

The background image shows a young child with dark skin and curly hair, smiling and looking through a circular window in a teal-colored plastic structure. In the foreground, a hand is visible, holding a small orange object. The structure appears to be part of a water or sanitation facility. In the background, there is a poster with text in a non-Latin script and an illustration of a person. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting.

OXFAM WASH STRATEGY

2023-25



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1

OXFAM'S HUMANITARIAN APPROACH

Oxfam is a multi-mandate organisation implementing development and humanitarian programmes, and supporting peace actors, with increasing connections between these areas of work – called the ‘triple nexus’. This is supported by our local-to-global advocacy work, which seeks to provide a platform for affected communities to influence change. Humanitarian work is a very significant part of Oxfam’s operational profile, having reached 19.7 million people in 2020–21¹.

Oxfam’s future vision of its humanitarian work is to provide life-saving, principled and need-based assistance and protection to crisis-affected people in a manner that upholds their rights and dignity, in line with our commitments to the World Humanitarian Summit² and Charter for Change³, and our endorsement of the Grand Bargain⁴ and the Call to Action on Protection from Gender- Based Violence in Emergencies⁵.

In addition to these commitments, four interlinked internal priorities are the drivers of this protection strategy:

1

A global commitment to community engagement, which reflects Oxfam’s long-standing support for innovative community-based protection supporting the agency and capacity of communities.

2

The recognition that all humanitarian action has the potential to inadvertently cause harm drives Oxfam’s safe programming approach. This includes mitigating risks of gender-based violence, ensuring conflict sensitivity, and providing ethical and principled humanitarian aid.

3

The application of a feminist approach requires an understanding of gender and power dynamics at all levels, from affected communities to the structures of the humanitarian system itself and the promotion of gender and racial justice.

4

The promotion of local humanitarian leadership, including more radical, transformative and innovative ways to support local humanitarian leadership and transformative partnerships.

OXFAM'S AREAS OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES ARE:



water, sanitation
and hygiene promotion



food and economic
security



gender in emergencies



protection

Advocacy, influencing and campaigning are significant parts of Oxfam's global impact across all thematic areas. They are a fundamental part of our protection work and this strategy. In reference to protection, these activities seek to intervene at different levels (national, regional and global) to ensure that duty bearers protect the basic rights of people affected by disaster and conflict.

Oxfam aims to increasingly deliver all programming through cash and voucher assistance, and to increase its direct funding of local and national partners, including women's rights organisations.



2

KEY SECTOR TRENDS THAT INFORM THIS STRATEGY

2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE IS LARGELY A WATER CRISIS



The climate crisis is largely a water crisis. Due to global warming, we are certain that developing countries are going to see a decrease in access to potable water due to multiple factors including:

- Decrease in glacial melt waters, especially in the Himalayas, where there is already less water entering the river systems.
- Severe rainfall events with increased runoff meaning many aquifers get less recharge.
- More evaporation from surface water and irrigation reducing quantities available and causing aquifers to become saline.
- Unregulated unmanaged abstraction causing water shortages and salinisation in coastal areas.
- Increased competition between drinking water and agriculture needs
- Water commoditisation, people and companies with the money decrease the availability of water for the less able to pay.
- Conflict over water resources within and between communities
- A disproportionate impact on women and young girls and vulnerable groups

This strategy period will likely see **increased flooding events and droughts** due to a change in weather patterns and severe rainfall events, increasing severity of cyclones accompanied with heavier rainfalls. The flooding is exacerbated by urbanisation, unregulated building on flood plains and insufficient, non-existent or non-maintained

flood prevention measures as well as drainage systems unable to cope with heavy rainfall events. The impact of droughts is increasing due to failure to adapt to the severe rainfall events in terms of water harvesting and aquifer recharge. Flooding poses a significant risk to WASH infrastructure, especially toilets which can overflow leading to serious public health risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that urbanisation, climate change and their associated overcrowding and displacements increases **the risk of zoonotic (animal to human) transmission of diseases**. These factors will also impact the current distribution of many diseases of epidemic potential, as their insect and animal vectors and hosts migrate in line with the changing climate, exposing new populations with limited immunity to the potential of outbreaks of diseases such as Malaria and Dengue Fever.

