



# Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) Principles in Practice

Draft // July 2015

This document outlines a few practical ways that the [Accord Principles of Excellence in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#) are commonly applied. It is intended to provide Christian WASH practitioners with a framework for self reflection and evaluation of organizational culture and approach. The evidences of practice are not exhaustive nor do they all need to be realized in order to indicate adherence to the principles.

Principle	Evidence of Practice
<p>1. We aim for long-term WASH services that deliver lasting benefits to all</p>	<p>Program adapts over time in response to local challenges and new opportunities.</p> <p>Interaction with community extends over a period of years rather than weeks or months.</p> <p>All people within the designed service area have long term and uninterrupted access to potable water and improved sanitation services.</p> <p>Supply chain for necessary parts, products and services is present and active.</p> <p>Skilled maintenance and repair personnel are available.</p> <p>Program is resilient in the face of long-term climate trends.</p> <p>Environmental resources are not being depleted or degraded.</p> <p>Staff members are able to articulate how the organization’s Christian identity is reflected in its work.</p>
<p>2. We nurture local ownership</p>	<p>Users, especially women, participate in choosing the best WASH solutions for their community.</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place for ensuring input from the very poor and socially marginalized.</p> <p>Local users contribute an appropriate percentage of project capital costs, preferably in cash as well as in-kind contributions.</p> <p>WASH services are supported, operated, maintained and improved by community representatives or local service providers.</p> <p>Involvement of non-local partners decreases over time.</p> <p>Community and local service providers are involved in the definition, measurement and review of success.</p>

<p>3. We coordinate with partners</p>	<p>Community participants are aware of the various actors working in the community and can describe their work.</p> <p>The local government is aware and supportive of the WASH initiatives and verifies that the work is in harmony with government WASH policies.</p> <p>Project staff are familiar with the work of government and other NGOs in the area and are able to describe in detail the technologies and methodologies being used.</p> <p>Other WASH NGOs in the area can describe our work and know where our services are taking place.</p> <p>A working environment exists in which government, faith communities, NGOs, and community actors are actively collaborating to solve problems and successfully pool their resources.</p> <p>Local Christian churches can articulate their role in the WASH effort.</p>
<p>4. We cultivate local financial sustainability</p>	<p>A realistic analysis of recurring costs associated with operation and maintenance, management support and eventual replacement of infrastructure has been conducted and is available for review.</p> <p>Efforts have been made to seek assurance of local government agencies to assist with future maintenance and repair services and costs that are beyond the scope of the community.</p> <p>A system is in place for the ongoing collection of funds necessary for operation and maintenance; local users contribute equitably, and are satisfied with the system.</p> <p>Funds available, even at the outset of the program, are sufficient to cover the cost of expected maintenance or typical repairs.</p>
<p>5. We are thoughtful in our response to disasters</p>	<p>Evidence of effective practice of this principle is being developed by the Accord WASH Alliance Relief to Development working group.</p>
<p>6. We are committed to constant learning and improvement</p>	<p>A monitoring and impact assessment framework is in place that includes specific indicators and data collection, analysis and reporting schedules; peoples' roles in this process are clearly understood.</p> <p>Field staff and community leadership can articulate key program indicators.</p> <p>Key results of impact assessment are shared with field staff and communities.</p> <p>Program approaches are adapted based on monitoring and impact assessment findings.</p>