The heart of a global movement to improve sanitation for everyone
15 Chemin Louis-Dunant, 
1202, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 560 8181
Fax: +41 22 560 8184
wsscc@wsscc.org
www.wsscc.org
© 2015 WSSCC, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Design by: ACW, London www.acw.uk.com
Sanitation transforms lives
Sanitation – including quality toilets and latrines, handwashing, and menstrual hygiene management – is central to human development and public health. Improving sanitation and hygiene saves millions of lives that would otherwise be lost to disease, accelerates economic growth, enhances people’s dignity and creates a better future for all.

Today, the world faces a sanitation crisis. One out of every three human beings lacks a decent toilet or latrine, and one billion people still defecate in the open. This crisis magnifies divisions within society, as those most affected are often the most vulnerable and marginalized – women, children, the elderly, the disabled and those living in rural and remote areas.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council – WSSCC – is at the heart of a global movement to improve sanitation and hygiene for everyone. As the only United Nations body devoted solely to sanitation and hygiene for the world’s most vulnerable people, WSSCC serves as the hub for global sanitation efforts, and as a key resource for governments, non-governmental organizations, communities and individuals working to transform sanitation worldwide. With our members and partners, we give voice to the vulnerable, empower communities, foster collaboration, share knowledge and provide vital funding for programmes in the field. Our work has a direct and lasting impact on the lives of millions of people.

“Every person, everywhere, has a right to quality sanitation and hygiene. WSSCC is helping to make that right a reality, and to transform the lives of billions of people worldwide.”

Chris Williams, Ph.D. Executive Director

Photo: A grandmother, mother and daughter at a local market in Fiadanana, one of the more than 12,600 open defecation free communities in Madagascar. Credit: Katherine Anderson / WSSCC
Our Approach

WSSCC works in three areas to transform sanitation and hygiene for the most vulnerable people in the world

The Global Sanitation Fund

The only global fund solely dedicated to improving sanitation and hygiene in developing countries

WSSCC’s financing arm, the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), gathers and channels donor funding to community-led programmes in Africa and Asia. Thanks to GSF-supported programmes, close to 10 million people in 13 countries no longer defecate in the open – and more people join their ranks every day.

Equality

Promoting sanitation and hygiene as the gateway to inclusion and opportunity

WSSCC works through a life-cycle approach to ensure that sanitation efforts reach the most vulnerable and marginalized people, including women and girls, the disabled, the elderly and those living in remote and rural communities. Menstrual hygiene management is a key part of our portfolio, aiming at breaking the taboo around menstruation globally while ensuring change in national policies.

Collaboration

Bringing together leaders and activists to strengthen the global sanitation movement

WSSCC builds and supports partnerships that bridge government, NGOs, and community organizations. Today, national WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) coalitions are active in 16 countries, and leaders and activists from around the world regularly gather to share lessons learned at regional and international sanitation forums convened or supported by WSSCC.
WSSCC’s financing arm, the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), is the only global fund solely dedicated to improving sanitation and hygiene. To date, we have committed over $109 million to programmes in 13 countries with some of the greatest sanitation and hygiene needs.

Through the GSF, we support community-led programmes that can transform the way families and individuals think about sanitation and hygiene. By supporting collective behaviour change activities, GSF partners are creating the conditions for tens of millions of people to live in open defecation free environments and access improved toilets and handwashing facilities. Across GSF-supported countries, a diverse network of thousands of stakeholders, including households, local leaders, community consultants, local governments, NGOs, academic institutions and local entrepreneurs, work together to create lasting solutions.

We know that traditional, top-down approaches that build or subsidize toilets aren’t sustainable over the long term. That’s why our approach focuses on transforming community standards to create lasting change. Through smart design and engagement with governments at all levels, GSF-supported programmes work in thousands of villages and achieve results in relatively short timeframes. They also act as a catalyst for further progress by showing stakeholders what can be achieved with modest investments in community solutions.

Our Results

- **8.21 million people** in 13 countries have improved toilets
- **9.92 million people** live in open defecation free environments
- **13.46 million people** have handwashing facilities

Current GSF-supported programmes aim to:

- Help over 22 million people access improved toilets
- Enable over 36 million people in over 85,000 communities to live in environments free of open defecation
- Help over 28 million people access sustainable handwashing facilities
- Trigger over 131,000 communities through the community-led total sanitation approach
GSF in Action: Madagascar

With support from the GSF, Madagascar has become an international leader in the effort to end open defecation. In just a few years and with a relatively modest investment, the country has achieved extraordinary gains in improving living conditions and health for millions of Malagasy people.

Since 2010, the GSF-supported programme in Madagascar has facilitated behaviour change activities in over 17,000 communities throughout the country. In these communities, over 1.4 million people have stopped practicing open defecation, over 330,000 have gained access to improved toilets, and close to 3 million have gained access to handwashing facilities.

Now, the government of Madagascar is working to extend this success to all of its citizens. In 2014, the Prime Minister declared that the country was committed to becoming Africa’s first open defecation free country by 2019.
Volunteers from WSSCC partner Goonj, an Indian NGO, show girls how they can make sanitary napkins at home from cleaned, recycled cloth. Credit: David Trouba/WSSCC

Poor sanitation and hygiene are among the greatest obstacles to equality and opportunity for vulnerable and marginalized people. That’s why WSSCC focuses on sanitation and hygiene for the most vulnerable – women and girls, the disabled, the elderly and those living in remote communities.