These same factors – overcrowding and displacement – increase person to person transmission once a disease is in circulation, and poor urban and camp planning, overburdening of health, water, sanitation, and social support systems reduces capacity to be able to adequately tackle new or resurging diseases. As the climate warms it is predicted that more viruses and bacteria will mutate and evolve at a faster rate significantly increasing the risk of future pandemics.

In fragile contexts, these changes come on top of decades of under-resourcing of health, water and other systems vital for individual and community health.

2.2 THE MAJORITY OF EMERGENCIES ARE PROTRACTED IN NATURE

the UNHCR figure for the average lifespan of a refugee camp is now over 24 years but far more people are living in non-camp situations in fragile states for decades. As the funding available decreases over time from the onset of an emergency, or slow to materialise in the case of

slow onset emergencies, there is a huge need to install technologies and management systems that have the lowest possible operation and maintenance costs, and engage more closely with communities, local stakeholders and the private sector to ensure their long-term viability.

2.3 THE 'WASH SYSTEM' IS WEAK IN FRAGILE AND CRISIS-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

In the [2021 Global Wash Gap analysis](#) affected populations rank their biggest gap as water provision followed by sanitation provision. The WASH system - the interconnected technical, institutional, financial and social components that influence the delivery of WASH services - is weakened by conflict and shocks in fragile states, making it even more difficult for basic needs to be met. The risk is that with increasing humanitarian needs worldwide, gaps in meeting basic WASH needs will persist and increase unless new approaches addressing the WASH system are taken. Within the humanitarian WASH sector, while there have been ongoing efforts to increase both Oxfam's and the WASH Sector's **capacity for stronger community engagement and accountability** mechanisms, this is not yet fully embedded as a standard way of working in the sector. There is a need to do more in order to give affected populations a voice in WASH programme design, as the current lack of uptake in use by communities for a range of

Of WASH facilities and services illustrates that user preferences are still not taken into account and that considerable money and time is being wasted. Agencies including Oxfam have been playing lip service to feedback mechanisms from affected populations there needs to be a significant step change in getting systematic feedback and acting upon it.

These key trends set the scene for **Oxfam's Humanitarian WASH Strategy for 2023 – 2025**. The urgency of the climate crisis and the negative impact on water availability causing scarcity and conflict over resources, new and renewed disease outbreaks, and increasing climate and environmental crises; institutions charged with providing the basic right of water, sanitation and public health are strained over protracted crises; how these issues affect gender and power dynamics and a humanitarian system that needs to further emphasize accountability and engagement with communities - these shape **Oxfam's Humanitarian WASH Approach** and strategy towards achieving it.





3

**WHAT OXFAM'S
HUMANITARIAN
WASH IS KNOWN FOR**

Oxfam's continuing and acknowledged leadership in WASH is underpinned by capacities, technical skills, inclusion and strategic approach summarized in these 4 pillars:

3.1 LEADERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN WASH PROGRAMMING AND SETTING THE STANDARD FOR THE SECTOR

Oxfam sets the standards through the sector, such as through the writing of the SPHERE Handbook chapter on WASH (updated 2018) or identifying the most critical gaps and needs in the sector in the 2021 Humanitarian WASH Gap Analysis. This is due to Oxfam's longstanding history of excellence in humanitarian WASH programming, encompassing a wide range of areas. Examples include pushing the envelope in WASH infrastructure, such as through large infrastructure projects like Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants in Bangladesh, and by leading the sector in taking up solar pumping technology. Oxfam has pioneered the community engagement approach and steered the sector in making this a

core part of inclusive and participatory WASH programming. All of this has been possible by having strong WASH programs in countries supported from Regional Advisors and GHT, most notably by having a large and diverse group of WASH Humanitarian Support Personnel (HSPs) with expertise in a broad range of WASH competencies spanning both public health promotion and engineering with decades of experience. Oxfam is unique among peer agencies in having such resources – particularly those dedicated to each facet of WASH programming – which allows us to delivery quality WASH programming and influence the broader sector.



