

IRC



IRC Asia Programme

IRC believes water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems strengthening is fundamental to ensuring sustainable safe water, sanitation and hygiene services for all and forever.

Our work is centred on improving governance and management of WASH services through a series of interventions rooted at local and community level and with engagements at sub-national, national and regional levels. We are engaged in carrying out initiatives related to capacities of public institutions to plan, budget and monitor the delivery of WASH services across multiple tiers of governance. We are also engaged in building capacities of civil society organisations, to effectively plan and advocate for local needs.

IRC partners with government and non-government actors to identify and locate bottlenecks in the WASH system and arrive at solutions. IRC uses adaptable tools (for example, building block assessment, and waste calculator) for this purpose.

Further, through the WASH Systems Academy, IRC offers contextualised online and blended learning options for WASH system strengthening to students, professionals and government officials.

Reflecting and adapting are key for systems strengthening. IRC contributes to knowledge creation through multi-stakeholder dialogues at sub-national, national and regional levels. In addition, IRC carries out programme and project evaluations on an assignment basis.

IRC COLLABORATES WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA

Aga Khan Foundation, BRAC, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Centre for Youth and Social Development, DORP, India Sanitation Coalition, Netherlands WASH SDG Consortium, One Drop, SNV, SuSanA, UNICEF, WaterAid, Water For People, Water.org and WRI.

Focus elements in India



INSTITUTIONS

The aim is to support institutions to carry out their mandate in the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services. This includes assessing the adequacy of the available human resources and their capacities to deliver services as per national commitments.



PLANNING

The aim is to build capacities of local government institutions and civil society organisations to develop a vision and effectively plan for realising the vision. This includes imparting knowledge on the relevant policies, strategies, programmes and regulations.



FINANCE

The focus is on understanding the life-cycle costs of WASH services. The aim is to attract adequate funding beyond infrastructure development for sustainable services.



MONITORING

Tracking progress towards the vision and to inform annual planning and budgeting processes.



LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

Facilitating cross-learning and sharing experiences at sub-national, national and regional levels to learn by doing and to replicate best practices.

About IRC

IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with national and local governments, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) crisis. It was founded in 1968 by the Dutch government upon request of the World Health Organization as a WHO Collaborating Centre.

Currently, IRC is established as an autonomous, independent not-for-profit foundation with its headquarters in The Netherlands. It has a presence in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mali, Niger and Uganda.

IRC is dedicated to working towards achieving universal access to sustainable WASH services (SDG 6) by focusing on building the government's ability to deliver and maintain water services.

This is in sharp contrast to the more conventional charity-based solutions that primarily focus on the installation of hardware. IRC aims to tackle the global chronic waste of resources in the

WASH sector, a consequence of short-term and piecemeal interventions resulting in approximately one-third of rural water systems around the world not working.

IRC's approach



Figure 1 Change logic of IRC's Theory of Change

IRC's systems approach believes that sustained WASH services can be delivered through strong and competent national systems. Systems are the networks of people, organisations, institutions, and resources (the "actors" and "factors") necessary to deliver services. They include both hardware and software; management and governance.

The systems approach is grounded in the practical business of identifying and strengthening the necessary sub-systems or the 'building blocks' to deliver effective services. Central to the systems thinking is that - for any service to be delivered, all building blocks must be present and working, at least to a minimum level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ASIA PROGRAMME

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**supporting water sanitation
and hygiene services for life**