GWSP

The GWSP is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund housed within the World Bank’s Water Global Practice with support from: Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rockefeller Foundation; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Economic Affairs; Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation; and UK Department for International Development.

The GWSP is the largest of a number of Trust Funds that are housed within the World Bank Water Global Practice, all of which have their own unique purpose and models. These include: The 2030 Water Resources Group, the Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program, the Danube Water Program, the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa Program and the South Asia Water Initiative.
In 2017, the World Bank with its partners launched a new initiative for a water-secure world, the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), housed within the World Bank’s Water Global Practice.

This partnership comes at a vital moment, as progress lags while challenges grow and ambition increases. The GWSP, inspired by its previous alliances, builds on decades of knowledge, learning and practical experience from the World Bank, the Water Partnership Program (WPP) and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP).

GWSP links the World Bank’s project implementation with cutting edge analytics and research. We have the knowledge and analytical capacity of a think-tank and link these to project investments around the world. We learn from and help shape these projects, so that knowledge flows both to and from implementation.

Joel Kolker | GWSP Program Manager

At the core of GWSP’s model is a belief that first-rate research and systematic knowledge is essential to maintaining the high quality of World Bank operations. It is equally essential to shaping the external debate as part of our mission to deliver a water-secure world for all. So the GWSP produces strategic, robust and practical information, insights and ideas to shape both practice and policy.

GWSP generates, curates and disseminates such first-rate knowledge and know-how. Its work is both informed by Water GP projects across the world and influences Water GP projects across the world. The GWSP does not pursue knowledge for its own sake but rather knowledge as an instrument for improvement.

GWSP works to advance five priority themes where action is critically needed to achieve the SDGs for water – inclusion, sustainability, financing, institutions and resilience.

The GWSP is fully aligned with the vision of the World Bank Group’s Water Global Practice - A Water Secure World For All. It is also fully embedded within the Water GP; an integrated and influential part of the World Bank architecture.
The world faces a water and sanitation crisis.

- **9 out of 10** natural disasters are water-related.
- **81 million** people could be fed each year with the crops lost in repeated droughts.
- **2.1 billion** people lack reliable access to safely managed drinking water services.

**Timeline:**
- **2000**: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) begin
- **2015**: MDGs end and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begin
- **2017**: GWSP launched
- **2018**: Launch of the Water Action Decade
- **2030**: SDGs conclude
THE FIVE THEMES OF GWSP

5 priority themes have been identified where action is critically needed to achieve the SDGs for water. Sustainability, institutions, financing, inclusion and resilience form the foundations for the GWSP’s mission.

Sustainability

Sustainability is ultimately about ensuring that available resources today can continue to deliver benefits to future generations. The partnership focuses on two critical aspects for ensuring long-term sustainability of water investments. Firstly, the sustainable management of water resources. This means securing the long-term availability of water resources, considering the impacts of population growth, rapid urbanization and climate change. Secondly, infrastructure assets should be adequately built and maintained, to ensure for example that handpumps do not break down prematurely or that treatment plants are not abandoned for lack of adequate maintenance.

Institutions

Expanding access to and improving the quality of services can only be achieved and sustained if the institutional arrangements provide the right incentives and resources and the organizations tasked with service delivery also have the requisite capacity. Institutions comprise the formal and informal rules of the game within which these organizations operate and, through them, impact the quality and sustainability of services. To the extent that providers of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and irrigation services are (quasi) government entities, they are influenced by the broader governance environment and the institutional architecture of the public sector that goes beyond the water sector. To strengthen institutions and accountability for service provision, GWSP works to understand the rules of the game and incentive structures, grounded in local cultures, economies, and political circumstances.

Financing

Financing needs to expand access to safely managed water to deliver on the SDGs. Sanitation services alone have been estimated at US $114 billion per year up to 2030. That’s vastly more than the amount historically invested to expand access, and much more will be needed to deliver universal access and to manage water resources and infrastructure sustainably.

Inclusion

Inclusion is the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups who are disadvantaged based on their identity, to take part in society. Water belongs to everyone and yet many are excluded from its benefits and often from ownership and control of this critical resource. Ensuring that a project is inclusive enhances the inclusion agenda requires better knowledge on the nature of water inequality, enhancing capacity and putting in place incentives that will result in better outcomes. Underlying such design also requires strong institutions that will hold state and service providers accountable.