3.2 INNOVATION

Innovation is key to continuing to meet needs in changing contexts where we work. Oxfam has a long history of success in driving innovation and bringing new technologies and approaches into the humanitarian WASH sector. Oxfam has developed some of the WASH sector's most widely used products globally. The Oxfam Bucket, the Nag Magic Latrine Slab, interchangeable Steel Water Tanks, diaphragm desludging pumps, and the Oxfam Handwashing Station form strong examples of Oxfam's innovation in taking affordable WASH products to market, many of

which is now sold commercially. Oxfam's innovation covers not just products but new technology and approaches to WASH programming. Recently, Oxfam has developed the Community Perception Tracker, which has been deployed in Ebola and COVID-19 pandemics and is now being used to track the perceptions of people affected by crisis to better adapt WASH programs, and new approaches to managing the delivery of WASH services is now being taken up at scale in both Nepal and Kenya.

3.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a key pillar of WASH programming in Oxfam, and is a cross-cutting component of Oxfam's humanitarian approach. Community engagement involves means working more directly with a wide range of people affected by the crisis to better understand their priorities, to work with them to make positive behaviour changes, and to strengthen their capacity to reduce/prevent public health risks and make their own decisions. Oxfam's work in community engagement drives WASH programming that is more effective in responding to community priorities, disease outbreaks and

enables communities to be part of decision-making that affects them. Oxfam has a dedicated team of specialists in community engagement in the PHP team, including HSPs who support the uptake of community engagement in country programs. We ensure our programmes are designed and implemented to respond to expressed community needs (e.g. go beyond SPHERE), provide a safe and dignified access to services, builds on local/ community knowledge and capacities, and are environment and conflict sensitive.



3.4 SUSTAINABILITY OF WASH INVESTMENTS

With the majority of crises being protracted in nature and the 'WASH system' weakest in fragile and crisis-affected countries, Oxfam's analysis in humanitarian WASH goes beyond good quality life-saving interventions, but assessing the WASH system as an interconnected system of technical, institutional, social, etc. factors that influence the delivery of WASH services and reinforce the continuity of WASH services for affected populations. This WASH analysis and program design also looks at mitigating the damage to the environment and potential conflict between communities due to resource management.

Oxfam has been advocating to the wider sector since 2002 that all emergency responses need to start with long-term sustainability of facilities in mind, such as using photovoltaics for all energy needs and investing in technologies of a higher capital cost, but designed for the lowest possible operation and maintenance costs, while involving communities from the onset of a crisis and creating management systems that enable local providers to take over from the

beginning (such as with the Faecal Sludge Management system in Cox's Bazar, urine diversion dry toilets (UDDTs), Tiger worm toilets and faecal briquettes).

Oxfam's humanitarian WASH focus on sustainability takes a 'systems approach' through the strengthening of formal institutions, private sector and communities. Oxfam provides long term technical support and capacity building to mandated authorities and institutions responsible for water and sanitation provision. We engage the local private sector in service provision, including through market-based programming, to enhance long-term predictability and cost-efficiency, and partner with international private sector organisations such as BORDA and ARUP in testing innovations for long-term sustainable systems. Our work in addressing the sustainability of and local engagement within humanitarian WASH interventions forms part of the humanitarian-development nexus as we engage and collaborate with sustainable development WASH actors and institutions.



WHERE WE INFLUENCE

Oxfam plays a key influencing role in the sector, including in the Global WASH Cluster. Oxfam is a member of the Global Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group, providing strategic oversight and guidance for the delivery of the Cluster's strategic plan. Oxfam has had a major role in setting the priorities for the Global Cluster, through leading the 2021 Humanitarian WASH Gap Analysis, and through engaging in a broad range of initiatives.

