



GLOBAL SANITATION FUND

Investing in sustainable sanitation and hygiene



Sustainable water supply, hygiene and sanitation for all

The **Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)** was established by the United Nations in 1990 to serve those people in the world who do not have access to drinking water or sanitation. It works by enhancing collaboration in the sector, generating and sharing knowledge, and advocating the importance of water and sanitation. The WSSCC network is made up of individual members, national groups of members and a small Secretariat, hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

During the 1990s, WSSCC established a strong reputation for networking, knowledge management and multi-stakeholder participation. From 2000 onwards it expanded its work at both global and national levels through its **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH)** initiative. This high-profile global advocacy campaign aimed at raising public and political awareness of safe water supply, adequate sanitation and hygiene services.

The task of achieving the Millennium Development Goal sanitation target for 2015 is a huge challenge. To help meet this goal, WSSCC has created the **Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)**.



THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE GLOBAL SANITATION FUND

Good sanitation and hygiene, together with safe drinking water are essential to keeping people healthy. Yet today, 2.6 billion people or 40% of the world's population do not have access to basic sanitation. Inadequate sanitation and hygiene have huge consequences on human health, while the impacts on the environment, education and economic activities are enormous.

Unsafe water supply, poor sanitation and hygiene together constitute the third most significant risk factor for poor health in developing countries with high mortality rates. Diarrhoea alone is responsible for the deaths of 1.8 million people every year, 90% of whom are children under five. However, it is recognized that:

- >> Improved water quality reduces childhood diarrhoea by **15-20%**.
- >> Better hygiene through hand washing and safe food handling reduces it by **35%**.
- >> Safe disposal of children's faeces leads to a reduction of nearly **40%**.

Improved hygiene and sanitation have enormous potential to save lives, but to date there has been no global financing mechanism solely for hygiene and sanitation. Funding for improving sanitation has come piecemeal from donors to governments, from international organizations or from within the NGO sector. To combat this problem, WSSCC established the **Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)**.

The Global Sanitation Fund is not a separate organization but simply a financing mechanism established to boost expenditure on sanitation and hygiene in accordance with national sanitation and hygiene policies. The fundamental goal is to help large numbers of poor people attain safe and sustainable sanitation services and adopt good hygiene practices. The GSF supports other organisations' implementation work by giving grants from a pooled global fund to selected organisations in eligible countries.



HOW DOES THE GLOBAL SANITATION FUND OPERATE?

In many developing countries national sanitation policies exist but the funding to implement them does not. WSSCC works with **national governments** to accelerate implementation of these policies. It is the national governments that provide the leadership and legitimacy to any work undertaken by the Global Sanitation Fund.

The GSF operates both at the global level and within each selected country.

At the global level, the overall management of the GSF is handled by the **WSSCC Secretariat**. It secures donations, selects the eligible countries for each round of funding, and manages the disbursement of funds. The quality of the work supported by the GSF is ensured by the **GSF Advisory Committee** which gives advice to the Secretariat on all professional aspects of its programmes. The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, as the host agency of WSSCC, provides the legal and administrative framework for GSF operations.

At the national level, **Executing Agencies**, selected by the **WSSCC Secretariat**, manage the GSF-funded programme by selecting, supervising, training and helping **Sub-Grantees** who directly implement the sanitation and hygiene work programmes. **Country Programme Monitors** verify and report on the work of Executing Agencies on behalf of WSSCC.

Links between the national government and non-government actors regarding all the work funded by the GSF are ensured by a **Coordinating Mechanism**. This also makes certain that the work of the GSF is in line with national policies and the activities of WSSCC's National WASH Coalitions that undertake professional networking, knowledge management, advocacy and communications work.

Organizational components of the Global Sanitation Fund



GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE GLOBAL SANITATION FUND



The Global Sanitation Fund respects national leadership

The GSF only operates in countries with the explicit agreement and welcome of the national government. All GSF-supported work programmes must fulfil the national sanitation policy aims and be part of well-coordinated national or local strategies owned by the people and their governments.

