

COMMUNITY-LED ACCELERATED WASH (COWASH) PROJECT PHASE IV (2021-2024)

COWASH PHASE IV INCEPTION REPORT (01/04/2021-31/12/2021)



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Arto Suominen (CTA) and the COWASH Technical Assistance Team

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Acknowledgements and Preface

This Inception Report has been prepared by the Federal Technical Assistance Team (FTAT) of Community-Led Accelerated WASH (COWASH) Phase IV. The report is purposely written as short as possible to make it reader friendly. There are several technical documents prepared by FTAT during the Inception Phase. Those documents can be found at this [web site](#).

Originally the Inception Phase of Phase IV was planned to be 6-months, but due to the ongoing developments in Ethiopia it had to be extended by 3 months (April 2021 - December 2021).

The COWASH Federal Technical Assistant Team (FTAT) is thankful to the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) for providing excellent working facilities and working environment for the FTAT. The Team also thanks MoWE staff and all regional partners for the encouragement and assistance during the Inception Period. Great thanks are also extended to the Embassy of Finland (EoF) and for the Ministry for Foreign

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We would also like to thank all the other federal ministries for their warm welcome of COWASH Phase IV. Our special thanks go to regional bureaus, zones and Woredas as well as to Regional Support Units (RSU), who eagerly and open-mindedly have demonstrated the CMP approach in the regions.

Our appreciation is also addressed to development partners in Ethiopia such as the World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the British Government (FCDO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Netherland's Development Organisation (SNV), WaterAid Ethiopia, Plan Ethiopia, International Research Center (IRC-WASH), Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD), Population Services International (PSI), World Vision International and many others in their supportive role for COWASH during the Inception Phase.

Finally, our great thanks go to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland as well as Niras Finland for their continuous support, understanding and encouragement.

Addis Ababa on January 23, 2022

Arto Suominen (CTA) and the COWASH Federal Technical Assistance Team

List of Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
BC	Behavioural Change
BG	Benishangul Gumuz
BMC	Business Model Canvas
BoE	Bureau of Education
BoF	Bureau of Finance
BoFEC/D	Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation/Development
BoH	Bureau of Health
BoMSE	Bureau of Micro and Small Enterprise
BoW	Bureau of Water
BoWA	Bureau of Women Affairs
BCS	Behavioural Change Specialist
CBE	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
CDS	Communication and Dissemination Specialist
CERWSPS	Climate and Environmental Risk Water Safety Planning Specialist
CMP	Community Managed Project
CMPS	CMP Specialist
COPCD	Channel One Programme Coordination Directorate
COVID	Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV
COWASH	Community-Led Accelerated WASH in Ethiopia
CR	Climate Resilient
CR-WSP	Climate Resilient-Water Safety Plan
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CWA	Consolidated WASH Account
DPO	Disabled Peoples' Organisation
ECDD	Ethiopian Centre of Disability and Development
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal Year
EoF	Embassy of Finland
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
EUR	Name of currency used in Europe
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the British Government
FS	Financial Specialist
FTAT	Federal Technical Assistance Team
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEDI	Gender, Equity and Disability Inclusion
GIS	Gender and Inclusion Specialist
GoE	Government of Ethiopia (also used for Regional Government)
GoF	Government of Finland
HC	Health Committee
HDW	Hand Dug Well
HEH	Hygiene and Environmental Health
HH	Household
HH4A	Hand Hygiene for All
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practise
ID	Identification
IDP	Internally Displaced People
INVEA	Immigration Nationality and Vital Events Agency
IP	Inception Period
IRC-WASH	International Research Centre in WASH (Dutch NGO)
IT	Information Technology
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KPMG	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler, International accounting firm

MBS	Market Based Sanitation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MELS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprise
MSES	MSE Specialist
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PwD	Person with Disability
RBM&E	Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation
RCCN	Regional COWASH Communication Network
RF	Result Framework
RPS	Rural Piped Scheme
RSU	Regional Support Unit
RWCO	Regional WASH Coordination Office
RWSC	Regional WASH Steering Committee
SBC	Social Behavioural Change
SC	Steering Committee
SCRS	Strengthening Climate Resilient WASH Systems
SCRS WASH TAP	Strengthening Climate Resilient WASH Systems technical Assistance Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SECRSM	Social, Environmental and Climate Risks Screening and Management
SLA	Saving and Loan Association
SME-MFIFRS	SME-MFI-Procurement and Financial Reporting Specialist
SNNP	Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples
SNV	Netherland's Development Organisation
SW	South-West (region)
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TPLF	Tigray People's Liberation Front
UK	United Kingdom
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHCO	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WB	World Bank
WDC	Water Development Commission
WFDB	Web-based WASH Facility Database
WMP	Woreda Managed Project
WoF	Woreda Office of Finance
WoE	Woreda Office of Education
WoH	Woreda Office of Health
WoMSE	Woreda Office of Micro and Small Enterprise
WoW	Woreda Office of Water
WoWA	Woreda Office of Women Affairs

PROJECT PROFILE

COMMUNITY-LED ACCELERATED WASH (COWASH), PHASE IV



Sector	Social Development
Sub-sector	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Project Area	104 Districts of six Administrative Regions of Ethiopia (Amhara, Tigray, SNNP, Oromia, BSG and Sidama)
Duration	Phase IV from April 2021 to December 2024

Project Financing

Total Grant EUR 44.76 Million / ETB 2,322 Million (GoF +GoE+ Community Contribution)

Government of Finland (GoF) Grant:

- *EUR 18,96 Million*
(EUR 18 400 000 + 561 341 EUR roll over from regions and from Finland = EUR 18,961,341)
- *ETB 1,024 Million*
(ETB 993 600 000 + ETB 30 312 429 roll over from MFA and Regions = ETB 1,023,912,429)

Government of Ethiopia (GoE) Grant:

- *EUR 21.8 Million (EUR 21,819,480) / ETB 1,178,251,896*
 - Amhara 288,000,000
 - BSG 80,000,000
 - Oromia 297,304,632
 - SNNPR 212,000,000
 - Sidama 108,000,000
 - Tigray 192,947,264

Beneficiary Communities in kind and in cash EUR 4 Million / ETB 120 Million

Competent Authorities

- Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Bureau of Finance (BoF) of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Southern Region, Benishangul-Gumuz and Sidama National Regional States
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA)

*1 EUR equals 54 ETB

Lead implementing agencies and programme oversight

- Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE)
- Water Resources Development Bureaus of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples, Benishangul-Gumuz and Sidama National Regional States in association with regional WASH partners: Bureau of Health (BoH) and Bureau of Education (BoE) and Bureau of Women Affairs (BoWA)
- National WASH Steering Committee, Regional WASH Steering Committee, Zone WASH Team, Woreda WASH Team

Overall Objective

Improved public health and well-being, social development and climate resilience in the communities in the Project area

Project Purpose

To achieve increased and sustained coverage of safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of selected woredas



SUMMARY

The Inception Phase (IP) of COWASH IV started on the 1st of April 2021, with no gap between the end of COWASH Phase III and Phase IV. The continuation from one phase to the next progressed very smoothly, thanks to many of the core team members continuing their work.

COVID restrictions had some impact on working arrangements, and there were some staff members on sick leave due to COVID during the start-up, which slightly delayed certain administrative arrangements. In the fourth month of the Inception Phase, the security situation in four COWASH regions affected the project work. In addition to this the delays of establishing effective financial management in the MoF, and delays in Government of Finland (GoF) fund transfers to Ethiopia started to severely affect the project preparatory work, and it became evident that especially the baseline studies and subsequent target setting as well as the detailed planning and start for physical infrastructure construction would be delayed. At this stage it also became evident that the Inception Phase had to be extended.

This report summarises the project background, provides a short overview and details the actual progress during the inception phase. This overview and progress describe the overall sector development, project management and technical assistance, establishment of COWASH monitoring, research, learning and evaluation systems, physical infrastructure and procurement plans, financial management system development, water safety planning, sanitation implementation, gender and disability inclusion, social behavioural change and communication systems set up during the Inception Phase.

At the end of the report we present some conclusions, risks, critical issues, and recommendations.

All COWASH IV documents, including the Project Implementation Manual, are stored and available at the CMP website which can be found [here](#). The annexes of this report contain short descriptions of the major approaches and philosophies in the COWASH IV implementation.

Finally, we summarize the tasks listed as a priority in the Project Document (PD) for the Inception Phase and the status at the end of December 2021.

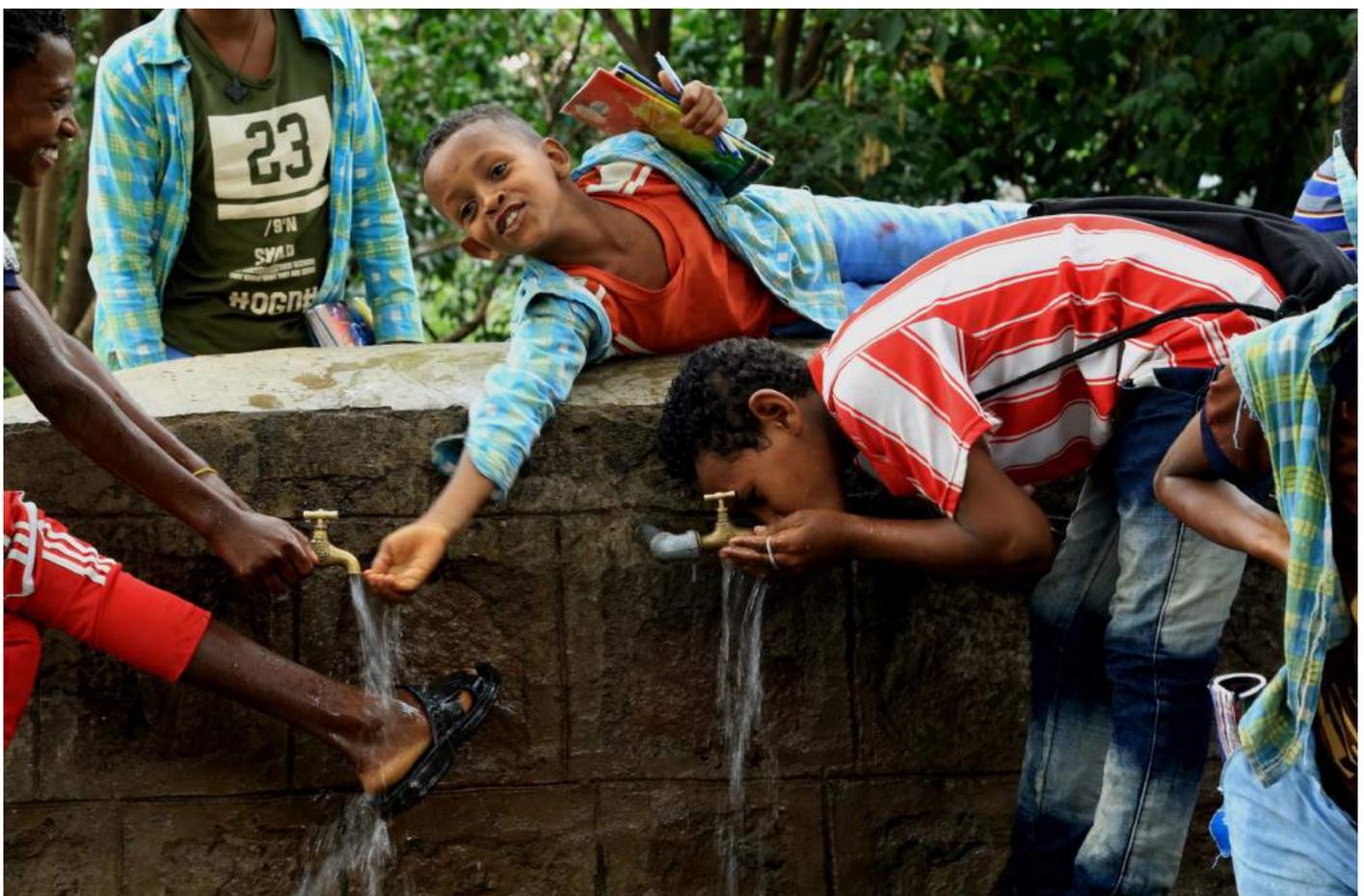


Table 1. Priority tasks listed in the PD for the inception phase.