GLOBAL WASH CLUSTER INITIATIVES

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM)
Technical Working Group

Hygiene Promotion Technical Working
Group

Cash & Markets Programming
Technical working group

Wash Cluster Field Support Team

Wash Cluster Road map steering
group

The Accountability and Quality
Assurance initiative

OTHER FORA OXFAM ENGAGES WITH

Interagency WASH Group

General Meeting of the Global Task
Force for Cholera Control

UNICEF Social Science for
Community Engagement

Global Outbreak Alert and Response
Network (GOARN) and Risk
Communication and Community
Engagement (RCCE) Collective
Service Global Coordination Meeting

Menstrual Hygiene in Emergencies
Interagency Working Group

Humanitarian Innovation Fund WASH
Technical Working Group, and

Inclusion Technical Working Group

Oxfam plays a leading role in sharing innovation, new practices in countries, and action research with the wider sector. This takes place at global conferences and meeting events, such as the Emergency Environmental Health Forum, the University of North Carolina Water and Health Conference, and the Water Engineering and Development (WEDC) International Conference. Oxfam also shares learning through dedicated workshops and events to build the capacity of WASH practitioners on the approaches that Oxfam is taking in its work in WASH around the world.



4

OXFAM'S WASH STRATEGY FOR 2023-25

VISION

Women, men and children affected by disaster and conflict will have access to appropriate and quality WASH services that enable them to mitigate public health risks in a dignified way. Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups will be actively engaged, influencing Oxfam's response either directly or with partners to meet their specific WASH needs and giving affected populations a greater voice in how the response is designed and delivered.

GOAL 2023-2025

Oxfam will continue to be a leading player in humanitarian WASH, demonstrating rapid and high-quality emergency responses that respond to community needs, influencing the WASH sector with evidence of effective programming, supporting community resilience in disaster prone and fragile contexts and enhancing national capacity to improve WASH and Public Health coverage for the most vulnerable.



5

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

We will seek to invest capacity and resources into large scale emergencies in fragile contexts to contribute to re-gaining and growing Oxfam's impact and profile in WASH. Alongside this, our focus will be on working with country programmes in developing strong WASH partnerships with other NGOs, CSOs, institutions, state actors and the private sector. Our teams and partners will be supported to fully embrace Oxfam's humanitarian approach, and to integrate across our work in Food and Economic Security (FES), Gender and Protection.

1 DELIVERING EFFECTIVE, QUALITY AND LOCALLY LED RESPONSES

Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Supporting country programmes to ensure **WASH teams are adequately and appropriately staffed and resourced** for the nature of work taking place.

Continuing to innovate in WASH and scale approaches and technologies, ensuring that emerging new technologies and approaches are identified and used to achieve better efficiency and sustainability.

Supporting the **integration of initiatives aimed at enhancing WASH users' voice and representation in decision making and leadership** (such as Community Engagement, WASH and the Global WASH Cluster Accountability and Quality Assurance Initiatives), into country programming; and document innovative and quality responses

Supporting long-term strategic relationships with local partners, and utilising approaches such as embedding staff within local and partner NGOs to support them.

Supporting and encouraging multi-sector integration (food security, livelihoods, health, climate, protection, gender and through cash and voucher assistance) to enhance programme coherence and outcomes, make better use of human and economic resources and capitalise on linkages, by setting programmatic common objectives and outcomes, joint planning and coordinated implementation.

Institutional strengthening by providing long term technical support and capacity building to mandated authorities and institutions responsible for water and sanitation provision (local authorities, Gov't Ministries, water and sanitation service providers). Engaging the private sector in service provision to enhance long term predictability and cost efficiency. Working with country programmes and regions to explore mechanisms for local actors (both Government, NGOs and Private Sector) to respond appropriately and flexibly to WASH needs in emergencies with Oxfam support if required.

PRIMARY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

Fragile and full country offices have adequately resourced WASH teams with a diversity of competencies related to PHE and PHP disciplines as a minimum, to deliver effective, quality, and locally led programming.