This focus is reflected in all of our work – including policy advocacy, research on best practices for reaching marginalized people, joint programmes with UN Women and other partners, and GSF-supported programmes.

For example, we have been a leader in advancing research, policies and practices that prioritize the needs of women and girls. Too often, women bear the brunt of poor sanitation. Their well-being and livelihoods are threatened not only by open defecation, but also through unsanitary menstrual practices. The latter not only endangers women’s health and poses challenges at the workplace; for adolescent girls, it very often jeopardizes their ability to attend school.

WSSCC also develops and advocates for approaches that meet the needs of the elderly and disabled, who often face physical challenges that make it difficult for them to access even basic latrines. And we work to ensure that those living in remote or isolated communities receive dedicated sanitation services, since they are often left behind by programmes that prioritize population centres.

Equality

India: Putting Menstrual Hygiene on the Map

With support from WSSCC, government and community leaders in India are breaking taboos around menstruation and ensuring that women and girls have the knowledge and services they need to safely and hygienically manage their periods.

Much more work remains to be done – approximately 70 percent of all reproductive diseases in India are still caused by poor menstrual hygiene. But India is on the right track:

• The national government has added menstrual hygiene management to its prominent ‘Clean India’ campaign.
• Local entrepreneurs are building businesses to manufacture and sell sanitary napkins.
WSSCC and UN Women launched the Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation, focusing on action research, policy change and capacity strengthening in West and Central Africa. During the research on menstrual hygiene practices and beliefs in the Northeast of Senegal, more than 600 women and girls were interviewed by a survey team trained in Menstrual Hygiene Management. Credit: Javier Acebal / UN Women / WSSCC
Collaboration

To achieve lasting progress in sanitation, collaboration is essential. Changing millennia-old sanitation practices requires many different actors to work in concert, from community leaders to NGOs to governments.

WSSCC is the engine of collaboration for the sanitation sector – a convener and a hub for every organization and individual working to end the sanitation crisis. We serve as a village square, bringing together experts, advocates, world leaders and community workers at international conferences and online. We help these partners share their knowledge and find new opportunities to work together.

In 16 countries, we convene and support national WASH coalitions that advocate for and implement stronger programmes and policies. We work with national governments to shape strategic plans for improving sanitation and hygiene, ensuring that they learn from and build on the work of others in the field.

We work to activate the private sector, from multinational corporations to entrepreneurs in developing countries. We help these partners understand where their resources, voice and expertise can make the greatest difference.

At the global level, we bring together voices from around the world to advocate for the billions of people living without access to sanitation. Our efforts played a central role in ensuring that sanitation appeared in the Millennium Development Goals, and have contributed to shaping the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals for sanitation, including its target to end open defecation worldwide by 2030.

Hand-in-hand with our partners and members in 150 countries, we are building a world where all people – regardless of their location or economic or social status – have access to decent sanitation and hygiene.
About 60,000 people participated in the Global Citizen Festival held in Central Park in New York in September 2014, featuring world renowned artists and world leaders committing to end poverty. Photograph courtesy of Global Citizen.
Where we work

WSSCC supports members and partners working to improve sanitation around the world, including:

**WSSCC members** are working to improve sanitation and hygiene in 150 countries. Our members come from all walks of life: non-governmental organizations, local and national governments, United Nations agencies, academic institutions and private industry. For WSSCC, these members work with national WASH Coalitions, share best practices, and elect our Steering Committee.

**National WASH Coordinators** in 16 countries serve as WSSCC’s on-the-ground representatives, leading national WASH Coalitions and advocating for change.

**Global Sanitation Fund-supported programmes** in 13 countries have helped close to 10 million people live in environments free of open defecation, and are on track to reach millions more over the next few years.
Countries with WSSCC-supported National WASH Coordinators

- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Madagascar
- Ethiopia
- Cambodia
- Nepal
- India
- Pakistan
- Zimbabwe
- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Uganda
- Niger
- Togo
- Kenya

GSF-supported Countries

- Benin
- Cambodia
- Ethiopia
- India
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Malawi
- Nepal
- India
- Pakistan
- Zimbabwe
- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Uganda
- Niger
- Togo
- Kenya
WSSCC: The heart of a global movement to improve sanitation for everyone
Join us

Join the movement to transform lives by improving sanitation around the world. Become a WSSCC member, join your national WASH Coalition, and advocate for the resources and policies that will end open defecation and bring quality sanitation to the most vulnerable and marginalized people.

To learn more:
Visit us online at www.wsscc.org
Email us at wsscc@wsscc.org
@WatSanCollabCou
WatSanCollabCouncil
Join the WASH Community of Practice on LinkedIn
sanitationforall

In the Northeast of Senegal, women and girls form a circle with their hands and make a pledge to break the taboo around menstruation. WSSCC is working in partnership with UN Women to change the policy and practice around menstrual hygiene in West and Central Africa. Credit: Javier Acebal / UN Women / WSSCC
To-date, the GSF has helped over 13 million people access handwashing facilities, including this girl in Senegal’s Matam region.

Credit: Alma Felic / WSSCC