Activity	Status	Note
Inter-governmental agreement, Implementing agreements between MoF and BoFECs selection of Phase IV woredas, tendering, consultancy contract	Done	MoUs between MoF and BoFECs in all regions were signed in September 2021
International FTAT team mobilised	Done, June 2021	Arto Suominen 1 st April, Ville Juusela May 31, 2021
National FTAT team mobilised	Done, April – June 2021	See Table in section 3.2.1
Kick-off meeting	Done, May 27 2021	Honored with the participation of His Excellency Dr Negash Wagesho, State Minister of MoWE, Her Excellency, Yasmin Wohabrebbi, State Minister for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Finance and Her Excellency, Ambassador of Finland, Outi Holopainen
Confirmation of work plan for inception period	Done in June 2021, revised in August 2021 to allow for IP extension	First plan done in May for 6 months approved by the Federal Steering Committee in June 2021 and revised by the Federal TA Team (FTAT) in August 2021 for 9 months
Formulation of and bidding for baseline study/studies	Formulation done, bidding in process in January 2022	Delayed largely due to security situation in Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia regions and National State of Emergency protocols issued on November 2, 2021
Preparation of M&E plan, Learning Strategy and Action Plan, Project Administration Manual, etc.	Result Framework (RF) and Performance monitoring plan finalised; Project Administration Manual (PAM) finalized	M&E Plan for entire Phase IV prepared. It includes federal and 5 regions (Tigray excluded for time being), Project Admin Manual prepared and RSU Terms of Reference. Learning strategy development was postponed due to the resignation of the Communication and Dissemination Specialist (CDS). The recruitment of the new CDS took a long time due to a very large number of applications received. The new CDS will start in COWASH IV on January 17, 2022.
Baseline study/studies	Delayed. Formulation finalized, but procurement ongoing	Delayed approximately 5 months, largely due to security situation in Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia regions and National State of Emergency protocols issued on November 2, 2021. Tendering ongoing in January 2022 and plan is to start the baseline data collection only in Oromia, Sidama and SNNP regions. Amhara, BG and Tigray baseline data collection will follow when the security situation allows.
Impartial review, finalisation of targets	Delayed, dependent on Baseline studies	Project physical target planning was finalized and included into the M&E Framework of entire Phase IV
Open questions of PD agreed upon	Addressed	The open questions addressed, and various changes proposed and presented in this report
Procurement of vehicles, etc.	Region and Federal vehicle procurement pending MoF decision and action	The procurement of 13 vehicles (11 for regions and 2 for FTAT) has not progressed as the project has not received any instructions from the MoF on who can procure the vehicles, on what procurement process is to be used and how the procurement can be done without duty and tax free. It is expected that MoF will guide the project in this. So far, the vehicle procurement has been suspended.
Procurement of office equipment, etc.	Done in May 2021	Computers, printers, scanners procured for the new staff in FTAT office.

Updating/preparation of project administration manual and other relevant manuals/guidelines	Done	See this website
Preparation of result-based monitoring and reporting system	RF and Performance monitoring plan finalised, Indicator Reference Sheet prepared	The Project has developed, based on the PD RF, a comprehensive M&E framework for each Region and the Federal TA work. In addition, an Indicator Reference Sheet has been finalized, to ensure units and data collection methods are the same in all regions.
Review of administrative arrangements and fine tuning, resulting in a new Project Implementation Manual (PIM)	Finalised	FTAT has prepared several manuals, guidelines, and strategies for the implementation of COWASH IV. These documents (excluding the communication strategy and learning guideline) have been completed and they together form the PIM and they will serve COWASH IV implementation the next 4 years.
Development of new Financial Manual in cooperation with MoF and MoWE, including reporting templates	Finalised	This has been carried out with the help of national short-term consultants and regions have been trained for its use. It is expected that MoF will officially submit the manual to the Regional Finance Bureaus.
Signing of regional implementation agreements	Finalised for 5 regions	The Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) on the Government of Finland financial management were signed with the Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP and Sidama regions in September 2021
M&E system development and results framework	Partially completed	



2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Short background of the project

The Community-Led Accelerated WASH (COWASH) Project is a bilateral project aiming to improve public health and well-being, social development, and climate resilience in the communities in the Project area. COWASH IV is one of the One WASH projects in Ethiopia contributing to the overall One WASH implementation in Ethiopia. The project aims to achieve increased and sustained coverage of safe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene in rural areas of selected woredas.

Phase I of COWASH started in July 2011 and Phase II in October 2014. Phase II was finalised in July 2016. Phase III (2016-2021) was finalised in March 2021. The current Phase IV started on April 1, 2021. In previous phases, COWASH has achieved and even overachieved some of its targets and thus the overall cost efficiency can be considered higher than initially planned. During 2011-2021 COWASH was able to construct and rehabilitate over 19,000 communal and institutional water supply schemes.

Water points and institutional latrines in rural areas have been constructed based on the Community Managed Project (CMP) approach developed in the Project. The CMP approach emphasises community involvement and commitment throughout the construction process from the planning phase to finalisation and maintenance. COWASH provides training to community members, schools and local health facility committees related to construction and maintenance of water points and institutional latrines. COWASH also provides training to the regional, zonal and woreda level organisations involved in implementation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the preparation of the Phase IV Project document (PD) was delayed. Phase III was extended in the regions up to Megabit 30, 2013 (April 8, 2021) and the use of Phase III remaining funds was extended up to Sene 30, 2013 (July 7, 2021). Simultaneously the start of Phase IV was ongoing. Phase IV started already on April 1, 2021 and ends on December 31, 2024.

The total COWASH finance during 2011-2021 was nearly 82 million EUR from which Government of Finland (GoF) financed EUR 39 million and Government of Ethiopia (GoE) EUR 43 million. Local communities have contributed over EUR 5 million. A



significant part of the GoF funding has been channelled to regions for capacity building. The GoE provided funding for investment costs of water schemes and institutional latrines and minor funding to operational costs of regional, zonal and woreda level offices.

In Phase IV the total COWASH funding is around EUR 44,76 million (ETB 2,322 million).

The total additional grant by the Finnish Government for COWASH IV is EUR 18,400,000. On top of that a total EUR 561,341 was rolled over from the regions and MFA from Phase III. Accordingly total GoF contribution for Phase IV is EUR, 18, 961,341. The total contribution of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (directly from the regional states) is ETB 1,178,251,897, equivalent to approximately EUR 21 819 480 (1 EUR = 54 ETB). In addition, the community contribution (15%) is estimated as ETB 77,700,000, equivalent to approximately EUR 1,438,889.

From the Government of Finland contribution, EUR 13,854,000 is allocated for the regions, EUR 350,000 for the Federal Ministries of Water and Finance and EUR 4,196.000 for the Federal Technical Assistance Team.

In COWASH I-III, the Government of Finland (GoF) regional support was transferred from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland directly to the Bureau of Finance (BoF) in each COWASH region based on the separate regional financing agreements between the MFA and the BoF. This practise has been changed in COWASH IV. The GoF financial support to the regions in COWASH IV is transferred to the regions using the Channel 1 method, i.e., through the Ministry of Finance (MoF)

at federal level. The PD suggests that the MoF will recruit, with the GoF funds, a Financial Specialist (FS) for the financial management and reporting operations of the GoF funds in COWASH IV.

At regional level the Bureaus of Finance (BoF) will coordinate funding of operations and allocate funds to bureaus, zones and woredas. Funds are transferred to Community Managed Project (CMP) accounts at Zonal Finance Departments and Woreda Offices of Finance (WoF) in accordance with applications based on the annual work plan and corresponding budget estimates.

The GoE and the Regional States will allocate matching funds for investments and operational costs. The ratio of funds from GoF and GoE is proposed to be 40/60. The budgets allocated from GoF and GoE are the basis for the physical target setting for COWASH IV.

COWASH IV will apply new innovative solutions for the WASH service delivery. Some of these new solutions, which will be tested in the Phase IV are:

- Integrated rural water and sanitation with strong climate risks screening and community management through WASHCO
- Institutional WASH with “full package” of WASH including O&M manual development and menstrual hygiene management
- New technical solutions for gravity water schemes and institutional water supply





- COVID mitigation through WASH projects
- Operation and maintenance of community WASH connected closely with Water Safety Planning (WSP+++), WASHCO legalization and water quality monitoring
- WASH entrepreneurship development (artisans, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)) as well as household latrine financing development
- Market Based Sanitation in MSE establishment
- Disability Inclusion in WASH at all levels
- Empower communities and transform gender relations through WASH projects
- Social Behavioural Change in demand creation of hygiene and sanitation products

2.2 Overview of the work carried out during the inception phase

The establishment of the Federal TA Team (FTAT) was done without any delay and processes to implement the project in the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE). The Federal TA team was operational “from day one” and fully staffed at the end of July 2021. The FTAT focused on preparation of guiding documents, manuals, monitoring tools and training materials for the implementation, as well as coaching regions to sign the MoUs with the MoF and prepare their first annual core plans, so that when funds from Finland arrive to the regions, the regional capacity building can start without any delay.

Tigray region was not accessible to the FTAT, but communication to Tigray region was ongoing until the end of June 2021. Thereafter the conflict accelerated to Amhara and Afar regions and communication with Tigray region was totally cut off and has remained so to the January 2022. Consequently, all plans were prepared without Tigray region. The Government of Finland budget allocation of EUR 1,494,523 is still valid and will be taken into use when the communication with Tigray will resume.

The five Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on the Government of Finland financial management between the MoF and Regions were prepared and signed in September 2021 and a Financial Management Manual to guide the financial management of GoF funds was prepared and regional personnel were trained for its use.

Annual core plans for the Ethiopian Fiscal Year 2014 were prepared in June 2021, endorsed by the Federal Steering committee at the end of June and approved by the regional WASH steering committees in August-September. Based on these work plans all regions made the first six-month fund requests from the MoF. The detailed planning could be done only in SNNP and Oromia regions as they still had enough GoF funds remaining from Phase III. The other regions had to wait the GoF funds to start the detailed planning process.

The inception phase was extended to 9-months due to the delays in GoF fund transfers, detailed

planning and baseline data collection. The delay to start the regional implementation, was caused by the slow and long process to establish the required financial management processes at the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The MoF did not employ the Financial Specialist, the opening of the accounts at Federal level took much longer than expected and finally the fund request to Finland was delayed. Thereafter, Finland delayed the transfer of the funds from Finland to MoF until December 2021, when only half of the money requested was transferred. The GoF funds arrived to the MoF account on December 14, 2021, and thereafter the process of the MoF fund transfers to regions started. This took longer time than expected. It is assumed that the transfer to regions can be done in January 2022 and finally the implementation of Phase IV in the regions can start.

3. ACTUAL PROGRESS DURING THE INCEPTION PERIOD AND SITUATIONAL UPDATE

3.1 Overall sector development

Lots of Ethiopian WASH sector developments have taken place recently. Short descriptions of the

major WASH sector development events are described in Annex 4.

3.1.1 Fund flow

In COWASH I-III, the Government of Finland (GoF) regional support was transferred from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland directly to the Bureau of Finance (BoF) in each COWASH regions based on the separate regional financing agreement between the MFA and the BoF.

This practice has been changed in COWASH IV. The GoF financial support to the regions in COWASH IV is transferred to the regions using Channel 1 method, i.e., through the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The Phase IV document requires that MoF will recruit with the GoF funds a Financial Specialist (FS) for the financial management and reporting operations of the COWASH IV program.

Based on the new GoF fund flow arrangement the intergovernmental agreement for the phase has been signed between Government of Finland represented by Embassy of Finland in Ethiopia, and Government of Ethiopia represented by Ministry of Finance, which demands signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between MoF and each region finance bureau. To date 5 of the 6 COWASH IV regions namely Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, SNNP and Sidama region finance bureaus have signed the MoU with the MoF ([here](#)), which mainly focuses on fund flow and reporting. Due to the situation in the northern part of the country the MoU has not yet been signed with the Tigray region finance bureau.



In line with the change in the GoF funding, a financial management manual ([here](#)) has been prepared and ToT trainings have been given to each regional support unit financial management specialist and BoF COWASH accountants.

In line with this MoF has opened a COWASH IV-dollar account at NBE and Birr account in CBE and also opened Birr account at CBE for each of the 5-region finance bureaus for transfer of the GoF fund to BoF. BoF of each of the 5 regions are in the process of opening COWASH IV accounts for each COWASH sector bureau, zone finance department and woreda finance office.

3.1.2 Institutional investment fund flow

The other change in fund flow from COWASH III to COWASH IV is the channelling of investment funds for institutional (schools and health institutions) WASH infrastructures development/construction. In COWASH I-III, implementation of institutional WASH was following the CMP approach and investment funds from the regions were channelled to Parent & Teacher's Associations (PTAs) and Health Committees (HCs) via Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to manage the construction of the facilities.

In COWASH IV institutional WASH shall be implemented using the Woreda Managed Project (WMP) approach hence the budget from both sources (GoF and GoE) shall be transferred from the region to woreda office of finance (WoF) through the government channel. The fund is managed by WoF in close collaboration of the WoW, WoE and WoH which manage the contracting and contract management of the construction of the institutional WASH facilities.

To facilitate this new fund flow and implementation approach, COWASH IV prepared a CMP implementation guide for institutional WASH using WMP approach ([here](#)). This new approach means that region, zone and woreda personnel need to be trained for the use of this new modality. Therefore, COWASH IV Training manual on Institutional WASH Implementation using WMP ([here](#)), was also prepared and in quarter 3 of 2014 EFY all regions will be trained to use this new modality.

3.1.3 Investment fund flow for community water supply schemes

In COWASH I-III, all the investments funds for community water supply schemes in all regions was transferred from the region to WASHCOs via Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to manage the construction of the facilities.

In COWASH IV investment funds for community water supply schemes shall follow two systems. Four regions namely Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul and Tigray shall follow the phase III system, i.e.,



fund from regions shall be transferred to WASHCOs via MFIs. In two regions, namely SNNP and Sidama, a new fund channelling system is to be tested, i.e., the fund for the construction of community water supply schemes to be transferred to the CMP account at Woreda Office of Finance (WoF) via CBE, and then will be transferred to each WASHCO through the Woreda Finance Office directly.

