali refugee settlement (Uganda), we equipped youth with income-generating skills (soap making) between 2021-2022.⁹⁶

4.4. Alignment with Cross-Cutting Principles

4.4.1. Gender Equality

Recognising that women and girls are both disproportionately impacted by water and sanitation shortages and under-represented in discussions and decisions on the management of water resources, LM International's WASH projects contribute to the achievement of gender equality in several ways. By facilitating access to clean water, our projects reduce the time women and girls spend collecting water, freeing up time for school, work and other activities. Likewise, building toilets and handwashing facilities in schools increases attendance – especially for girls. Juma, from Nanzinga Village (South Sudan), said that prior to our intervention her school did not have a toilet and she would have to leave school to change her pad. Sometimes, she would skip school entirely.⁹⁷ Thanks to our work, Juma and other girls can remain at school when they are menstruating. We further support menstrual hygiene by teaching women and girls how to make reusable menstrual pads, including in Kyangwali refugee settlements (Uganda) between 2019-2020.⁹⁸

Furthermore, many of our projects address the correlation between WASH shortages and gender-based violence (GBV). For example, between 2021-2022, we conducted 29 awareness sessions and trainings on WASH/GBV-related risks and mitigation measures in Ezo and Nzara (South Sudan).⁹⁹ Targeting 25,000 IDPs, these trainings included courses on human rights, the different types of GBV and barriers to the reporting of sexual violence. LM International also led discussions where we encouraged participants to identify their role in preventing GBV.

Finally, when establishing community committees, we ensure that women are adequately represented, and actively participate, in discussions and decision-making processes. For example, out of the 132 WMC members trained in Al Radoum, Alsunta and Kateila (Sudan) between

2021-2022, 66 were women and 66 were men.¹⁰⁰ When included in decision-making processes, women can actively “help ensure that priorities of women and children are actually captured in daily service delivery, and that changes in service provision and resource access to not negatively affect women and children in the communities they serve.”¹⁰¹ This can make water projects up to 6 or 7 times more effective.¹⁰²



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4.4.2. Environment and Climate

Our WASH projects strongly align with environmental and climate considerations, and we often provide access to lifesaving WASH services in the aftermath of climate-induced disasters. When providing access to WASH services, we strive to promote sustainable infrastructure made from long lasting material, such as solar-powered water pumps. Likewise, many of our projects promote the use of Solvatten containers to heat and purify water so that untreated water becomes potable drinking water. This both reduces the use of electricity and/or wood when heating water. Akullo Marriana, from Pader district (Uganda), has said that the use of Solvatten containers has reduced her weekly firewood usage from 5 to 2 bundles and that, while it previously took 25-30 minutes to boil water, it now takes less than 5 minutes.¹⁰³

We work from the understanding that water has several uses and must be managed in an integrated manner. Building on this, several of our projects, including our irrigation project in Manyirani (Kenya),¹⁰⁴ promote

sustainable agricultural practices. As part of this project, we constructed two water intake structures, installed two water lines for irrigation, and trained more than 200 farmers in drip irrigation and the use of fertilisers. Not only did this spread environmental knowledge, but it also increased economic and food security. Similarly, between 2019-2021, we conducted trainings to improve farming knowledge and skills for 960 households in Borena (Ethiopia).¹⁰⁵

Recognising that the freshwater planetary boundary has been transgressed as of 26 April 2022,¹⁰⁶ LM International endeavours to protect existing water resources. This is often achieved through the planting of community gardens and tree nurseries around water points, as we have done in Goudoumaria (Niger)¹⁰⁷ and Borena (Ethiopia).¹⁰⁸ This both protects against drought, by replenishing underground water systems, as well as the advancement of sand. Likewise, between 2017-2020, we used sand dams and check dams to ensure enhanced long-term sustainability of our projects in Eastern Sudan.¹⁰⁹

Amongst other things, improved access to WASH services results in improved health, education and economic empowerment, thereby strengthening the capacity of marginalised communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate resilience is a central feature of many of our WASH projects and, between 2021-2022, we constructed climate resilient sanitation facilities in 250 households in Bor (South Sudan).¹¹⁰ Likewise, between 2019-2021, we worked to increase community understanding and preparedness towards drought in arid and semi-arid pastoralist areas in Borena (Ethiopia).¹¹¹ Finally, we ensure that women actively participate in the design and monitoring of our WASH projects, recognising that women hold unique knowledge and experiences around water that often prove key in climate adaptation strategies.¹¹²