Resilience

Management of water resources and water facilities will increasingly be subject to shocks in years to come. That’s because climate change is predicted to increase climate variability and extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts. Resilient solutions call for strategies and tools at the country, basin, and project level capable of incorporating not only climate and disaster risk consideration into the analysis, but also innovative solutions to ease water scarcity constraints as well as socioeconomic and environmental considerations. Building climate resilience will require developing tools and approaches that can help save lives and livelihoods. Resilient water services (water and sanitation, irrigation, etc.) are better able to adapt to shocks and stresses and continue delivering essential services to the population.

Fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) is another critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty, affecting both low- and middle-income countries. The GWSP is works with partners to enhance resilience in FCV contexts.

A two-pronged approach is needed. Firstly, improving the financial viability of the water sector to ensure that “water can pay for water”, while ensuring affordability of services for the poor. Secondly, leveraging commercial and non-state sources of financing will be critical so that the sector can tap new financial sources.
At the core of GWSP’s model is a belief that first-rate research and systematic knowledge is essential to maintaining the high quality of World Bank operations. It is equally essential to shaping the external debate as part of our mission to deliver a water-secure world for all. So the GWSP produces strategic, robust and practical information, insights and ideas to shape both practice and policy.
The GWSP Results Framework integrates GWSP analytical and knowledge activities with World Bank Operations to drive synergy, increase efficiency, and demonstrate the additionality of such activities that could not be achieved with World Bank resources alone.

It does this via GWSP’s five themes - Sustainability, institutions, financing, inclusion and resilience - with a set of indicators that can be applied across World Bank Water Global Practice (GP) business lines - Water Supply and Sanitation, Water for Agriculture, Water Resource Management, Hydropower and Dams, and Water, Poverty and the Economy.

**BLOCK A**

**GWSP-FUNDED ANALYTICS AND KNOWLEDGE ACTIVITIES**

Block A tracks the results that are directly achieved by the analytical services and knowledge products funded by GWSP. These analytical and knowledge work are multi-year tasks and cross-cutting in nature and therefore contribute to results in multiple themes. These results are tracked annually, supplemented by qualitative analysis and narratives in the GWSP Annual Report.

**BLOCK B**

**WATER GP OUTCOMES**

Block B tracks the additionality and impact of GWSP-funded activities on the World Bank Water GP lending portfolio. It does this in two ways. Firstly, in the design phase, which tracks GWSP’s influence in mainstreaming the five themes in the Water GP portfolio – specifically during project design and consultations with clients. Secondly, via the results of ongoing projects achieved by the Water GP during the project implementation phase.

**BLOCK C**

**COUNTRY-LEVEL OUTCOMES**

Block C tracks the combined effect of both lending and non-lending interventions at the country-level in nine priority countries and others where the World Bank aims to ‘shift the needle’ on the five priority themes. The goal is to use quantitative data to provide a qualitative analysis of progress.
The Water & Sanitation Program (WSP) operating model continues to inform GWSP’s approach, through its continued local engagement and strategic partner relationships. And GWSP offers an even clearer pathway to scale through the deeper connection with World Bank Operations and this will be crucial for achieving the SDGs.

“When the Gates Foundation made its first investments in WASH, WSP was one of our earliest partners. The depth and strength of our relationship continues with the collaborative creation that is GWSP and I look forward to continuing to work together, with even stronger alignment going forward.

Jan Willem Rosenboom
Senior Program Officer for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Water and sanitation can be the key that unlocks potential for empowerment, especially for women and girls. Investments in the five GWSP themes, based on data from the WASH Poverty Diagnostic approach, can accelerate development progress, increase financing possibilities for the sector, and ensure nobody is left behind as the global community strives to achieve the SDGs.

Johan Sundberg
Senior Program Specialist in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

The GWSP can act as a global platform for innovation. It can incubate and test bold new initiatives in a range of interconnected water challenges, and scale up rapidly where there is potential.

“The GWSP has the architecture, the experience, the knowledge, and the people to test innovations, build country capacity where it is needed most, and shape the future of client demand for the financial resources and knowledge services offered by the World Bank and other development partners. I believe it will help our clients to go that extra mile and this is crucial if the world is to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guangzhe Chen
Senior Director for the Water Global Practice of the World Bank