During Inception Phase, the following document were prepared:

- The Community Water Supply Financial Management Guideline by using MFI ([here](#)) in fund transfers to WASHCO
- The Community Water Supply Financial Management Guideline by using the Woreda Office of Finance and Commercial Bank of Ethiopia ([here](#)) in fund transfers to WASHCOs

Table 2. GoF budget share for the 6 regions agreed by the Federal Steering Committee

COWASH IV Regions	70% share based on Federal Grant Formula	15% share based on COWASH III Performance	15% share based on Regional Commitment per Woreda to COWASH IV	Total GoF Budget allocated per Region
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Amhara	2,327,279	323,842	136,172	2,787,293
BGRS	197,192	328,108	378,254	903,554
Oromia	3,712,873	326,139	187,428	4,226,440
SNNPR	1,733,441	319,249	308,423	2,361,112
Sidama	433,315	319,249	408,515	1,161,078
Tigray	649,701	323,514	521,308	1,494,523
Total	9,053,800	1,940,100	1,940,100	12,934,000

The total GoF allocation distributed to the regions is EUR 12,934,000. In addition to this, EUR 920,000 has been deducted from the total GoF regional contribution of EUR 13,854,000. The deducted amount is kept in the project as a contingency

3.2 Project management and Technical Assistance

The technical assistance responsibilities transfer from Ramboll to Niras went smoothly as the COWASH III CTA was also part of the COWASH IV establishment. Assets of Phase III were transferred to Phase IV and some additional assets were procured during the inception phase. These are all listed in file [“COWASH IV assets transferred from Phase III and procured in Phase IV”](#).

A manual to administer the Federal TA Team was prepared and induction workshop on it was organized. The manual is called [Federal Project Admin Manual](#) (PAM).

3.2.1 The Federal TA Staff recruitment process

Chief Technical Advisor, Arto Suominen, Junior Professional Officer, Ville Juusela, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist, Abebaw Getachew, SME-MFI-Procurement and Financial Reporting Specialist, Mulatie Yinager, as well as the CMP Specialist, Yohannes

Melaku, were automatically approved to Phase IV as they were part of the consultant tender. The Phase III Communication Specialist, Melaku Tekola, and Gender, Equity and Disability Inclusion Specialist, Meaza Kebede, were approved by the Embassy of Finland (EoF) and MoWE and recruited the same posts in COWASH IV. Accordingly, all of them started on April 1, 2021. The employment of the Climate and Environment Risk and Water Safety Specialist (CERWSPS) and Behavior Change (BCS) Spe-



amount. The contingency amount will be shared among the regions in the future by the National WASH Steering Committee. It will be allocated to the regions based on the regions' performance, special needs, and regional contribution to the project.

cialist was carried out through open recruitment. Seven BCS and 2 CERWSPS candidates were invited for technical and competence-based interview. Ebsa Feyisa scored best (333 out of 400) for the Behavior Change Specialist and Mussie Hailegeorgis scored best (382 out of 400) for the CERWSP Specialist. The existing Office Manager/

Accountant, Bertukan Asmamaw and Driver-Fixer, Alemayehu Tilahun and Driver-Mechanic, Getu Tadesse, were employed as support staff starting from April 1, 2021. The list of Federal TA Specialists in the first nine months is presented in table below.

Table 3. List of Federal TA Team Staff

No.	Name	Position	Sex	Starting Date	Remarks
1	Arto Suominen	CTA	M	01.04.2021	
2	Yohannes Melaku	CMPS	M	01.04.2021	
3	Abebaw Getachew	MELS	M	01.04.2021	
4	Meaza Kebede	GIS	F	01.04.2021	
5	Melaku Tekola	CDS	M	01.04.2021	Resigned on 30.09.2021
	Deribew Zento	CDS	M	17.01.2022	
6	Mulatie Yinager	SME-MFIPFRS	M	01.06.2021	
7	Ebsa Feyisa	BCS	M	01.07.2021	
8	Mussie Hailegeorgis	CERWSPS	M	01.08.2021	
9	Ville Juusela	JPO	M	31.05.2021	
Support staff					
10	Bertukan Asmamaw	OMA	F	01.04.2021	
11	Alemayehu Tilahun	Driver fixer	M	01.04.2021	
12	Getu Tadesse	Driver Mechanic	M	01.04.2021	



Due to the resignation of Melaku Tekola the recruitment of a new CDS started. A total of 116 applications were received and finally six candidates were interviewed. The best scoring candidate was Deribew Zento. His selection to the CDS was finally endorsed by the EoF on Dec 28, 2021 and MoWE on 31.12.2021.

The Capacity Building Specialist proposed in the project document was not employed at all. The team concluded, that every FTAT specialist is responsible for capacity building and therefore there is no need for a separate capacity building specialist in the project. The CTA and CDS will cover tasks of the Capacity Building Specialist in case any.

The inputs planned for the Federal Technical Assistance for COWASH IV has been revised during the Inception Phase. The following table illustrates that the re-planned days for the Federal TA team staff are a bit different than originally planned. NIRAS proposed a contract amendment in September, which was subsequently approved in October 2021, due to that the Chief Technical Advisor was selected to provide interim inputs in the sister project financed by the British Government. This pro-

ject is called “Strengthening Climate Resilient WASH Systems technical Assistance Project” (SCRS WASH TAP). It was agreed between Niras, MoWE and MFA that the CTA can participate in both projects, but that a corresponding adjustment of CTA input days be made in the COWASH budget, through transferring CTA days to Short-term consultancies. The short-term consultancies were also agreed in the process of contract amendment. The CTA was agreed to be supported by two local short-term consultants; one for support in the recruitment processes and CV screening, and another for Audit support. An international short-term consultant was also proposed, for Technical and Management support to the CTA. The international short-term consultancy was later split into two different consultancy assignments. The table below illustrates the current situation. Practically it means that all long-term specialists will be in the project to the end of 2024. The table extracted below is from the Detailed FTAT budget for Phase IV.

The recruitment of the Financial Specialist by the Ministry of Finance did not take place up to January 2022. The FTAT developed a ToR for the specialist, and it can be found [here](#).

Table 4. Planned person-months for each long-term post to the end of 2024.

	TA Months Planned	TA Months in the revised agreement
FEE BUDGET	386	366
Long Term International	35	35
Chief Technical Advisor	35	35
Long Term National	268	263
Behavior Change Specialist	39	42
Communication and Dissemination Specialist	36	21
Climate and Environment Risk and Water Safety Specialist	37	11
CMP Specialist (Technical WASH Specialist)	39	42
Gender and Inclusion Specialist	39	42
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist	39	42
SME, MFI, Procurement and Financial Reporting Specialist	38	42
Short Term International	14	24
Short Term National	70	45

3.2.2 Short-term consultancy recruitment process and short-term consultancies

To follow the agreed procedure in the recruitment of short-term consultancies for COWASH a process was approved by the MoWE and EoF. The recruitment procedure can be found in [here](#). During Inception Phase, all approved short term consultancies were national consultants. At the end of December two international short-term consultancies, already principally agreed in the Contract Amendment, were proposed. The table below lists the planned and executed short-term consultancies in COWASH.

Table 5. Short term consultants planned so far in COWASH IV

International Short term consultant follow-up plan sheet for COWASH IV		Agreed			
Short term consultancy agreed up to date	Company	252	days	12,00	Months
Intern'l Technical Support Consultant	Niras Finland	50	days	2,38	Months
1. Michael Wood		50	days	2,38	Months
Intern'l Management Support Consultant	Niras Finland	50	days	2,38	Months
1. Neil Chadder		50	days	2,38	Months
xxxx	Niras Finland	0	days	-	Months
1. To be decided		0	days	-	Months
zzzzz	Niras Finland	0	days	-	Months
1. To be decided		0	days	-	Months
zzzzz	Niras Finland	0	days	-	Months
Total Committed		100	days	4,76	Months
Remaining Days for other consultancies, will be defined later on		152	days	7,24	Months

Local Short term consultant follow-up plan sheet for COWASH IV		Agreed			
Short term consultancy agreed up to date	Company	1344	days	64,00	Months
BCS Selection Consultant		36	days	1,71	Months
Bethlehem Menkir, Business Dev Specialist	Niras Ethiopia	36	days	1,71	Months
Financial Management and Procurement Man-ual Consultant	Excel Consultancy, three specialists	146	days	6,95	Months
Hailesilassie Tzeghe, Financial Management, TL		50		3,14	
Kalkidan Tadesse, Financial reporting		40	days	1,90	Months
Sissai Gebre-Michael, Procurement		40		1,90	
WASH Facility Database Consultant	Super Consult	290	days	13,81	Months
Desalegn Chekol, Lead Developer/ System Engineer/ SQL Designer		72		3,43	
Yared Daniel, SQL Database / SW analysis/Designer		27		1,29	
Sena Kebede Full stack web-based/mobile database/app developer		45		2,14	
Estifanos Sisay, Full stack web-based/mobile database/app developer		56	days	2,67	Months
Abebe Assefa, Project Manger/System Design/Requirements/analysis		12		0,57	
Tigabu Dagne, Project Manger/ System Design/Requirements/analysis		47		2,24	
Asnakew Assefa, Requirement Analysis/ DB design and normalization		31		1,48	
Finance and Audit Support Consultant	Paulos Basazenew	150	days	7,14	Months
Paulos Basazenew, Finance and Audit Support Consultant		150	days	7,14	Months
School WASH O&M training manual consul-tancy—to be decided, still planned	-	120	days	5,71	Months
Total Committed		742	days	22,48	Months
Remaining Days for other consultancies, will be defined later on		602	days	41,52	Months



component to Metekel zone emergency water supply.

The second Federal Steering committee meeting was conducted on May 24, 2021, to decide the Government of Finland budget allocation formula for regions. Accordingly, by using the three criteria provided in the project document of COWASH IV EUR 12,934,000 was allocated to the 6 COWASH regions. In addition to this, EUR 920,000 was deducted from the total GoF total regional contribution of EUR 13,854,000. The deducted amount is kept in the project as a contingency amount. The contingency amount will be shared among the regions in the future by the National WASH Steering Committee.

3.2.3 Kick-Off

COWASH IV Kick-off meeting was organized on May 27, 2021, and it was honoured with the participation by His Excellency Dr Negash Wagesho, State Minister of MoWE, Her Excellency, Yasmin Wohabrebbi, State Minister for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Finance and Her Excellency, Ambassador of Finland, Mrs. Outi Holopainen. The COWASH IV kick-off meeting report can be found [here](#).

3.2.4 COWASH Phase IV Regional Planning Workshop

A Regional planning workshop with all regions (including Tigray) was held on the 11-14 June 2021 in Adama. This workshop kicked off the core planning in each region. After one month from the planning workshop the regions submitted their final core-plans for the approval of the regional steering committees (except Tigray).

3.2.5 Steering committee meetings

COWASH held three official Federal Steering Committee meetings during the Inception Phase. Minutes of the meetings can be found [here](#). The first Federal Steering committee meeting was held on April 26, 2021. It was an extraordinary meeting to decide on the urgent emergency support to Metekel Zone from Phase IV. The extraordinary justification and proposal for Metekel zone WASH support was prepared by the COWASH IV CTA. The proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Water and Energy and the Embassy of Finland. The Steering Committee decided to allocate EUR 17,000 from the Innovation, research, and piloting budget

The third Federal COWASH Steering Committee meeting was held on June 27, 2021, in Adama in the presence of Regional WASH Steering Committee (RWSC) members, including RSU team leaders, and COWASH IV FTAT staff. A total of 44 participants, composed of different NWSC and RWSC member ministries and bureaus participated. Tigray RWSC members couldn't attend the meeting. This meeting made some very important decisions. The decisions and the status of each decision is highlighted below:

- Regions shall revise their 2014 EFY Core Plans by removing their overseas training for the RWSC members. The overseas training for the RWSC is postponed to the first quarter of 2015 EFY. **Planned accordingly.**
- The RSU salaries to be calculated in the 2014 EFY core plans using the existing salaries. **Done accordingly.**
- The issue of RSU new salary scale will be decided in the future based on different assessments and MoF decision. **Done accordingly.**
- The 2014 EFY Core Plan of regions is approved with these modifications. The revised version of the Core Plans should be shared with the COWASH IV FTAT. **Done accordingly.**
- The use of the GoF budget allocation formula in the COWASH IV PD is approved. **Followed accordingly.**
- It was proposed that MoWE can procure the cars and MoF can pay the cars on behalf of the regions. MoF shall provide the permission for duty-free purchase. Finally, it was decided that the Chair will discuss with the State Minister of MoF and inform to the regions on the process (who can procure the cars, the tax and the associated plate number issues). **This issue has not been**

decided and the cars have not yet been procured (situation January 2022)

- MoU between MoF and each COWASH IV Project Region’s Finance Bureau will be signed. **Signed accordingly.**
- MoF will write a letter to each Project Region Finance Bureau on the process of opening new accounts for COWASH IV. **Done accordingly.**
- After the signing of the MoU with MoF and receiving the bank opening authorization letter, each project region finance bureau will write an authorization letter to their project woreda finance offices to open account for the COWASH IV. **In the process of completion.**
- Extend the RSU staff contract agreement for 3 months following the ToR prepared by COWASH FTAT, maintaining the existing RSU salaries. **Done accordingly. GoF provided additional funds for the RSU salaries.**
- Each project region finance bureau will calculate the COWASH III GoF budget left and inform the MoWE. **Done accordingly.**
- The COWASH IV financial management manual will be completed. **Completed and regional staff trained for its use.**
- The employment of the financial specialist to MoF is expected to be completed until July 30, 2021. **Financial Specialist not employed.**
- With the consultation of the RWSC members, the NWSC decided to continue implementation in

the 104 project woredas as planned in the 2014 EFY. **Due to unclarity of Tigray only 104 woredas have been included.**

During the Inception Phase, only SNNP held a Regional Steering Committee meeting on 12 Dec. 2021 to approve the detailed SNNP work plan for 2014 EFY. Other Regional Steering Committee meetings were postponed to quarter 3 of 2014 EFY.

3.2.6 Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) on COWASH IV financial management between the MoF and five Regional Bureaus of Finance on GoF fund management have been signed in September 2021. The copies of each MoU can be found at [this site](#).

