



Asutifi North Ahonidie Mpontuo (ANAM) initiative partners celebrate the start of implementation of the WASH master plan in March 2019 (IRC).



AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Strengthening water, sanitation, and hygiene systems together.

Context-Appropriate District WASH Master Planning

How to Adapt to Local Realities, Capacities, and System Conditions

This brief presents the contextual factors that need to be accounted for in developing a District (or area-based) WASH master plan. It provides top-level guidance for accounting for these factors when undertaking or facilitating district WASH master planning.

Developing a District (or area-based) WASH master plan is an essential starting point for a district-wide approach towards ensuring sustainable WASH services for all. The process brings together stakeholders to jointly understand the current situation, create a common vision, formulate priority strategic actions, and collectively develop and implement a plan for achieving that vision.

A wide range of resources exist providing guidance on district WASH master planning (see, for example, www.ircwash.org/facility); however, these do not provide clear guidance on how to tailor the process according to the country and local context.

Contextual factors influence key elements of the district WASH master planning process, including the involvement of different stakeholders in the planning process, the role of local government, the level of detail required and scope of the WASH master plan, especially for costing of the master plan (from order of magnitude estimates, to costing based on detailed designs), the amount of time required, and the level of emphasis given to related concepts and approaches (e.g., climate-resilience).

This brief is primarily aimed at stakeholders (e.g., development partners, CSOs, national and sub-national government, INGOs) seeking to strengthen district WASH planning and is accompanied by a longer brief providing more specific guidance. This brief was developed based on insights and experiences from several Agenda for Change members. The development of the brief was made possible thanks to funding from WHH's Global WASH Program.

Read the full guidance brief: [Context-Appropriate District WASH Master Planning](#)

This brief was developed by Bill Twyman (Aguaconsult) and Marieke Adank (IRC WASH) based on insights from Welthungerhilfe's (WHH's) Global WASH Programme's work on district WASH master planning in India, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe as well as the experiences of Agenda for Change partners in Rwanda (Water for People, WaterAid, IRC), Cambodia (WaterAid), Bangladesh (WaterAid), Central African Republic (Water for Good), Ethiopia (IRC), and Ghana (IRC).

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED

Six contextual factors shape the district WASH master plan and development process (see Figure 1).

Each of these influences various elements of the district WASH master plan development and implementation process, including the situational analysis, vision and target setting, strategic directions, the costing and funding strategy, and implementation and monitoring. The first two contextual factors relate to contextual elements (WASH service context and demographic and socio-economic contexts), while the other four factors relate to the enabling environment for district WASH master planning.



Figure 1: Contextual Factors Influencing District WASH Planning

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT WAHS MASTER PLANNING IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

District WASH master planning can take place in a variety of contexts, with various demographic characteristics and WASH services levels as well as differing enabling environments. The following text offers headline recommendations for contexts with high and low WASH service levels and weak and strong enabling environment. For more detailed guidance, please see the full guidance brief: [Context-Appropriate District WASH Master Planning](#).

CONTEXT WITH LOW WASH SERVICE LEVELS

Recommendations for the content of the district WASH master plan:

- Introduce simple planning processes, with simple data collection and costing processes, which support systems strengthening.
- Focus vision and target setting and strategic directions on extending improved or basic services to all.
- Focus financial strategies for covering CapEx, while ensuring sustainable service provision through existing assets.

CONTEXT WITH WEAK ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Recommendations for the WASH Master planning process:

- Sensitise local stakeholders and build local capacity for district WAHs master planning
- Ensure an inclusive process.
- Involve potential district WASH master planning champions from the national and regional levels to ensure support and scaling.
- Develop country-specific tools and guidelines.
- Support the district to market the plan to attract investment.

CONTEXT WITH HIGH WASH SERVICE LEVELS

Recommendations for the content of the district WASH master plan:

- Openly introduce the pros and cons of approaches for situational analysis and costing with different levels of complexity.
- Use available data from existing monitoring systems.
- Focus vision and target setting and strategic directions on safely-managed services for all by professionalised SDMs (e.g. utility-managed piped water supply and municipal-managed FSM or sewerage).
- Focus strategy development on ensuring effective, efficient and sustainable service provision under these models.
- Consider tariffs as an especially important source of funding.

CONTEXT WITH STRONG ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Recommendations for the WASH Master planning process:

- Light touch initial capacity building, with more intensive training on more complex topics.
- Ensure an inclusive process
- Ensure use of and alignment with existing government visions, strategies, approaches, platforms and systems.
- Support organisations to align their activities behind the district WASH master plan.