All countries with WASH programs consistently meet Oxfam's Minimum Requirements for WASH programming within two years.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SPACES:

Public Health Concept Note

LHL in WASH (in development)



OBJECTIVE 2

Oxfam's Public Health programming aims to enable people to take action to prevent or mitigate diseases. It combines community and local knowledge (what people know, do and want) with public health expertise (e.g., the causes of disease, epidemiology, vector control, and communications, MEAL, advocacy strategies). This strategy period will see greater investment in our public health work relating to prevention and control of disease outbreaks, drawing on our learning from Ebola, cholera and COVID-19 responses.

2 EXPANDING OUR PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMING LINKED TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION

Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Supporting country programmes to ensure ***WASH teams are adequately and appropriately staffed and resourced*** for the nature of work taking place.

Continuing to innovate in WASH and scale approaches and technologies, ensuring that emerging new technologies and approaches are identified and used to achieve better efficiency and sustainability.

Supporting the ***integration of initiatives aimed at enhancing WASH users' voice and representation in decision making and leadership*** (such as Community Engagement, WASH and the Global WASH Cluster Accountability and Quality Assurance Initiatives), into country programming; and document innovative and quality responses

Supporting long-term strategic relationships with local partners, and utilising approaches such as embedding staff within local and partner NGOs to support them.

Supporting and encouraging multi-sector integration (food security, livelihoods, health, climate, protection, gender and through cash and voucher assistance) to enhance programme coherence and outcomes, make better use of human and economic resources and capitalise on linkages, by setting programmatic common objectives and outcomes, joint planning and coordinated implementation.

Institutional strengthening by providing long term technical support and capacity building to mandated authorities and institutions responsible for water and sanitation provision (local authorities, Gov't Ministries, water and sanitation service providers). Engaging the private sector in service provision to enhance long term predictability and cost efficiency. Working with country programmes and regions to explore mechanisms for local actors (both Government, NGOs and Private Sector) to respond appropriately and flexibly to WASH needs in emergencies with Oxfam support if required.

PRIMARY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

Fragile and Full Country offices have adequately resourced PHP teams to deliver strong public health programming

Clear Public Health Programming strategies embedded in respective country humanitarian / WASH strategies in all countries with WASH programs.

Epidemic preparedness and response plans included in all fragile and full Country Operation Plans (COPs).

Active participation of Oxfam WASH staff in relevant coordination forums at national and sub levels (such as taskforces, RCCE/IPC platforms etc) where a disease outbreak has been confirmed.

Collaboration between Country PHP teams and advocacy teams in countries with WASH programming (with support from the GHT) to promote evidence-based influencing on the relevant public health aspects such as vaccination campaigns, access to healthcare services to marginalised groups, increased affordable testing for epidemics etc.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SPACES:

Public Health Concept Note

LHL in WASH (in development)



OBJECTIVE 3

During this strategy period, Oxfam seeks to influence significant change internally and externally in the ways that WASH practitioners interact with, understand, and respond to community needs and feedback.

3 IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY DRIVEN AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING THROUGH STRONG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FOSTERING FEMINIST APPROACHES

Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Engaging communities meaningfully to ensure our programmes are designed and implemented to respond to their actual needs (e.g. go beyond SPHERE minimums), provide a safe and dignified access to services, builds on local/ community knowledge and capacities, and are conflict sensitive).

Embedding the Sani Tweaks / WASH Tweaks approach within the WASH Sector by expanding the approach to also include other elements of WASH programming such as water supply and hygiene promotion programming. This approach will support women, young girls and vulnerable groups to have better access to all WASH facilities by adopting the consult modify consult approach, reducing risks and ensuring facilities are designed and maintained with the users comfort and dignity as the prime consideration.

.Expansion and integration of the Community Perception Tracker (CPT) for use outside of outbreaks, capturing perceptions from communities on a range of issues, including WASH, which can be used to adapt and transform programming based on community inputs.

Promoting gender equality and shifts in existing structures and patriarchal culture to enable more sustainable WASH outcomes.

Roll out of the Community Engagement Capacity Building strategy and associated capacity building tools to Oxfam staff, with a focus on those in fragile contexts. Capacity building materials will be made open source and available to other WASH agencies with Oxfam support to implement if required.