3.2.7 Guide to apply work permit

The process of applying and issuing residence permits and work permits for international long-term personnel changed during the inception phase. Before international long-term specialists received Identification (ID) Card from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Now all new international long-term specialists need to apply work permit from the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development and the ID Card will be provided by the Immigration Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA). If the international specialist already has the ID Card provided by the MoFA, the extension letter from MoWE to MoFA is enough. MoFA writes a letter to INVEA and INVEA provides the ID Card. The Guide for the process can be found [here](#).

3.2.8 Conferences and Workshops attended during inception phase

The federal technical assistance team was active in the sector development and participated in various events during the inception phase.

- MBS training manual workshop June 9-12, 2021
- MoWIE annual review workshop in Aug 2021
- Hand hygiene road map Sep 15-16, 2021
- Climate Resilient WASH Learning Platform 16.12.2021
- SCRS WASH TAP Launch and Inception workshop
- Water Engineering and Development Centre – Loughborough 2021 (virtual conference)
- Stockholm World Water Week 2021 (virtual conference)



3.2.9 Federal TA team Office space

MoWE has been providing one office room in the MoWE building for the FTAT. This cannot accommodate all 9 specialists and 3 support staff. MoWE agreed to provide additional space for COWASH in the so called “consultancy room” on the ground floor. Two specialists were able to start working from that office facility. Due to COVID restrictions, the team decided to work in rotation, with every second day in the office and every second day at home. This arrangement released, for the time being, enough space to work safely in the office.

3.2.10 IT support

Niras continued to procure the Information Technology (IT) service from HarryOnline as already established in Phase III. HarryOnline is a private consultant based in the Netherlands and supports the functioning of the CMP web site (www.cmpethiopia.org) and the Google Workspace (Gmail on cmpethiopia.org domain) from distance.

The local IT services provided for COWASH IV was tendered and EtComp won the tender. EtComp maintains all FTAT staff equipment regularly and provides software support whenever required.

3.2.11 Recruitment of the FS to MoF

In COWASH IV the Government of Finland (GoF) funds are channeled to the regions through the

Ministry of Finance Channel One Programme Coordination Directorate (COPCD). The project document specifies that a Financial Specialist (FS), facilitating the COWASH IV financial management on behalf of the MoF of Ethiopia was to be employed by the MoF using the funds from the Finnish contribution. Total budget reserved for this employment and other MoF related COWASH costs is EUR 250,000.

The FTAT prepared the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) in June/2021 for the Financial Specialist ToR, [here](#). Unfortunately, MoF had, till in January 2022, not employed the person. Instead, they have delegated the existing Channel One WASH technical staff to assist COWASH IV in its financial management. This arrangement is not working well, and it is causing delays in fund transfers to the regions.

3.2.12 Emergency, security

When COWASH IV started in April 2021, there was an emergency in Metekel zone and COWASH III had been assisting the zone to provide emergency water service to Internally Displaced People (IDP). It was important to continue this service during April-June 2021 and therefore the Federal Steering Committee approved a budget of EUR 17,000 for the emergency water service for Metekel IDPs.

The security situation was affecting the Federal TA Teamwork significantly during the entire inception period. Accessing Tigray and North-East Amhara as



well as West and East Wollega in Oromia was not possible. The security situation deteriorated significantly at the end of 2021, and subsequently nearly all western countries issued an evacuation order to their citizens. From COWASH the Junior Professional Officer was consequently evacuated to Finland. The CTA decided to stay in Ethiopia although he lost part of his insurance coverage. In practice, the situation in Addis Ababa was never critical, and it is expected that most of the foreign personnel will return to Ethiopia in January 2022.

Due to the security situation the FTAT updated the Preparedness plan for COWASH IV, and a COWASH IV Adaptation plan was prepared, in case the situation deteriorates and the whole project needs to be closed temporarily. The CTA was also preparing weekly updated “woreda traffic lights” to continuously map “go-no go” woredas for internal use to decide on staff mobilization for field works

At the end of 2021 the “essential duty travel approval process” was adopted and followed for FTAT members travelling in Ethiopia. All travels outside of Addis Ababa had to be considered and approved by the CTA as per the established procedure.

Tigray region was administered by the Interim Government in the beginning of the Inception Period. Even at that time access to woredas was not possible due to security risks. At the end of June 2021, the situation changed when the Interim Government withdraw from Tigray and established a one-sided ceasefire. Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) took advantage of this withdrawal, did not accept the proposed ceasefire, and started to penetrate Amhara and Afar regions. Access and communication with Tigray was totally cut off. Nearly all COWASH woredas in North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shoa were occupied by TPLF. The fighting came as close as Debre Tabor in South Gondar zone and Debre Sina in North Shoa. Big towns of Woldia, Kombolcha and Dessie were occupied by TPLF. This made the movements to the Western Part of Amhara impossible. The situation remained the same almost until the end of the Inception Phase, but at the time of writing these areas are freed from TPLF forces.

Security was also at risk in Benishangul Gumuz region, especially in Metekel and Kemashi zones as well as in parts of Horo Guduru Wollega and East Wollega zones of the Oromia region.

In summary, the security concerns during COWASH IV have created a lot of additional work burden on the FTAT and caused significant changes in the work plan. There have been delays in some activities, while desk-based work has been accelerated.



Nevertheless, the project has remained operative despite the challenging work environment, and important processes have moved ahead, preparing for the implementation phase.

3.2.13 Essential changes in the environment

National elections were carried out on Monday, June 21, 2021, and the new Government was elected on October 4, 2021. Dr Abiy Ahmed was inaugurated as Ethiopia’s Prime Minister. In one week from his inauguration 23 Ministries were established and Ministers and State Ministers appointed.

The Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) changed into the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) and Dr Habtamu Itefa, the Oromia Water Bureau Head, became the Minister of MoWE. Dr Negash Wagesho was re-appointed to the State Minister of Water and Sanitation but later in November 2021, Dr Negash was appointed as a Vice President for the newly established South-West Regional (SWR) State. Ato Wanna Wake, managing director of the Water Resource Development Fund, was acting as State Minister until January 12, 2022. New State Minister for Water and Sanitation, Ato Asfaw Dingamo, was appointed on January 12, 2022. The Water Development Commission was dismantled. The new MoWE structure

was not yet approved and made public in January 2022.

A new 3-4 years Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) financed Strengthening of Climate Resilient WASH Technical Assistance Project (SCRS WASH TAP) started on October 6, 2021. Niras-LTS International Consulting was selected to provide the Technical Assistance to the project. The CTA was approved by the two governments to give inputs as a Technical Director to this sister project and accordingly the CTA COWASH IV days were deducted and Niras consultancy agreement with MFA was amended.

During the inception period some of the Embassy of Finland staff changed. Mr. Pekka Seppälä became the new Head of Development Cooperation and Mr. Sami Frestadius a new Counsellor of Natural Resources. Both were evacuated back to Finland in the beginning of November 2021 and only Sami Frestadius returned back to Ethiopia in the Mid-January 2022.

To design and establish each Regional Support Unit to serve the Region, the Federal TA Team developed the Tor for RSU. The ToR can be found [here](#). The ToR includes the paragraph for the RSU independency. MoF has informed FTAT that the RSU independency modality is not possible in Channel One financed projects. This issue is still open and needs further discussion. Furthermore, MoF issued on August 2, 2021 a salary directive for all contract employed staff in development projects. This directive was not accepted by the regions and regions requested its revision. Therefore, all old RSU staff have been employed using the Phase III salary structure and modality for the year 2014 EFY. The MoF salary directive can be found [here](#).

Oromia region decided not to continue the employment of old Regional Support Unit staff members (except the Financial Specialist). Oromia was without RSU from October 2021 and in January 2022 Oromia RSU has not yet been employed.

Sidama Region decided not to start the RSU employment process until the funds from Finland have been transferred to the region. In the other regions of Amhara, SNNP and BG the old RSU members' agreements have been extended. The readiness and eagerness of the regions to continue the implementation of CMP approach was encouraging. Oromia and SNNP were, however, the only regions who implemented new construction during the second half of 2013 EFY (Jan-June 2021) using their own financial resources.

3.3 Monitoring, Research, Learning and Evaluation

This chapter is focusing on the progress made in the monitoring, learning, research and evaluation in COWASH IV. More comprehensive description of the subject is attached to this document as Annex 5.

3.3.1 COWASH Working area

The number of the COWASH IV working woredas were proposed by the regions and approved by the COWASH Steering Committee. COWASH IV is working in 104 woredas in 35 zones and 6 regions as presented in the table below. The number of woredas has increased with 37% compared with COWASH III.

3.3.2 Result chain

The COWASH IV Results Framework proposed in the Project Document (PD) has been revised in a way that COWASH IV data are aligned with SDG requirements and considering the rural WASH situation of the country. The revised system considers the COWASH III Results-Based M&E (RBM&E) system, which covers the planning, monitoring, and reporting processes, considering the changed results framework, and incorporating the recommendations given on COWASH III implementation.. COWASH IV Result Framework and performance monitoring plan can be found [here](#). The main reasons for modifying the PD framework are:

Table 6: COWASH IV Project Regions, Zones, and Woredas

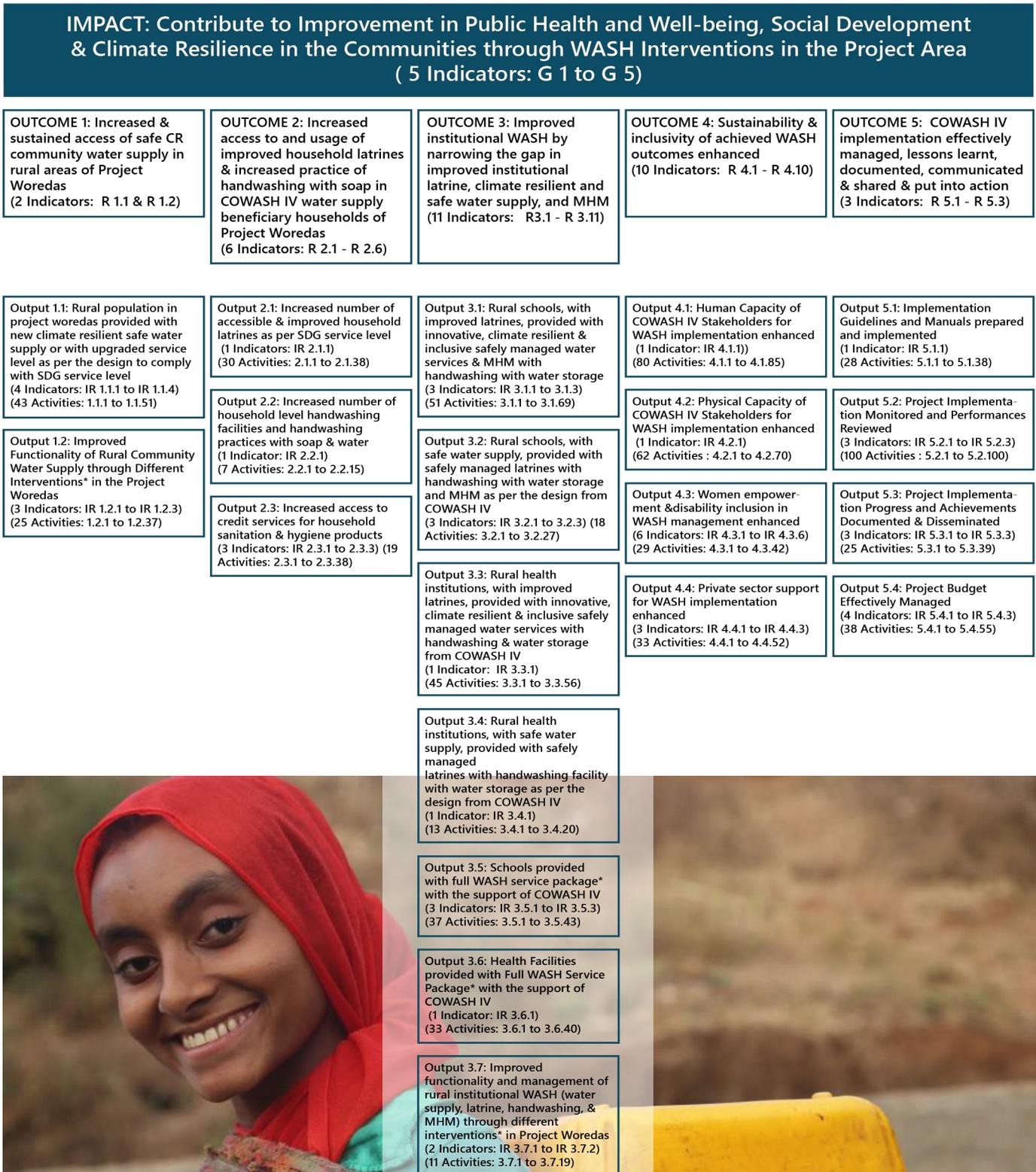
Regions	Old	New	Total	Number of Zones
Amhara	16	24	40	8
Benishangul Gumuz	4	0	4	3
Oromia	12	18	30	11
SNNP	0	13	13	7
Sidama	2	3	5	0
Tigray	3	9	12	5
Total	37	67	104	34
%	36%	64%	100%	

- Some Outcomes and Outputs were generalized and congested
- Some Outcomes and Outputs were not included in the framework, like Full WASH
- It was necessary to make the framework implementable considering the existing WASH situation of the country and SDG

A separate “[Indicator Reference Sheet](#)” or “Indicator Definition Book” that defines, describes, and clarifies the COWASH IV indicators has been developed. The indicators are explained or defined to have common understanding of the M&E staff on the required data thereby removing ambiguity in the data collection at the grassroots level.