4.4.3. Conflict Sensitivity and Protection

Our WASH projects often target conflict affected communities, including Cameroonian refugees in Chad,¹¹³ Congolese and South Sudanese refugees in Uganda,¹¹⁴ and IDPs throughout Sudan¹¹⁵ and South Sudan.¹¹⁶ In Niger, frequent attacks from Boko Haram mean that LM International is one of few organisations operating in the Diffa region. By conducting safety audits and conflict sensitivity analyses prior to each project, and for each location, we ensure that our WASH projects adhere to the 'do no harm' principle. When implementing interventions along a river, we ensure that the needs of communities at the top and the bottom of the stream are taken into account.



FOTO: TORLEIF SVENSSON

Taking this one step further, several of our WASH projects contribute to the promotion of peace and security (the third pillar of the triple nexus approach) by encouraging local water diplomacy, defined as cooperation over the management and safeguarding of shared water resources. By creating spaces for dialogue and negotiation on the management of shared water resources, our WASH projects have contributed to improved relations between several communities, including the Falat and Masaleet ethnic groups in Gereida (Sudan).¹¹⁷ Likewise, by addressing water shortages in the Darrasta catchment area in Kassala (Sudan), the Aqua4Sudan project (2017-2020) has eased tensions between host and displaced populations.¹¹⁸ In the words of Nyachoat Hoth Woul, a mother benefitting from our WASH work in Bor Ex PoC (South Sudan), “I no longer involve myself in physical violence because there is no need to struggle for water.”¹¹⁹

Women’s participation in these dialogues is especially important to the promotion of peace and security, with UN data revealing that gender inclusive peace processes are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years.¹²⁰ By promoting a 50/50 division of women and men in our Catchment Committees, LM International drives equitable, and therefore more durable, solutions to persistent water challenges across our countries of operation. Likewise, as a partner to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, we recently supported the launch of the first ever Global Strategy on Women, Water, Peace and Security.¹²¹ The Strategy includes a call to action to “take urgent and coordinated action to remove gendered barriers to equal participation and influence in water, peace, and security dialogues,”¹²² paving the way for meaningful change at a time when urgent political and environmental change is needed.

5. Approaching 2030 – Strategic Priorities for LM International

This report has revealed several good practices in LM International's WASH work. Our collaborative and bottom-up approach, and the resulting local ownership, is key to the success and sustainability of our projects. Likewise, we often construct water points and other relevant infrastructure ourselves, providing a key advantage in terms of the flexibility of our projects.

However, 2030, and thus a critical deadline for the achievement of water and sanitation for all, is rapidly approaching. Recognising this, LM International is determined to continue to strengthen our core competency on WASH. This includes continuing to expand our reach by consolidating existing, and developing new, partnerships. Our donors and partners enable us to further our aims, both by providing indispensable logistical and financial support and strengthening our ability to take collective action.

Moreover, LM International will continue to support and drive innovative WASH practices and services. We recognise the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and want to offer a collaborative space for innovative partnerships. Examples of ongoing collaborations include our work with innovation hubs, such as the Somali Innovation Hub and Robotech Labs in Tanzania, as well Sustaid, a Swedish organisation driving innovation through cross-sectoral cooperation.

Finally, we will continue to adopt an integrated approach to our work. This means continuing to advance the relationship between WASH and IWRM in our collaborative projects and activities. Several of our projects, especially in Sudan, have demonstrated that the application of the IWRM framework has resultant positive implications for peace and security, gender equality, and the sustainability of water resources, and we are determined to continue to expand our IWRM practice across our countries of operation.

Adopting an integrated approach also means continuing to address interlinkages between WASH and our other core competencies, including health, education and social and economic inclusion. An excellent example of this is our ongoing intervention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile (Sudan), which aims to improve food and nutrition security, increase access to WASH and health services, strengthen the target community's natural resource management practices and promote peaceful co-existence.¹²³ Recognising that an intersectional approach is both essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as well as the realisation of human rights, LM International is committed to the continued implementation of holistic WASH projects.