Updating global guidance on responding to epidemics using community inputs and feedback as the driving factor. Guidance on how Oxfam can pivot WASH responses to those more focused on wider Public Health using community engagement will be created in collaboration with countries that face frequent epidemics and outbreaks.

Supporting countries to monitor and evaluate community engagement initiatives, generating a global evidence base for the approach that supports its greater uptake in the WASH Sector.

PRIMARY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

Clear community feedback mechanisms in all countries with WASH programs, that support the active participation of affected people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of WASH programs. All data collected needs to be disaggregated.

All WASH staff in fragile and full country WASH programmes have been trained on Oxfam's community engagement approach and are able to demonstrate the approach in action

All WASH staff in GHT priority countries with WASH programs trained on the WASH Tweaks approach within two years of recruitment and apply it in ongoing programs.

11 country WASH sector coordination forums supported by the GHT and country programs on the WASH Tweaks approach through workshops and mentoring of WASH tweaks champions.

At least 5 of the priority countries for the GHT supported to use the Community Perception Tracker (CPT) in adapting and transforming their programming.

Community engagement expertise integrated into country capacity building plans for all countries with WASH programs.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SPACES:

[Community Engagement in WASH](#)

[Sani Tweaks](#)

[An Introduction to Community Engagement in WASH](#)

[Community Perception Tracker](#)

Public Health Concept Note

Community Engagement in Epidemics

Accountability and Quality Assurance: People Centred Programming

Gender in Emergencies strategy and standards

WASH and Feminist Leadership (in development)



OBJECTIVE 4

The focus of the GHT is primarily to support Oxfam and partners to be able to deliver quality humanitarian responses, which includes both preparedness and resilience building activities, and supporting a transition to longer term, system strengthening activities. The GHT aims to support Oxfam WASH teams to find practical opportunities to embed the triple nexus approach in their programmes, considering both the immediate and long-term needs of affected populations, and seeking to reduce conflict over WASH resources. This objective covers many interlinked aspects of WASH programming – including sustainability of service delivery, protecting natural resources and the environment, climate adaptation, localisation and disease outbreaks – which will require us to adopt a more systems-based approach to our work.

4 IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WASH INTERVENTIONS IN COUNTRIES

Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Supporting initiatives that focus on system strengthening, including working with local partners and authorities (both public and private partners) on strengthening WASH and Public Health governance and policies that contribute to minimising the impact of humanitarian crises, and advocating with others around integrating adaption and evolution into the design, funding and management of WASH and Public Health systems, with an emphasis on equitable inclusion and community control over the system throughout project cycle. This will involve mapping opportunities to work on inter-related components of the WASH system, including market systems and governance, as part of a nexus approach to WASH and public health programming.

Enhancing the sustainability of delivery of WASH services, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected countries. We will continue to advocate internally and externally for emergency responses to start with the long-term sustainability of facilities in mind, and support investment in technologies that may have a higher capital cost but are designed for the lowest possible operation and maintenance costs. Analyzing the lifecycle costs of WASH services will also support efforts in addressing the long-term financial management in service delivery through engagement with authorities, utilities and the private sector. The communities receiving services will be engaged in the development of gender-inclusive management and governance models that will enable local providers to effectively and sustainably deliver services while being accountable to end users.

