



The Sanitation & Hygiene Fund



Effectively addressing the Sanitation, Hygiene and Menstrual Health crisis

A new dedicated Fund for those most left behind

Lack of sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health poses great risks to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **1 in 2 people** do not have access to safely managed sanitation services.
- Nearly **9%** of the world's population still practice open defecation.
- More than **1 in 3 people** do not have basic handwashing facilities at home.
- **1 in 3 schools** lack access to basic sanitation and hygiene services.
- **1 in 5 health care facilities** lack access to even basic sanitation and hygiene services.
- Every day, **hundreds of millions** of women and girls menstruate, many without the facilities to manage their menstrual health safely.

Time to act

At the current trajectory, **SDG 6 target 2 of safely managed sanitation will be realized well beyond 2070. Sanitation and hygiene do not have the priority they warrant.**



In 2019, less than 15% of countries surveyed respectively had policies, costed plans or adequate financial and human resources to address their rural or urban sanitation gaps.

To reach national urban and rural sanitation targets, countries face funding gaps of 74% and 59% respectively.

The Fund is ready to step up as a financing mechanism to fill a gaping void in the international response to the sector.

To deliver at the scale required to achieve sanitation and hygiene leaving no one behind, WSSCC is evolving into the **Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF)**, a dedicated global fund large enough to invest in government-led programmes for real impact.

www.shfund.org

Impact

Sanitation and hygiene improve people's lives.

Health

Sanitation and hygiene are key to preventing or managing the outbreak of many deadly infectious diseases, including cholera, diarrhoea, Ebola and polio, to reducing maternal and neonatal death, to curbing the spread of anti-microbial resistance, to preventing sepsis, and to reducing malnutrition and pneumonia. Many of the leading causes of child death under 5 are related to inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

The WHO lists regular handwashing as one of the first measures to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

Women's and girls' education, economic power and sexual and reproductive health

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poor sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health. This negatively impacts their safety and dignity from sanitation-related gender-based violence, mobility, freedom of choice, health and their access to employment, and social and economic power.

During menstruation, women and girls often face major barriers and discriminative practices. Some are restricted from going to school or to religious sites and are unable to remain gainfully employed. 130 million girls worldwide are out of school. While there are many contributing factors to school attendance the prevalence of poor sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health plays a major role.

Stigma, taboos, misinformation, and lack of knowledge can also leave adolescent girls poorly equipped to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, contributing to a cycle of early pregnancy and marriage. Adolescent girls and boys need timely information.

Economy

Sanitation-related loss of productivity – such as missed work – costs some countries over 6% of their GDP and the lack of proper sanitation costs the world an estimated US\$ 223 billion every year.

Conversely, a WHO study shows that every US\$ 1 invested in improved sanitation translates into an average global economic return of US\$ 5.5, more than double the economic return on water spending.

Climate change

Climate change induced events such as flooding, which can rapidly spread bacteria through a community and contaminate ever-scarcer water sources, make climate resilient sanitation and hygiene solutions critical to saving lives and to protecting household investments in infrastructure.

The World Health Organization has named lack of sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities one of 13 emerging health threats for the next decade.



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Why a Fund?

Given the extent of the crisis we need to act now, catalyze change, and accelerate collective and sustained commitment. Based on lessons learned from WSSCC's Global Sanitation Fund and that of other successful global funds, WSSCC is transforming into the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund.

The Fund aims to fill a gaping void in the international response to the sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health crisis and to give sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health a mechanism to take its response to a new level.

How the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund works

Only countries with the highest burden and least ability to respond will be eligible to apply for funding. Interventions supported by the Fund will be country led and technically sound: country led committees will determine key needs and submit funding requests to the Fund based on robust, costed national strategies. Where such strategies do not exist, the Fund will help countries develop them.

Reviewed independently by a team of global experts, proposals will receive feedback to ensure the Fund's catalytic investments are well targeted, technically sound and reflect value-for-money.

Core to the Fund is partnership – with countries, development partners, the private sector and the civil society. Through these partnerships, governments and funding partners can maximize their investments by leveraging additional investments and activities from households, partners and the private sector.

A co-financing requirement for governments further ensures sustainable government commitments to sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health. Sustainability of investments will be further reinforced by the Fund's transition policy, which ensures that countries will be supported at decreasing levels once they reach a certain income level, triggering plans for future scenarios without funding support.



The Fund will hold itself and recipients accountable for results through performance-based disbursements.

What activities will the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund support?

The Fund supports investments in the following four strategic priority areas:

- Scaling-up household sanitation and hygiene services
- Addressing Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) gaps while promoting empowerment of women and girls
- Increasing sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene and MHH services in schools and health care facilities
- Supporting innovation towards safely managed sanitation, hygiene and MHH.

Investments will be designed to strengthen climate resilience.

Investment case

During 2020, to deliver at scale and provide early learning, the Fund will be shifting its current investments in several countries to better align with its revised strategic goals. From 2021, the Fund has identified a number of high priority countries with a strong emphasis on countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern and Eastern Asia, that need urgent, catalytic funding. This will require a major reset of funding levels for WSSCC, increasing over the next five years as new countries are progressively brought on board.

For more information about the Fund and its strategy and investment case, contact Wouter Coussement, Head of Business Development, info@shfund.org

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