The Global Sanitation Fund targets poor and unserved communities

All GSF funds must contribute to improved sanitation and hygiene for people who currently lack basic sanitation. The GSF focuses particularly on groups whose needs are not adequately met by existing funding mechanisms, especially the poor in rural and peri-urban areas, marginalized populations and people with disabilities.

The Global Sanitation Fund expands coverage

While open to innovation, the GSF's main function is to increase the number of people with improved sanitation and hygiene. It therefore supports scaling up and replication of proven techniques rather than development and testing of new ones.

The Global Sanitation Fund is people-centred, community-managed and demand-driven

The GSF supports work programmes that have been developed through participatory decision-making processes involving local communities. The work should be designed to achieve community level health benefits and respond to the needs and wishes of the people. GSF-supported work concentrates on hygiene education, raising awareness and creating demand.

The Global Sanitation Fund promotes sustainable services

The GSF aims to support safe and sustainable services, i.e. those that protect and promote human health and at the same time do not contribute to environmental degradation or depletion of the resource base, are technically and institutionally appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable.

The Global Sanitation Fund incorporates gender considerations

Sanitation and hygiene have very strong gender links, especially in respect of the privacy, dignity and equity of opportunity of women and girls. The GSF requires that all supported work gives due consideration to gender.

The Global Sanitation Fund pools funds

The GSF is a single pooled fund, open to contributions from any source, including governments, foundations, private sector and individuals.

The Global Sanitation Fund boosts expenditure

Funds provided by the GSF are additional to other sources of funding for sanitation and hygiene and must not be used to replace funding from existing sources.

The Global Sanitation Fund uses results-based management

Each GSF-funded work programme must have clearly defined objectives, beneficiary groups, methodology and timescale. Results-based management enhances accountability, encourages strong performance and creates opportunities for innovation.

The Global Sanitation Fund works transparently

All procedures, processes, decisions and reports relating to grants management are publicly available on the Global Sanitation Fund section of WSSCC's website www.wsscc.org.

Country selection criteria for the Global Sanitation Fund

The Global Sanitation Fund is global in scope, but works country by country in order to use its resources effectively. The WSSCC selects the countries in which the GSF works according to the following criteria:

- >> large number of people and proportion of population without basic sanitation;
- >> high incidence of disease related to poor water, sanitation and improper hygiene;
- >> low economic and social development indicators;
- >> a national sanitation policy or strategy, which is not already being fully funded from other sources;
- >> existing active National WASH Coalition or other WSSCC partners that request GSF funding for that country;
- >> government agreement and welcome that GSF can support work in the country.



GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GLOBAL SANITATION FUND

The **Global Sanitation Fund** is a financing mechanism within the WSSCC, not a separate organization. Governance of the GSF falls under the WSSCC Steering Committee, an elected body that decides its purpose, principles and scope. The Steering Committee approves the operating procedures, decides all working criteria, approves the selection of countries and allocation of funds, and reviews the overall progress and performance of the Global Sanitation Fund.

All contributors agree that their funds can be used for the purposes decided by the Steering Committee. WSSCC encourages donors to make multi-year commitments to this fund, in order to help long-term financial planning. WSSCC welcomes the support of donors to the Global Sanitation Fund that have not previously supported sanitation work.

The Global Sanitation Fund is a trust fund hosted by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, which provides both its legal structure and administrative framework. WHO exercises this responsibility through its participation in the WSSCC Steering Committee and its application of WHO policies and procedures to all WSSCC activities.





The Global Sanitation Fund and the Millennium Development Goals

The Global Sanitation Fund will contribute to progress towards the **Millennium Development Goals**, especially those goals aiming to reduce child mortality (**Goal 4**) and to ensure environmental sustainability (**Goal 7**). Targets to be achieved by 2015 for these goals include reducing by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate and halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation. Improved sanitation and hygiene will also contribute towards other goals including eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (**Goal 1**), achievement of universal primary education (**Goal 2**), and promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women (**Goal 3**).

Overall, better health means more time spent on income generating activities and lower health expenses. Children will miss fewer school days due to sickness, and access to school sanitation facilities will keep more children, especially girls, in school. Improved schooling will enhance their income generating potential as adults. Safe sanitation will give women better health, dignity and privacy. Improved sanitation will help control pollution and enhance the environment of both households and communities.



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