4 IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WASH INTERVENTIONS IN COUNTRIES (CONTINUED)

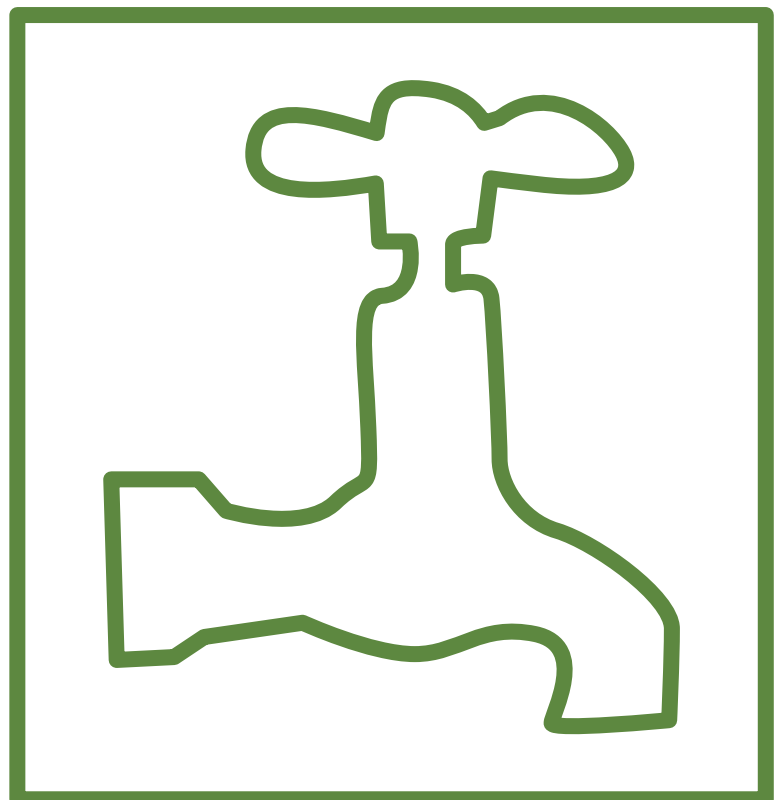
Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Protecting natural resources and the environment by assessing the short, medium, and long-term impacts using sound scientific assessment and analytical methodologies to guide programme design and implementation, applying mitigation measures, adopting appropriate technologies, and monitoring the impacts.

Innovating new or improved approaches to adapt to climate change, particularly for WASH activities and services relating to circumstances of drought and flooding, which will become more regular and protracted. We will utilise water insecurity data to advocate for more in-country government expenditure on solutions for communities most at risk and promote practical mitigation works such as water conservation, ground watering monitoring and grey water recycling, pipelines from water rich areas and other solutions to avoid the annual increase in water trucking. Similarly, we will track high risk areas for flooding and advocate for more spending on practical alleviation measures in those areas.

Applying conflict sensitivity by conducting context, stakeholder, conflict, political-economy analysis etc as appropriate, to inform our programmes, guide a “do no harm” approach, reduce the risk of conflict as a result of our interventions, and where possible, prevent, mitigate or transform conflict to create pathways for peacebuilding.

Building resilience of communities and WASH related institutions and markets, by planning and taking anticipatory actions, conducting risk analysis, and strengthening the capacity of the WASH system to withstand shocks and respond flexibly to crises.



PRIMARY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

A minimum of 3 countries have dedicated projects with WASH service delivery sustainability or WASH systems outcomes as overall results of the project, with MEAL frameworks developed to measure sustainability and WASH systems outcomes. GHT develops guidance on assessing environmental impacts in WASH programs and supports country teams in assessment, technology selection, and monitoring environmental impacts. All fragile and full country offices in countries where significant drought and flooding events are anticipated have adopted new or improved approaches to adapting WASH activities to climate change. A minimum of 3 fragile countries have undertaken analysis focused on conflict sensitivity to design and implement WASH programs.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SPACES:

Public Health Concept Note

WASH Futures

WASH and Nexus (in development)

Sustainable WASH (in development)

WASH and environment paper (in development)

Water Insecurity paper (in development)

WASH and Local Humanitarian Leadership (under development)

WASH, Peace and Conflict paper/guidance (in development)



OBJECTIVE 5

Access to water, sanitation and public health are basic rights, but beyond poor development, scarcity and poverty, lack of access to these also demonstrates existing structural inequalities in gender, race, environment and other social injustices. When the most marginalized amongst communities are left out of the consultation, design, management and reach of 'WASH systems', the impact to them post-humanitarian crises shows the most basic of inequalities that create risk to lives. The right to social protection encompasses the access and maintenance to water, sanitation and public health.

In anticipation of the climate crisis being a water insecurity crisis, Oxfam will seek to focus on collecting water insecurity data to advocate for more in-country Government expenditure on solutions for communities most at risk from water insecurity.