The COWASH IV result chain is presented in the following figure.

Figure 1. COWASH IV Result Chain



3.3.3 Planning process and regional level plans prepared

Region level core plans were prepared and approved in June 2021. Based on these core plans regions made first six-months fund requests to the MoF. According to the requests from the regions the MoF requested the funds from MFA Finland. Region level core plans can be found [here](#). The detailed physical and financial plans will be done based on the core plans. Only SNNP and Oromia succeeded to prepare detailed plans before January 2022 as they had enough GoF funds to conduct the detailed planning workshops. FTAT participated both review and planning workshops organized by SNNP and Oromia. Amhara, BG and Sidama need to receive first the GoF fund transfer to complete their detailed planning.

Based on the M&E Framework and core plans, FTAT prepared detailed planning templates for the regions to proceed to detailed planning. Detailed planning template can be found [here](#). Some of the major activity plans of the regions in 2014 EFY are presented in table 7 below.

Secondary WASH data have been collected from the project woredas to estimate average values of some of the WASH Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the woredas. As estimate from the secondary WASH data, the average water supply and improved latrine access coverage plans of the woredas at the end of 2014 EFY are indicated in table 8.

Table 7. Major facility Construction Plans in EFY 2014 in the 5 Project Regions

Indicator	Project Region/Annual Plan					
	Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	Total
Community Water Supply Schemes construction (new + rehabilitation)	280	23	470	153	178	1,104
New Institutional Water Supply Schemes Construction	14	9	30	31	18	102
New School Water Supply Schemes (with MHM & handwashing) construction	8	3	18	11	10	50
New Health Facility Water Supply Schemes (with handwashing) construction	6	6	12	20	8	52
New Institutional Improved Latrine Construction	7	6	36	86	19	154
3.1 New School Improved Latrine (with MHM & handwashing) construction	3	0	5	40	10	58
3.2 New Health Facility Improved Latrine (with handwashing) construction	4	6	31	46	9	96



Table 8. Average water supply and improved latrine access coverage plans of the project woredas at the end of 2014 EFY (Due to All WASH Actors in the Woredas)

Indicator	Baseline/Plan	Project Region/Baseline & Annual Plan					
		Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	Total
Rural Community Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	68.9	74.8	68.3	26.2	42.1	61.5
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	73.0	77.5	72.0	31.0	6.4	65.5
School Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	41.5	54.7	30.5	22.7	28.0	35.1
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	48.0	64.1	40.4	33.4	40.0	43.7
Health Institutions Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	22.4	46.6	22.6	10.1	20.6	21.7
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	34.4	57.3	37.0	26.3	38.1	35.3
School Improved Latrine Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	37.3	52.3	31.7	21.9	25.2	33.3
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	45.2	58.6	40.9	30.0	37.1	41.8
Health Institutions Improved Latrine Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	40.0	82.5	45.1	33.9	52.6	43.3
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	47.8	86.4	59.4	44.3	66.0	53.7

The procurement plan was extracted from the regional core plans and is presented in table 9 below.

Table 9. Major Procurement Plans in EFY 2014 in the 5 Project Regions

Item	Project Regions/Plan					
	Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	Total
Field vehicle	3	1	3	3	1	11
Motorbike	26	6	31	16	11	90
Desktop Computer	0	4	65	26	16	111
Laptop	34	4	25	0	13	76
Printer	2	6	66	26	19	119
LCD Projector	0	1	24	13	4	42
Photocopy Machine	27	0	24	0	10	61
Scanner	0	0	1	1	9	11
Water Quality Test Kit & Reagents	6	0	7	13	6	32

3.3.4 Federal Technical Assistance Team Plans

COWASH IV FTAT plan includes new initiatives such as: Water Safety Planning 4+, disability inclusion, behavioral change communication, loan system for household improved latrine construction, and WASH MSE development. These new initiatives were also included to the region level plans. Many of the FTAT activities are related to the development of manuals and guidelines and systems as well as capacity building and monitoring. The detailed COWASH IV FTAT Plan for 2014-2017 EFY can be found [here](#).

3.3.5 Documents prepared

This is the list of manuals, guidelines and strategies developed during the inception phase.

- COWASH IV Financial Management Manual
- Regional Support Unit (RSU) ToR
- CMP Investment Fund Management Manual by Woreda Finance Office via Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE)
- Community Managed Project (CMP) Implementation Manual for Water Supply Schemes (for MFIs)
- Institutional WASH Implementation Guideline using Woreda Managed Project (WMP) Approach
- COWASH IV Training manual on Institutional WASH Implementation using WMP
- COWASH IV Water Safety Planning 4+ Working Manual
- COWASH IV Social, Environment, Climate Risk Screening Management (SECRSM) Guideline
- Social, Environmental & Climate Risk Screening (SECRSM) Guideline (Revision)
- WASHCO Procurement Guideline for COWASH IV (Revision)
- Gender Transformative and Disability Inclusion Strategy
- COWASH IV Disability Inclusion Guideline (Revision)
- COWASH IV WASH- SLA Training Facilitators Guide
- COWASH Social Behavioural Change Strategy
- Behavior Change Training manual
- Artisans Training Manual for Inclusive Water Supply Designs (Revision)
- Roles and Responsibilities of COWASH IV Stakeholders (Revision)
- COWASH IV Federal Project Administration Manual (Revision)
- MoF Financial Specialist ToR
- COWASH IV GoF budget allocation formula

The Project Implementation Manual (PIM) is a combination of all plans, strategies, guidelines, manuals, ToR, etc. prepared to guide the COWASH IV implementation. These documents have been collected to one web page and are available for all stakeholders to review and use. The PIM is all these documents at this web site.



3.3.6 Trainings conducted

The main trainings conducted by FTAT during the inception period are:

- Core planning and detailed planning
- ToT training for Regional financial personnel on COWASH IV Financial Management Manual
- Training for RSU staff in school WASH design and construction guideline of Ministry of Education
- Staff Induction Training

3.3.7 Database development

COWASH IV is developing two databases used for monitoring the progress and storing the WASH facility data:

- Web-based WASH Facility Database (WFDB)
- Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting (PMRDB).

A national company (Superconsult) was selected to provide the short-term consultants to develop these databases. The status of the database development in January 2022 is 80%.

3.3.8 Baseline survey

COWASH IV baseline survey has been planned during the inception phase and will be outsourced. The baseline data will apply both qualitative and quantitative methods. The baseline survey is done to set benchmarks against which project achievements will be measured periodically.

Due to the variable security situation in the project regions, it was not possible to conduct the COWASH IV baseline survey during the inception phase. Currently, it is not possible to conduct a baseline survey in three (Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz, partially Amhara) of the six regions. As the project follows a decentralized approach in the implementation of the project interventions, it is recommended to conduct the baseline survey separately for each region. The baseline surveys will start with Sidama, SNNP (including the Southwest

region) and Oromia regions. The survey will be conducted in the remaining regions (BG, Amhara and Tigray) when the security situation is improved.

FTAT developed the [baseline survey ToR](#), which was approved by the COWASH Steering Committee. At the end of 2021, the security situation in Ethiopia improved and the tendering of the survey consultants started, and the survey company will be selected in January 2022.

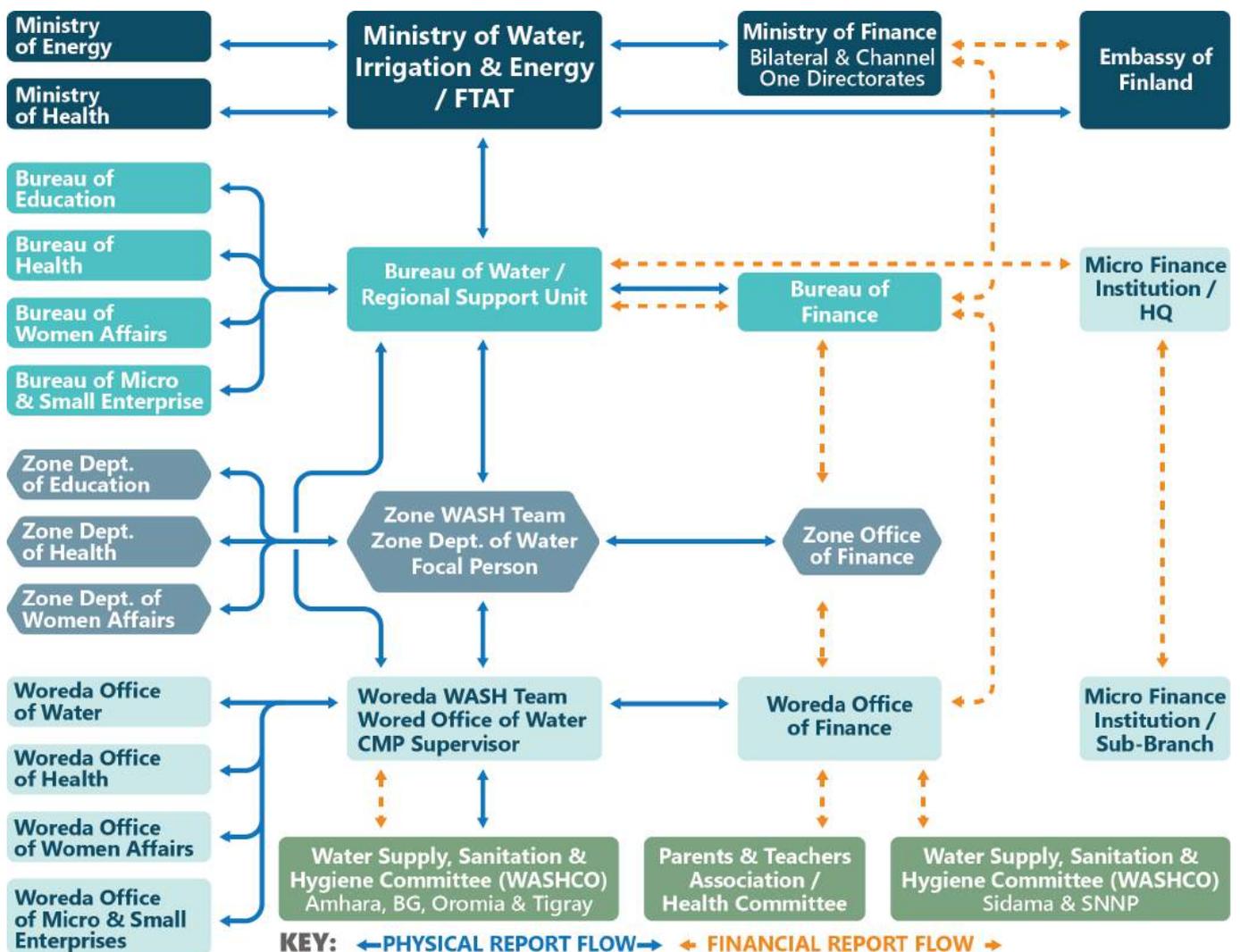
3.3.9 Reporting

FTAT developed the quarterly, 6-months reporting templates for the regions. FTAT received 2013 EFY annual reports from the 4 regions of Amhara, BG, Oromia and SNNP. These reports can be found [here](#).

FTAT is in a process to produce 6-months report for the period of first 6-months of 2014 EFY.

COWASH IV reporting flow is presented in the figure below.

Figure 2. COWASH reporting flow





3.3.10 Proposed research

It is proposed that COWASH will support at least the following two research topics:

- Research on menstrual hygiene management practices, and its implications on education, psycho-social characteristics, and health, among schoolgirls. This research is supporting the local PhD research just starting for the Addis Ababa University.
- Ecological sanitation option use in COWASH IV as a household level sanitation option. The research is to recommend on how COWASH should adopt the ecological sanitation in its household level sanitation interventions.

3.4 CMP

This chapter is describing only the progress made in CMP development during the inception phase of COWASH IV. More comprehensive description is attached to this document as Annex 6.

COWASH IV revised the guideline of CMP implementation for community water supply using MFI used in COWASH III. The guideline can be found [here](#). Main issues revised were the community contribution for construction and upfront cash contribution of O&M for each type of water supply technology. The previous guide included also institutional WASH but in COWASH IV it is only

for community water supply. The various formats were revised. This guide is going to be used by the Amhara, BG, Oromia and Tigray Regions in the first year of COWASH IV.

Another guideline was prepared for the CMP implementation for community water supply using Woreda office of Finance (WoF). The guideline is found [here](#). This is going to be tested in Sidama and SNNP regions. Formats, fund flow and roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders are different compared to the guideline using MFI.

CMP implementation guide for institutional WASH using WMP approach was prepared for COWASH IV to be used in institutional WASH implementation as the Phase IV document recommends in institutional WASH to follow Woreda Managed Project approach. This guideline is found [here](#). In addition to this FTAT developed a training manual for the institutional CMP implementation and it is found [here](#).

The [community water supply procurement guideline](#) was revised to suit for COWASH IV to fit the many changes in the implementation modalities from COWASH III.

COWASH IV followed the recommendation from the phase IV project document and developed together with the MoE ToR for School WASH O&M training manual preparation. The consultancy for the preparation was tendered and it is expected that the consultant shall start the work in January 2022.

COWASH IV also revised the Training Manual for Inclusive HDW & Spring Construction. The manual is made available through this link to drop box: [DROPBOX LINK](#)

3.5 Water Safety Planning

This chapter summarizes the progress made in the Water Safety Planning (WSP) in COWASH IV inception period. More comprehensive description of WSP development is presented in Annex 7.

