# Water Security and Resilience

The sustained availability of water—both in sufficient quantity and adequate quality—is fundamental to the successful expansion of safe drinking water services under SDG 6. Embracing strategies for integrated water resource management enables the strengthening of downstream water supply systems while also improving the management of the finite upstream water resources on which those services depend.

## OUR APPROACH

World Vision's approach to water security requires looking "beyond the pipe" to the broader integrity of ecosystems and catchments accompanied by the mitigation of water pollution. We view upstream interventions to improve watershed management—including forest conservation, farmer managed natural regeneration, erosion control, and artificial groundwater recharge—as a critical aspect of safeguarding the downstream drinking water supply.

Closely related to water security, World Vision also seeks to build the resilience of households and communities by helping them prepare for, endure, and recover from recurrent crises. Recognizing that climate change has the potential to both reverse decades of progress on water access and impact local hydrological cycles, World Vision will adopt a "climate lens" in our WASH programming, helping households, communities, and governments thrive under today's conditions while also planning for how those conditions may evolve. Planning for resilient WASH services will take many forms, including infrastructure siting in relation to flood zones, increasing water storage capacity for protracted drought, maximizing the use of solar power to reduce dependencies on grid power, as well as helping households anticipate seasonal precipitation fluctuations and the resulting impacts on water for domestic and livelihood needs.

## 2021-2025 areas of focus

1. Integrate climate change scenarios into infrastructure planning.
2. Support water resource planning and water allocation decisions.
3. Advocate for watershed protection and/or rehabilitation.
4. Develop an evidence-base on climate resilient WASH.

# Behavior Change

Behavior-change programming is integrated across the primary focus areas within communities, schools, and healthcare facilities to alter social perceptions and norms, and to drive the adaptation of physical environments required to see sustained WASH impact. While behavior change has been an approach for World Vision WASH, low results in sanitation and hygiene revealed by the Word Vision study with UNC led us to put a higher emphasis on developing these techniques and investing in them to see greater impact.

## OUR APPROACH

Dedicated approaches to behavior change are guided by locally contextualized programming primarily around eight essential behaviors for WASH:

1. Handwashing with soap and running/flowing water at critical times
2. Safe construction and proper/hygienic use of latrines
3. Safe disposal of infant/child feces in a latrine hole (linked with latrine use)
4. Separation of children from soil and animal feces
5. Households that treat, handle, and store their drinking water with appropriate methods
6. Safe use and disposal (or cleaning if reusable) of menstrual hygiene materials
7. Food hygiene (including eating utensils and eating area)
8. Paying for water use

To facilitate change for each of these key behaviors, we will strengthen the process of designing behavior-change content through development and roll out of planning tools and guidelines to assist national offices. This will include:

- A simple behavioral diagnostic tool to allow national office staff members to understand the unique challenges facing each AP.
- A series of staff training modules that include general introductions, training on tools, and higher-level capacity building to develop behavior-change specialists.

These essential behaviors will be targeted by delivering key messages through a variety of approaches, including: nurturing care groups (NCG), WASH business centers, faith engagement within communities, WASH UP! and Girl Talk programming in schools and communities, and improved infrastructure with associated operation and maintenance approaches to improve sustainability.