Oxfam will continue to use evidence generated in our country programmes to influence sector wide WASH co-ordination and strategy, including promoting to and supporting countries to do practical mitigation works such as water conservation, groundwater monitoring and grey water recycling, pipelines from water risk areas, in order to address water insecurity.

5 INFLUENCING TOWARDS ADDRESSING WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH INEQUALITY

Over the next three years, we will improve quality by:

Utilising the results of the Global WASH Gap Analysis to steer our research and thinking into the areas of most need as ranked by people affected by crises and WASH practitioners

Update our Research and Development strategy, retaining the focus on sustainability and community engagement, but including greater emphasis on local leadership, environmental protection, and public health

Continue to work with major donors, product designers, research institutions and key stakeholders in country programmes to ***develop context specific solutions to WASH challenges***.

Work with advocacy and campaigns colleagues on issues that align with our objectives and seek to influence at the highest level for policy change

Continue to play a strategic role in influencing the WASH sector through committed and active engagement with global and national WASH Cluster and other fora

PRIMARY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

An Oxfam confederation-wide advocacy campaign is launched, focused on the impacts of global heating on water security and what this means for affected people in the countries where we work.

Humanitarian WASH donors and the Global WASH Cluster prioritize under-resourced areas of WASH work identified through Oxfam's action research and sector leadership.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SPACES:

R&D Strategy

2021 Global WASH Gap Analysis



PHOTOGRAPHY INFORMATION

Cover page	Oxfam Handwashing Station in use Kisalaba IDP site, Tanganyika, DRC <i>Photo by Arlette Bashizi/Oxfam</i>
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Page 7	TFK worker Ashraf inspecting the NFI kits including jerry cans and bucket before distribution in Jafferbad district <i>Photo by Ingenious Captures/Oxfam</i>
Page 9	Saeed, an Oxfam Community Health Volunteer living in Ammar bin Yasser camp, Yemen <i>Photo by VFX Aden / Oxfam</i>
Page 10	During the rainy season from July to October 2022, Chad was devastated by floods in 18 of its 23 provinces. More than 1.1 million people were affected, losing their homes, farmland, and livestock. <i>Photo by Liga Nassandou/Oxfam</i>
Page 12	Oxfam Handwashing Station in use Kisalaba IDP site, Tanganyika, DRC <i>Photo by Arlette Bashizi/Oxfam</i>
Page 13	Oxfam's Senior WaSH project officer testing the Solar Pumping system in Hourtaala- Bekaa <i>Photo by Oxfam</i>
Page 15	Monther Alattar checks solar panels that provide power to the water distribution network, Yemen <i>Photo by Pablo Tosco/Oxfam</i>
Page 16	Aerial view of the Mwaka Site in the Province of Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo. <i>Photo by Arlette Bashizi/Oxfam</i>
Page 17	Francisca saleswoman of Mbika, washes her hands using the kit she received in the Democratic Republic of Congo. <i>Photo by Anastasie Langu/Oxfam</i>
Page 20	Every day Ameena* (8) spends hours with other neighbours of the Rohingya camp in the queue for collecting drinking water. Rohingya refugee camp Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (* name changed) <i>Photo by Fabeha Monir/Oxfam</i>
Page 22	Nour Kassab, Oxfam in Syria Hygiene promoter, delivers a session to children in a primary school in a town in rural Aleppo on good hygiene practices and the best way to wash hands <i>Photo by Islam Mardini/Oxfam</i>
Page 24	Przemysli : Registration centre in an old Tesco building - Oxfam staff present to discuss the needs <i>Photo by Tineke D'Haese/Oxfam</i>
Page 27	Oxfam's Ali Regah from the WASH team explains the water purification system that Oxfam has installed in Ceel Nimcon village. <i>Photo by Abdilahi Persia/Oxfam</i>
Page 29	Oxfam teams load trucks carrying water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) critical supplies bound for Tigray and Afar in December 2022. <i>Photo by Dagmawi Tadesse/Oxfam</i>

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