During the Inception Phase, the existing guidelines from COWASH III but also from other stakeholder initiatives have been collected and analysed. Based on this review process the Phase III Climate Resilient WSP guideline was revised to extend it beyond water quality and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (1+) also O&M and water fee collection (2+), disability inclusion (3+) and sanitation safety (4+) and is now called COWASH IV WSP4+ Working Manual and can be found [here](#). The training of the use of the manual was postponed to quarter 3 of the 2014 EFY.



The pre-stage for the Water Safety Planning in CMP implementation is the Social, Environmental, Climate Risks Screening and Management (SECRSM) process which is carried out during the field appraisal stage of the CMP process. This is an important stage to ensure the sustainability of the water supply. The SECRSM Guideline from Phase III was revised, and training was planned. The training was postponed to quarter 3 of 2014 EFY due to delays in the start of implementation. The revised guideline can be found [here](#).

3.5.1 Water Quality Studies

During COWASH IV Inception Phase, a Junior Technical Advisor joined the FTAT team. His background lies in water quality monitoring, and hence

he has taken the responsibility to develop the aspects of improving water quality monitoring in COWASH IV.

A water quality monitoring plan for COWASH IV new water points was drafted, to comply with the MFA mandate, which requires an initial water quality monitoring of newly built water points. Although the mandate only requires the initial water quality to be monitored, the COWASH IV plan includes continuance for the monitoring, in case previous water quality data indicates potential concern for health risks for humans.

3.6 Market-based Sanitation and Household Sanitation

This chapter summarizes the progress made in the Market Based Sanitation (MBS) in COWASH IV inception period. More comprehensive description of Household Sanitation development is presented in Annex 8

[Market Based Sanitation \(MSE\) Guideline](#) was developed by MoH and COWASH is following it in its establishment of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE). MoH developed also [MBS training manual](#) and COWASH IV is using it as well in its MSE training.

To make the MBS practical at the field level, the MBS Training Facilitator’s Guide needed to be developed. MoH took the initiative on this develop-

ment and called COWASH IV to participate. COWASH IV took part in the development of training courses and methodologies. This was done through different workshops and COWASH IV provided feedback and comments. The MBS Training Facilitators' Guide has been submitted to the endorsement by the higher officials in the MoH. COWASH IV will follow this guide in general and COWASH will adjust it to COWASH own [Business Model Canvas](#) (BMC) training manual. BMC started already in COWASH III and COWASH IV will continue its development and use. The COWASH IV BMC training manual development is in progress and tools and worksheet have been finalized. This manual will be finalized in quarter 3 of the 2014 EFY.

COWASH IV has also prepared business health assessment tools, see it [here](#). These tools will be later

used for the monitoring and providing continued business development service to the MSEs established in COWASH III and the MSEs available in COWASH IV target woredas (not necessarily established by COWASH).

COWASH IV WASH Saving, and Loan Association (WASH-SLA) Training Facilitators' Guideline ([here](#)) has been developed during the inception phase to establish saving and loan groups for household sanitation financing. Sanitation financing is the priority, but the capacity of the association can be also used for the other development activities needed by the community. This also includes the [saving and recording book](#) to record the savings and transactions by the association. The book was developed and what is missing is its validation and printing.



3.7 Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion

This chapter summarizes the progress made in the Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion (GEDI) in COWASH IV inception period. A more comprehensive description of GEDI concept is presented in Annex 9

COWASH IV supported the National Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion (GEDI) Task force in the development of Terms of Reference for the development of a national GEDI Strategy and action plan for WASH sector in Ethiopia. The consultancy for the strategy development was advertised and tendered. Unfortunately, none of the received tenders fulfill the evaluation criteria set by the MoWE procurement section and the tendering is now suspended.

Gender transformative and disability inclusive WASH strategy ([here](#)) preparation has been finalized to be used in the project life of COWASH IV. This is replacing and same time amending the gender strategy of COWASH III. Learnings in COWASH III were used to develop this strategy. In COWASH III more focus was given in addressing the practical needs of women, men, boys and girls. In COWASH IV the strategic needs will be also addressed. The tool of gender transformative programming approach will be used to do this.

The strategy also addresses the promotion of the Menstrual Hygiene Management which will address adolescent girls enrolling in the school system and out of the school. COWASH IV is planning to support one PhD research on MHM in order to dive deeper in this subject matter.

COWASH IV continues the disability inclusion in WASH intervention in a strengthened manner. Materials prepared in the previous phase shall also be in use with some revisions. To facilitate the awareness creation intervention at different levels, a disability inclusion guideline was developed in Phase III. COWASH IV has done some revisions to incorporate cumulated experiences and issues related to lessons learnt. The COWASH disability inclusion guideline has been revised likewise and can be found [here](#). The newly added part will be translated into regional working languages and disseminated to the respective regions.

During COWASH phase III 9-months extension period, an assessment tool for gender-based violence (GBV), harmful traditional practices (HTP) and disability inclusion status was prepared and disseminated to five COWASH regions (Amhara, BSG, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray) to collect data from two selected woredas in each region. The data collection at woreda level was intended to be done by woreda offices of health, water, education, women and children affairs, labor and social affairs and disabled people organizations. Data collection from two woredas was completed in four of the five regions (except Tigray, due to security issue) in the extension period. To date, data entry of two regions namely Amhara and SNNP has been done by FTAT while that of Oromia was completed by Oromia RSU. Data entry of BG along with preparation of the assessment report delayed but will be finalized in the third quarter of 2014 EFY.

COWASH contacted some renowned professionals working with Disabled People Organizations to assist COWASH in disability mainstreaming, including awareness raising at different levels.

COWASH FTAT Gender and Inclusion Specialist (GIS) attended a training on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and re-usable home-made sanitary pad production organized by the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) in Wolaita Sodo. Such training is found useful to facilitate the respective manual production that will be started in the next quarter.

3.8 Social and Behavioural Change

This chapter summarizes the progress made in the Social and Behavioural Change (SBC) in COWASH IV inception period. A more comprehensive description of SBC concept is presented in Annex 10.

COWASH IV Social Behavioral Change Strategy was developed, discussed with the stakeholders, and finalized. COWASH organized a two-day workshop on COWASH Social behaviour change strategy refining and finalization to which stakeholders from Regional Health Bureaus, MoH, MoE, MoWE, RSUT, FTAT and UNICEF Ethiopia participated. Based on the feedback and inputs from the workshop, the



strategy was finalized. Printing and distribution to regions and woredas will be carried out in quarter 3 of 2014 EFY.

COWASH developed messages for various target groups on thematic areas like household sanitation, water safety, operation and maintenance, tariff collection, gender and inclusion, hand hygiene and household water treatment and safe storage management. Translations of these messages into three regional working languages were done and COWASH is planning to organize a two-day workshop to review and validate the messages in the presence of stakeholders including MoH and regional sector bureaus. The production of social and behavioral change communication materials will follow this workshop and the materials used to promote recommended WASH behaviors among the COWASH beneficiaries using a mix of communication channels.

COWASH IV developed and finalized the COWASH IV social and behavioral change training manual for frontline health care workers. This manual will be used to train trainers from selected woredas, zones and regions. Following the training of trainers, this training will be cascaded at Woreda level to frontline health care workers.

COWASH also participated and contributed to the development of the “national hand hygiene for all (HH4A) road map” led by the Ministry of Health. In addition to this COWASH also participated and actively contributed to the execution of the National Hand Washing Day event in late 2021.

3.9 COWASH Phase IV Communications and Dissemination

The COWASH IV Communication and Dissemination Specialist resigned COWASH IV in September 2021. It took nearly 4 months to employ the new CDS who started in COWASH IV in January 17, 2022.

COWASH was active in social network using the famous CMP Facebook site and all events during the Inception Phase were reported in this Facebook page. Please follow it here: <https://www.facebook.com/cmpethiopia>.

COWASH CMP website was constantly updated with the WASH related documents such as the documents referred to in this inception report. Special folder for COWASH IV was created and can be found [here](#).

COWASH helped other WASH stakeholders to become visible through CMP website. One such kind of partner is Inter Aid (French NGO) who is working in some of COWASH woredas in SNNP. The specific folder for Inter Aid was developed in order to make Inter Aid approaches and technical documents available for all WASH stakeholders in Ethiopia. Inter Aid folder can be accessed through [here](#).

Before the departure of the CDS the tasks and activities under each issue to be addressed in the development of COWASH Communication strategy were developed. This is a good starting point for the new CDS. These activities are attached to this document as Annex 11.

3.10 Government of Finland Fund Management

Ethiopia’s annual inflation rate eased to 33 percent in November of 2021, from 34.2 percent in October. Food price increases slowed down (38.9 percent vs 40.7 percent in October), despite a lack of commercial goods in Tigray and neighbouring Amhara region, where fighting spread in July, see figure 5. The World Food Programme estimated that 13.6 million people were food insecure in Ethiopia because of the extended impacts of conflict, drought, flooding, desert locust invasions, market disruptions, high food prices and the COVID-19 pandemic. On a monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.6 percent, after a 0.1 percent downtick in the previous month. (source: Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia)

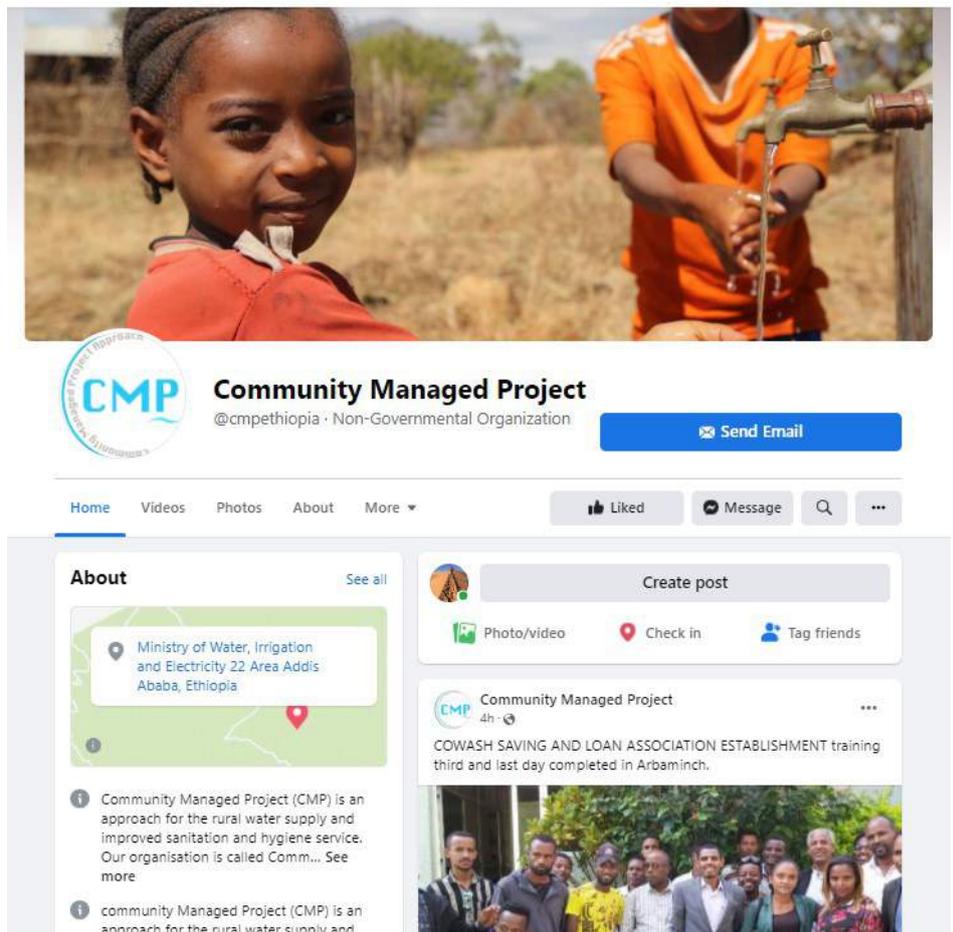
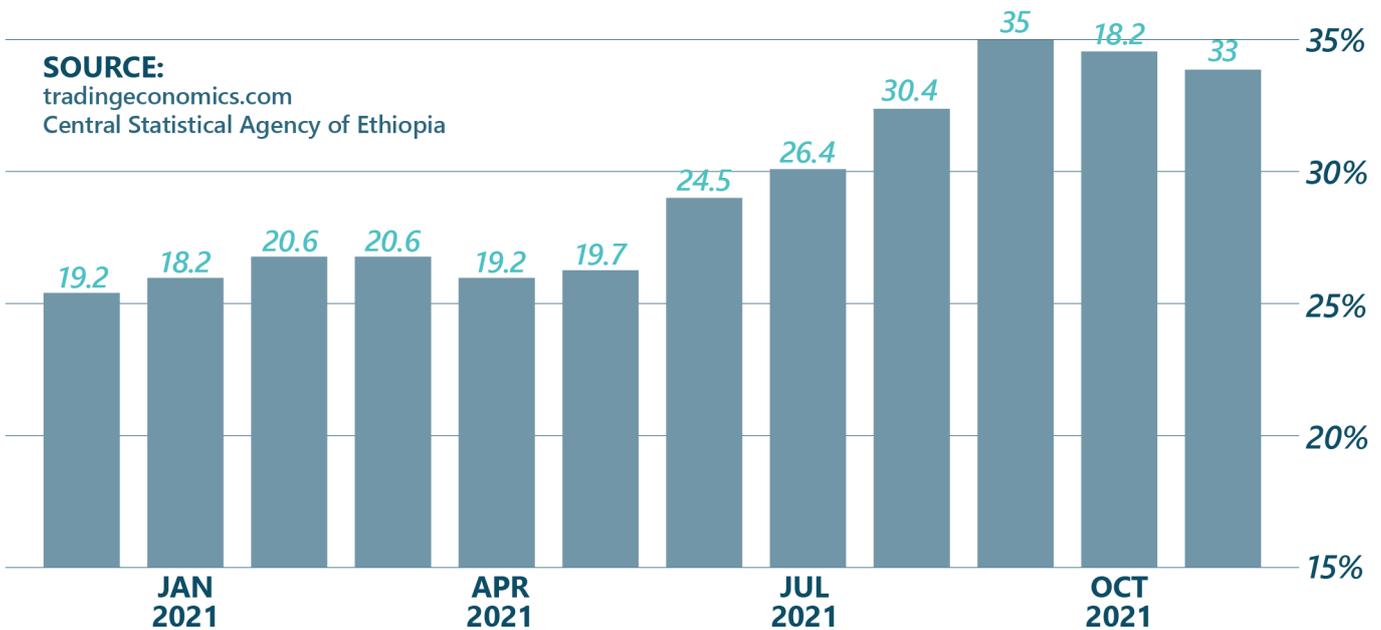


Figure 3. Inflation rates during the COWASH IV inception phase



The value of the Euro increased during the 9-months period with nearly 6 ETB (5,959).