This report was written between September–November 2022 by Florian van Weerelt, Thematic Advisor (WASH) at LM International. The content is based on several consultations and meetings with LM International's country and regional offices in Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia and Kenya. The author is especially grateful to Dr Josephine Sundqvist, Federico Zacchia and Anders D. Jacobsen for their valuable feedback.

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Appendices

1. Selected WASH Projects and Programmes

COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	DONORS	STATUS
NIGER	Water as a base for healthy, sustainable and resilient communities in Goudoumaria	SMC	Ongoing (yearly recurrence)
	WASH Project for Guéchème	Neverthirst	Ongoing (yearly recurrence)
	Améliorer l'accès aux services WASH pour les populations affectées par le déplacement dans la région de Diffa	UN OCHA	Completed (2022)
	Improved access to safe drinking water for displaced and host populations in the Diffa region	ECHO	Completed (2017-2019)
CHAD	Drinking water supply for Cameroonian refugees in Chad	UNHCR	Completed (2022)
	Rehabilitation of water points in refugee camps and sites in Chad to start their solarization for the benefit of refugees, displaced persons and their host communities	UNHCR	Completed (2021)
SUDAN	Building the resilience of conflict affected community through integrated, multi-sectoral and one health interventions in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States	BMZ	Ongoing (2021-2025)
	Community Support Project Mechanism (CSPM) for Returnee, Refugee and IDP Hosting Communities	UNHCR	Ongoing (2022)
	Improving sanitation, hygiene, and access to water in Blue Nile State – Bau locality	UNICEF	Completed (2022)
	Emergency WASH response for conflict affected IDPs and host communities in Jebel Moon locality, West Darfur	IOM	Completed (2022)
	Integrated life-saving and basic WASH, GBV and education services for vulnerable IDPs, returnees, refugees, and host communities affected by conflict, economic crisis, and Covid-19 in Al Radoum, Alsunta, and Kateila localities of South Darfur State, Sudan	SHF	Completed (2021-2022)
	Aqua4Sudan projects, including: – RuralWater4Sudan – Aqua4East – Aqua4West – Aqua4Darfur	EU & UKaid	Completed (2017-2020)
SOUTH SUDAN	Sustainable WASH for Resilience Programme – Lot 2	UNICEF	Ongoing (2022-2023)
	Emergency WASH response for 25,000 conflict affected and IDPs in Exo centre, Yangiri, Mosso, Bariguna, Bambaraze, Bariabunda and Nzara centre, Ezo and Nzara counties	SSHf	Completed (2021-2022)

COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	DONORS	STATUS
SOUTH SUDAN	Upscaling WASH services to 35,000 people with high risk of disease outbreak in communities with food insecurity, Bor South county	UNICEF	Completed (2021-2022)
	Emergency WASH intervention for conflict affected IDPs in Bor Ex PoC, Bor South county	SSHf	Completed (2021-2022)
	Sustainable WASH for Resilience Programme – Lot 1	UNICEF	Completed (2020-2022)
ETHIOPIA	Borena WASH	Neverthirst	Ongoing (yearly recurrence)
	Borena WASH	Petros Network Development	Ongoing (2022)
	Ambo WASH	World Serve International	Completed (2020-2022)
	Agro-Pastoral Community, Resilience Capacity Building Project, Borena Zone, Ethiopia	SMC	Completed (2019-2021)
UGANDA	Solvatten water purification containers	Solvatten	Ongoing (yearly recurrence)
	Youth and children empowerment through sports activities in Kyangwali refugee settlement, Kikuube district	KRIK	Completed (2021-2022)
	Life-saving and improved quality of life for South Sudanese, Congolese and host populations in Rhino and Kyangwali refugee settlements	SMC	Completed (2019-2020)
SOMALIA	Emergency water and food distribution in response to the drought affecting Sanaag region, Faragul, Tuura, Tuurb and Wardgeer district, Somaliland	DERF	Completed (2022)
KENYA	Building resilience through water in Tharaka	Solvatten	Ongoing (yearly recurrence)
	Manyirani Farmers Water Project in Tharaka	SMC	Completed (2010-2019)



LM International

LM International, Global Office,
Siktgatan 8, SE-162 88 Vällingby, Sweden