

DFATD is going forward, in the coming weeks, with a WASH thematic evaluation. The focus of inquiry is understanding of partnership arrangements between Canadian CSOs and their developing countries counterparts and stakeholders in the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH initiatives. Several members of the WASH Canada coalition are being involved in this.

WASH Thematic Evaluation Proposal – Courtesy Minh-tien Nguyen of DFATD

1. Evaluation Purpose and Objective: The sustainability of WASH initiatives is a pervasive challenge for practitioners, donors, host governments and beneficiaries, with too many WASH initiatives failing only a few years after implementation.

Whilst the literature abounds about the key factors that contribute to effective and sustainable WASH outcomes, our collective understanding is more limited on the particular contribution of civil society organisations' programming approaches, tools, and the partnership arrangements and ethos (such as those established between Canadian civil society organizations (CSO) and their local partners, and with host communities) to achieve such effective and sustainable WASH outcomes.

DFATD/PDIB proposes to engage selected Canadian CSOs involved in WASH programming, along with their local partner organisations and stakeholders, to examine few selected cases where “civil society organization partnership” leads to effective and sustainable WASH interventions for the poor.

The thematic evaluation proposes to identify, analyze and disseminate key programming tools, innovative approaches, lessons learned and best practices by selected Canadian CSOs and their local partners that contribute to effective and sustainable water supply, sanitation facility and behaviour change outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The thematic evaluation will specifically:

- a) Document and analyze in breadth selected partnership approaches, tools and practices that enhance the effectiveness and sustainability WASH programming in SSA among selected Canadian CSOs and their local partners;
- b) Develop a better understanding about the specificities of the Canadian model to civil society partnership that contribute to the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH outcomes in SSA;
- c) Foster cross learning opportunities among Canadian and local partners organisations to improve their respective organisation capacity and WASH programming tools;
- d) Provide recommendations for improving the effectiveness and sustainability of current and future WASH programming geared to:
 - i) Recipient country governments with WASH needs and programming
 - i) Canadian CSOs and their local partner organisations;
 - iii) international/local CSOs and stakeholders engaged in WASH programming;
 - iv) DFATD staff.

The evaluation will seek evidences to answer the following key questions:

- a) How do partnership ethos, arrangements and practices between Canadian CSOs and local partner organisations, contribute to the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH interventions?
- b) What are the strongest features of these partnership ethos, arrangements and practices between Canadian CSOs and their local partners that contribute to effective and sustainable WASH interventions?
- c) What are the weakest features of these partnership ethos, arrangements and practices between Canadian CSOs and their local partners that undermine the achievement of effective and sustainable WASH interventions?
- d) If CSO partnership matters, how could its features be integrated into some of the WASH sustainability assessment framework/tools being developed by WASH practitioners?

The evaluation will incorporate the equality between women and men as cross-cutting theme in the analysis and in the conclusions. It will also incorporate environmental sustainability and governance cross-cutting themes.

2. Proposed Scope

The scope of the evaluation is limited by the following criteria:

- **Partners:** Canadian partner organizations funded by DFATD/PDIB to carry WASH projects/programs, and their local counterparts.
- **WASH programming interventions:**
 - o increase access to basic water supply and sanitation facilities
 - o promote hygiene behaviour changes
 - o water and sanitation facilities are managed by the community
- **Timeframe:** Initiatives started since 2007;
- **Area of intervention:** Sub-Saharan Africa, with emphasis on Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia.

WASH effectiveness and sustainability definition. To simplify the picture, effective and sustainable WASH is described as: water supply is reliable day in, day out; water is potable/safe for consumption, water source is protected from contamination and over-exploitation; toilets/latrines are used by all and are maintained clean; sewage/sludge is properly managed and treated, and people are adopting sound hygiene and sanitation behaviours.