Figure 4. Euro-ETB exchange rate development based on the 1st day of the month exchange rates.



Grand total COWASH IV budget from the Government of Finland

The Phase IV budget proposed in the project document and agreed in the bilateral agreement is EUR 18,400,000. At the end of March 30, 2021, there was remaining GoF budget from Phase III in the regions. This budget totaled EUR 472,812.28 with the exchange rate of 54. In addition to this there was still EUR 88,529 remaining from Phase III in Finland and this fund was transferred to the regions Amhara, BG, Oromia and SNNP to cover the costs of the RSUs to the end of September 2021. Accordingly, the total available GoF budget for Phase IV is therefore EUR 18,961,341.28 as illustrated in the table on the next page.

*Table 10. The available Government of Finland budget for COWASH IV:
Remaining Government of Finland funds from Phase 3*

Region	Birr	EUR
Amhara	4,073,294.90	75,431.39
BG	1,255,274.96	23,245.83
Oromia	5,020,878.49	92,979.23
SNNP	5,545,947.87	102,702.74
Tigray	9,636,467.01	178,453.09
TOTAL	25,531,863.23	472,812.28

New Phase IV agreement	18,400,000.00
Roll over from Phase III in Finland	88,529.00
GRAND TOTAL	18,961,341.28

Exchange rate 1 EUR = 54 Birr



3.10.1 Federal TA Team budget plan and Team Management

The Technical assistance budget plan for the entire Phase IV (April 2021-December 2024) is presented in detail in the table below.

The total fee budget plan, EUR 2,203,879 and technical assistance reimbursable budget plan remain unchanged, as they are part of the agreement between the NIRAS and MFA. The fee budget is planned to allow keeping the long-term specialists

until the final months of the contract period (December 2024). An amendment to the NIRAS-MFA contract was made in October 2021, where 157 of CTA days were transferred to international and national short-term consultants. The budget of the international short-term consultancies was modified to reflect the actual need of the project. The total international short-term consultancy days were deducted from 24 to 14 months and local short-term consultancy days were correspondingly increased from 45 months to 70 months.

Table 11. The Federal TA budget plan for the Phase IV in Euros

	2013 TOTAL Plan (April-	2014 TOTAL Plan	2015EFY Planned	2016EFY Planned	2017EFY Planned	Grand TOTAL Planned
FEE BUDGET	106,533	680,024	574,238	565,905	277,179	2,203,879
Long Term International	54,167	143,967	166,667	165,833	73,534	604,167
Chief Technical Adviser	54,167	143,967	166,667	165,833	73,534	604,167
Long Term National	52,367	279,057	287,571	287,571	143,786	1,050,352
Behaviour Change Specialist	6,514	37,886	37,714	37,714	18,857	138,686
Communication and Dissemination Specialist	8,571	29,643	39,286	39,286	19,643	136,429
Climate and Environment Risk and Water Safety Specialist	-	42,095	41,905	41,905	20,952	146,857
CMP Specialist (Technical WASH Specialist)	11,400	44,200	44,000	44,000	22,000	165,600
Gender and Inclusion Specialist	9,771	37,886	37,714	37,714	18,857	141,943
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist	11,400	44,200	44,000	44,000	22,000	165,600
SME, MFI, Procurement and Financial Reporting Specialist	4,710	43,148	42,952	42,952	21,476	155,238
Short Term International	-	65,000	70,000	62,500	30,000	227,500
Short Term National	-	192,000	50,000	50,000	29,859	321,859
REIMBURSABLE BUDGET	91,250	428,421	324,600	334,600	173,250	1,352,121
Local supporting personnel costs	9,000	41,000	55,000	60,000	27,950	192,950
Junior Professional Officer (only salary costs here)	10,000	60,000	65,000	65,000	35,000	235,000
Travelling costs (long-term experts)	10,000	83,000	85,000	85,000	30,000	293,000
Travelling costs (short-term experts)	-	13,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	53,000
Office establishing	2,000	103,000				105,000
Office running costs	4,600	17,621	27,000	27,000	15,000	91,221
Housing costs	8,500	38,600	55,000	60,000	30,000	192,100

School fees	34,000	53,600				87,600
Relocation costs of experts	10,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	37,000
Home office coordination	3,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	9,000	48,000
Home office visits	-	4,000	5,000	5,000	1,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	150	600	600	600	300	2,250.0
TOTAL Fee and Reimbursable	197,783	1,108,445	898,838	900,505	450,429	3,556,000
National level sector support	57,850	188,000	152,000	203,000	39,150	640,000
Innovation, research and piloting	20,000	126,000	89,000	140,000	25,000	400,000
Capacity building	37,850	62,000	63,000	63,000	14,150	240,000
GRAND TOTAL	255,633	1,296,445	1,050,838	1,103,505	489,579	4,196,000

At the end of December 2021, the Federal TA has been provided for 9 months. The following table indicates the 9 months Federal TA budget plan and its achievement. The Technical Assistance fee budget plan was fully utilised. In Long Term National budget category, the budget plan was slightly overused but will be balanced in the coming

months. Technical Assistance reimbursable costs was slightly underused due to the savings made in travelling. The supervision need was less than expected. Savings were also made in office running and in school cost categories. The innovation and research budgets were also used less than planned due to the postponement of the baseline survey.

Table 12. COWASH IV Federal TA budget plan and achieved for April 1, 2021-December 31, 2024, in Euros.

FEDERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM BUDGET ITEMS	9-months inception period		
	April -Dec 2021 Plan	April -Dec 2021 Actual	Apr-Dec Utiliz %
FEE BUDGET	399,940	409,612	102%
Long Term International	129,167	129,166	100%
Chief Technical Adviser	129,167	129,166	100%
Long Term National	188,774	198,522	105%
Behaviour Change Specialist	25,543	20,401	80%
Communication and Dissemination Specialist	18,750	19,464	104%
Climate and Environment Risk and Water Safety Specialist	21,333	19,619	92%
CMP Specialist (Technical WASH Specialist)	33,800	37,600	111%
Gender and Inclusion Specialist	28,971	32,571	112%
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist	33,800	38,800	115%
SME, MFI, Procurement and Financial Reporting Specialist	26,576	30,066	113%
Short Term International	-	-	-
Michael Wood, Technical Support (not yet approved)			
Neil Chadder, Management Support (not yet approved)			
Short Term National		81,924	100%
BCS selection consultant		7,229	
Financial Management and Procurement Manual consultant		31,981	
WASH Facility Database Consultant		42,714	
REIMBURSABLE BUDGET	234,750	193,158	82%
Local supporting personnel costs	29,000	27,471	95%
Junior Professional Officer (only salary costs here)	40,000	35,000	88%
Travelling costs (long-term experts)	35,000	25,468	73%
Travelling costs (short-term experts)	1,000	-	0%
Office establishing	5,000	4,183	84%
Office running costs	12,600	9,818	78%
Housing costs	23,100	20,820	90%
School fees	69,600	51,382	74%
Relocation costs of experts	10,000	10,000	100%
Home office coordination	9,000	9,000	100%
Home office visits	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	450	16	4%
TOTAL Fee and Reimbursable	634,690	602,770	95%
National level sector support	107,850	92,154	85%
Innovation, research and piloting	41,000	23,889	58%
Capacity building	66,850	68,265	102%
GRAND TOTAL	742,540	694,924	94%

3.10.2 Government of Finland Budget allocations

By using the three criteria provided in the project document of COWASH IV the Government of Finland (GoF) contribution to the six COWASH IV regions is presented in the below table. The total GoF allocation distributed to the regions is EUR 12,934,000. In addition to this, EUR 920,000 has

been deducted from the total GoF total regional contribution of EUR 13,854,000. The deducted amount is kept in the project as the contingency amount. The contingency amount to be shared to regions in future by the National WASH Steering Committee. It will be allocated to the regions based on the regions' performance, special needs and regional contribution to the project.

Table 13. The GoF fund allocation formula as approved by the Steering Committee

COWASH IV Regions	70% share based on Federal Grant formula	15% share based on COWASH III performance	15% share based on Regional Commitment per Woreda to COWASH IV	Total GoF budget allocated per Region	Regional share from Total GoF in percent	GoF per woreda (1EUR = 52Birr)
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	%	Birr
Amhara	2,327,279	323,842	136,172	2,787,293	21.55%	3,623,481
BGRS	197,192	328,108	378,254	903,554	6.99%	11,746,199
Oromia	3,712,873	326,139	187,428	4,226,440	32.68%	7,325,829
SNNPR	1,733,441	319,249	308,423	2,361,112	18.26%	9,444,448
Sidama	433,315	319,249	408,515	1,161,078	8.98%	12,075,215
Tigray	649,701	323,514	521,308	1,494,523	11.55%	11,102,171
Total	9,053,800	1,940,100	1,940,100	12,934,000	100.0%	6,793,616

The regions sent in September-October 2021 their fund requests for the first 6 months as per the approved core plans to the MoF. In the end of September FTAT and MoWE officially requested MoF to prepare the fund request to the MFA. On November 1, MoF requested EUR 2,888,391 from the MFA. The Government of Finland decided to transfer only half of the requested funds to MoF. There-

fore, the fund transfer proposal to regions was revised by the Federal TA Team to facilitate MoF to transfer the funds to regions when they arrive (see Table 14). The funds (only EUR 1.5 million) from Finland arrived on December 14, 2021. MoF started to prepare the first fund transfer to the regions as per the table below. Situation January 19, 2022, the transfer to the region is not done.

Table 14. The first fund set requests and transfer proposal from MoF to the regions

Regions	Request	Share	Possible Transfer	Transfer request
	Birr	%	Birr	Birr
1. Amhara	32,925,929.50	20.51%	16,744,192.71	17,000,000
2. Oromia	56,938,332.00	35.47%	28,955,489.43	28,000,000
3. SNNP	44,476,522.00	27.70%	22,618,145.24	23,000,000
4. BG	12,069,540.00	7.52%	6,137,858.73	6,200,000
5. Sidama	14,137,130.78	8.81%	7,189,313.89	7,200,000
TOTAL	160,547,454.28	100.00%	81,645,000.00	81,400,000

3.11 Regional Government Fund Management

3.11.1 Grand total COWASH IV budget from the Regional Governments of Ethiopia

Regional Governments submitted their commitment letters for Phase IV in good time to facilitate the Phase IV planning. Five region commitment letters can be found [here](#). The total committed budget by the 6 regions is ETB 1,178,251,896. Later, during the inception phase these commitments were divided into the 4 implementation years of Phase IV as illustrated in the table below.

Table 15. Annual plans of regional government COWASH IV budget commitments

Regions	2014 EFY	2015 EFY	2016 EFY	2017 EFY	TOTAL	Commitment
	Birr	Birr	Birr	Birr	Birr	Birr
Amhara	65,061,461	75,000,000	78,000,000	69,938,539	288,000,000	288,000,000
BG	1,131,852	10,372,716	60,372,716	8,122,716	80,000,000	80,000,000
Oromia	88,506,962	74,617,244	70,180,400	64,000,026	297,304,632	297,304,632
SNNP	47,000,000	55,000,000	55,000,000	55,000,000	212,000,000	212,000,000
Sidama	27,474,200	26,841,935	26,841,935	26,841,930	108,000,000	108,000,000
Tigray	40,499,740	50,582,104	55,100,080	46,765,340	192,947,264	192,947,264
TOTAL	269,674,215	292,413,999	345,495,131	270,668,551	1,178,251,896	1,178,251,896

Regions have not yet transferred the 2014 EFY committed funds to the woredas, because the detailed planning process has not yet been completed and they also wait first to see that the Government of Finland funds start to flow to the regions.

3.11.2 Regional Government funds management and auditing

At the regional level, the responsibility of the implementation of COWASH activities is under the Bureau of Finance (BoF) and Bureau of Water (BoW) in association with Regional WASH partners, the Bureau of Health, the Bureau of Education and the Bureau of Women Affairs. These regional level WASH bodies have the responsibility of coordinating and managing the WASH implementation in the Regions. The highest decision-making body in the region is the Regional WASH Steering Committee (RWSC) and the Regional WASH Technical Team (RWTT).

Regional Support Units (RSUs) are specific support teams established at regional level to support the COWASH implementation in the region. The RSUs are established at the respective Bureau of Water. The RSU teams have about 6-8 members consisting of a team leader and various specialists. The RSU staff work on full time basis for COWASH. RSUs provide support for the regional, zonal and woreda WASH partners and they also create and maintain their capacity.

The funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland is mainly allocated to human and physical capacity building and is channelled through the MoF to Regional BoF. BoF transfers the money to RSU and other pertinent regional, zonal and woreda level bureaus and offices. The funding from GoE is allocated mainly to investments and is channelled through regional Micro Finance Institution (MFI) to the communities. In Phase IV it is planned to test the fund transfer to communities through the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and the Woreda Office of Finance.

WASHCOs are established in the communities to manage the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of the water and institutional latrine projects.

Capacity building support is transferred from MFA to MoF who in turn transfers it to regional BoF based on their fund requests and approved annual plans. BoF provide funding further to RSUs, other regional bureaus and zone and woreda level finance bureaus (WoF) and zonal level finance bureaus (ZoF). The accounting and financial administration of the capacity building component is maintained by the respective bureaus. They report on a quarterly basis COWASH related expenses to BoF. RSU assist in consolidation and preparation of the regional annual progress and financial report. Financial reporting for capacity building costs follows the GoE reporting processes.

In COWASH IV there are two systems for investment funds channelling.

- In the regions of Sidama and SNNP investment funds are allocated to the woredas, zones and regional bureaus and each year these offices allocate COWASH investment funds. Once all investment funds are allocated, they are compiled at the region level and transferred to the Woreda Office Finance (WoF) special account. WoF provides cheques to the WASHCOs as per the agreements signed with each WASHCO. WASHCO reports to the WoF of the use of the money.
- In other COWASH regions the investment funds are channelled through the regional Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). The amounts to be paid to each woreda are indicated in the annual plans. MFI headquarters further transfer funding to MFIs' branch offices to be disbursed to WASHCOs at woreda level. The disbursements to WASHCOs are approved by two Woreda WASH Technical Team (WTT) members.

The external audits carried out by KPMG in 2017 and 2020 revealed that there are weaknesses in COWASH financial control, monitoring and reporting. KPMG recognised that some of the bureaus and offices had limited capacity and have not complied with the reporting process. There are inconsistencies in the reporting of expenses and the expenditures from some of the bureaus have not been consolidated properly. In some cases, the end balances have not been brought forward in the financial reporting, thus there is a risk that the cumulative financial reporting is not accurate. In the reporting process, the discrepancies were mainly caused by inadequate accounting capacity and competence.

KPMG further observed significant weaknesses in the reliability of the investment fund management, accounting, and financial reporting. The funds disbursed to WASHCOs from the MFI branch offices are reported to the Water Bureaus and RSUs by the woreda CMP Supervisors. CMP Supervisor is a position of a technical water expert, and their financial management and accounting capacity is limited. The level on financial management expertise

in the Woreda Water Offices was found not to be at an adequate level.

The costs incurred for WASHCOs have not been reported accurately in all respects. Reported actual expenditures and balances are not reconciled with the total amounts of funding initially transferred to the regional MFI Headquarters. MFIs do not comply with sufficient controls in determining and reconciling the balances in each office through which funds have been transferred on a monthly basis. Many MFIs have not opened separate CMP accounts (bank books) at the branch office level for each WASHCO as the contracts between the Water or Finance Bureaus and MFIs would require. The reported expenditure and balance accounts for a particular woreda do not always reconcile with the amounts on the bank account of MFI. Some MFIs have not submitted reports to the Bureaus or Water or Finance. Furthermore, there is a lack of audit trail and general ledger for the CMP account.



Audits for the capacity building costs and investment costs have been conducted by the regional BoF internal auditors.

COWASH IV is also going to test the new investment fund flow from BoF through WoF to WASHCOs. A Manual for the fund management has been developed. This needs close follow up to succeed and to avoid possible bottlenecks of the manual. Also, the new Financial Management Manual implementation at the region, zone and woreda levels needs support.

There is a need to have close follow up and monitoring of the audit trials and documentation from the Federal level with all COWASH regions and to build the capacity of the regional and woreda level personnel to keep proper financial documents for audits. Therefore, COWASH planned a short-term consultancy for audit support and this consultancy was approved by the Embassy of Finland and MoWE.

4. MAJOR CHALLENGES AND RISK MITIGATION

The Phase IV project document divides the project risks into three categories:

- Contextual risks: external to the organization, little control
- Programmatic Risks: aims and objectives failure, or causing harm through intervention
- Institutional Risk: reputational, financial, and strategic risks internal to the Finnish support

4.1 Contextual risks

[Project document](#) lists seven contextual risks, some of which have realized. The risks are listed in the below table.

The actualized risks are further discussed below.

As a result of **political tensions** military conflicts in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions have taken place in 2021. COWASH has not been able to function normally in these regions. At the end of 2021 Tigray was still completely outside of COWASH activities.

The conflict spreading to Amhara, resulted in inaccessibility to 20 COWASH woredas in Amhara dur-

ing the last 6 months. As a result of the conflict, there has been significant destruction in Amhara and Afar. Thousands of schools, health facilities, government offices, public and private buildings, and other infrastructure such as water and electricity have been damaged. This has led to pressure to allocate Regional Government funds for re-building. Subsequently, Amhara re-allocated part of COWASH IV 2014 EFY plan human capacity building funds to physical capacity building. All woredas of Amhara were liberated from the Tigray Defense Force occupation by the end of 2021, but access is still limited and at the time of writing, it is estimated that 20 Amhara COWASH woredas will remain inaccessible in quarter 3 of 2014 EFY.

Implementation in 8 woredas in Oromia and 12 woredas in Tigray is still on standstill and completely inaccessible. Three COWASH woredas in Benishangul Gumuz (out of total 4 woredas) and 2 additional COWASH woredas in Oromia cannot be entered into without extreme care or military convoy.

The situation in Tigray is not expected to improve during the next 6 months and same problem is with the 10 woredas of Oromia and 3 woredas of Benishangul Gumuz. It means that COWASH cannot conduct full baseline surveys in all COWASH intervention areas. Execution of COWASH implementation in these 25 woredas in the next 6 months is not foreseen to take place.

The war in the northern part of the country and destruction caused is expected to have an impact

Table 16. The status of risks listed in the Project Document

Risk in PD	Status	Note
Political tensions reflecting ethnic divisions and varied experiences of conflict cause unrest among population groups	Actualized during Inception Phase	Impacted COWASH IV implementation significantly
Pandemics	Actualized during Inception Phase	Impacted COWASH IV implantation to some degree
Natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and drought	Not expected to affect the COWASH implementation in the next 6 months	No impact
Changes in financial environment	Actualized during Inception Phase	Impacted COWASH IV implantation to some degree
Parallel development assistance without building capacity	Not expected to affect the COWASH implementation in the next 6 months	No impact
Weak policies and practical understanding of encouraging private entrepreneurship	Not expected to affect the COWASH implementation in the next 6 months	No impact
Overly ambitious technical standards	Actualized during Inception Phase	Impacted COWASH IV implantation to some degree

on regional financing of COWASH activities. Regional government has already assessed the damages done for schools, health facilities, public buildings and urban infrastructure, but the possible damage done for rural water supply is still not yet done. Once the areas become accessible, COWASH can try to assess the damages as par of its baseline study. So far, the regions have not indicated the deductions of their commitments, but especially in Amhara region this problem is expected to come if the federal government does not allocate additional budget for war damage rehabilitation for Amhara region.

The FTAT was also directly affected by the security situation caused by the evacuation orders for international staff. The JPO was evacuated in November 2021 and was able to return only in Mid-January 2022. No international short-term consultancy staff could be mobilized to Ethiopia during the entire 9-months period. This impacted especially the work of the CTA, for which support short-term assistance support was planned especially in the fields of institutional WASH development and project management but did not materialize.

COVID 19 pandemic is still rampant in Ethiopia but does not significantly affect the work. Early on during the pandemic, the FTAT divided its staff into two groups, taking turns in the office to ensure safe distance office-hour working. Safety measures have been adhered to throughout. COWASH has been able to hold workshops and trainings of regional staff and movements because of Ethiopian COVID protocol is flexible and not significantly restricted. Some trainings were postponed due to FTAT members contracting the virus.

The **overly ambitious technical standards** became evident in school WASH construction. The existing standards affect the total investment costs and only very few school-WASH interventions can be implemented with the existing standard and budget. This issue has been discussed with the Ministry of Education and it is expected that the Ministry will issue separate instructions on how to decrease the costs by reducing some of the standards. Savings could be made e.g., by changing the requirements relating to superstructure material selection.

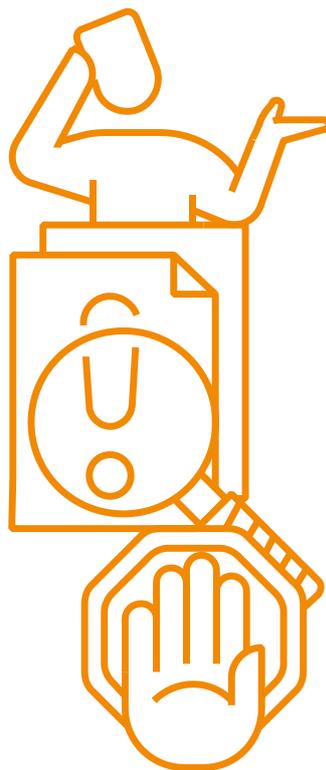
An additional contextual risk has developed due to the war in the North leading to the cancellation of

Ethiopia from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). AGOA has been at the core of United States economic policy and commercial engagement with Africa. AGOA agreement have had an impact to the Ethiopia's **financial environment**. The inflation has reached to over 30 % during the COWASH IV 9-months period and in the same period the value of the Ethiopian Birr towards the Euro has decreased by 6 Birr. The import of foreign products has become more difficult and expensive due to the non-availability of foreign currency and influence of the black market. The retail prices of timber, cement and iron bars has nearly doubled or even tripled during the 9-months period. This will have an impact on the volume and number of infrastructures planned to be built in COWASH IV.

4.2 Programmatic Risks

The Project document lists eight programmatic risks:

1. Inadequate Project engagement and provision towards specific WASH interventions at national level due to challenging priorities in different line Ministries
2. Difficult hydrogeological conditions
3. Sustainability of Project outcomes
4. Weak focus on WASH governance
5. Local fund allocations for human resources and operational costs remain deficient
6. Prioritisation of quantity over quality
7. Staff turnover and required/qualified human resources not in place
8. Weak focus on mainstreaming gender, equity, and inclusion



These are all real risks or challenges the project is facing all the time. The project is trying its best to handle and mitigate these risks during the planning stage and in trainings conducted. Most of the risks can be mitigated through the advocacy, trainings, and coordination to increase stakeholders and beneficiaries understanding and knowledge. COWASH IV behavioural

change component is one of the mitigation measures to solve especially the demand and sustainability.

4.3 Institutional Risks

The Project document lists four risk factors for the category of institutional risks:

- Low contribution to CWA may negatively affect Finland’s role as a WASH partner
- Low involvement of GoF to the newly introduced financial implementation modalities between MoF and BoFEC
- Institutional commitment to CMP implementation reduced
- Inability to absorb and/or mobilise agreed CMP budget and implementation plans

None of the four risks mentioned above have yet been realized. However, the probability of the risks #1 and #4 has increased. The agreed Ethiopian Government contribution to CWA is at risk. The same risk applies to COWASH (# 4), although not yet realized. The war in the North and the diminishing security situation in other parts of the country (Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz), has also had a **negative impact on CWA implementation**. The implementation in conflict or war-zone areas and in Tigray region has been totally halted and woredas affected have been inaccessible.

The involvement of the GoF in the implementation of the new financial arrangement is not a risk at all. The GoF has been deeply and actively contributing and influencing to the development and implementation of the new financing agreement between the MoF and Regional Finance Bureaus.

The delayed fund request (1.5 months) by the MoF and the Finnish Government’s hesitation to send funds to Ethiopia has delayed COWASH implementation in the regions. The time between the fund request from MoF and funds arrival from Finland was over 1.5 months. Half of the requested funds were sent, instead of EUR 2,9 million requested, EUR 1,5 million arrived, allowing only the necessary RSU operations, planning meetings and part of the planned human capacity building activities. The deducted amount was planned for physical capacity building of the regions, new zones and new woredas. Now the physical capacity building of new woredas (office equipment, construction equipment, motorbikes), which is essential for the WASH infrastructure construction will be postponed until the second half of the funds are transferred. This action delays the implementation of the procurement plan as the sent money is mainly used for the RSU operational costs, human capacity building and plan preparation. It is still unclear when the second half of the GoF funds of the first 6 months will arrive. This signals a decreasing trust between the governments, which leads to delays or non-commitment to the bilateral agreement.

The consultant has not observed any reduction in the interest of CMP implementation modality. CMP enjoys high priority in all COWASH regions.

The fourth risk is associated with the risk 4 of the contextual risks. It is to be seen in the next 6 months if the regions are capable to respond to their commitments.



5. CRITICAL ISSUES, REVISION NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

5.1 Split of the Regions and Woredas

The main challenges for COWASH IV interventions are internal conflict, split of regions, shortage of budget and foreign currency and price increase of construction materials and equipment. Although the current internal conflict, largely in the Northern and Western part of the country, is the main ob-

struction, split of project regions and woredas and shortage of regional budget are also pressing issues in COWASH IV implementation.

struction, split of project regions and woredas and shortage of regional budget are also pressing issues in COWASH IV implementation. One of the developments prior to and in the COWASH IV inception period is the split of SNNP in to three regions. Very recently, two referendums have been conducted in SNNP region- the first for the formation of Sidama region and the second for the formation of South-West (SW) Region. These referendums have split the former Southern Region into three regions: Sidama, SW, and SNNP. In 2020, Sidama Region, which was one of the administrative zones in the ex-SNNP, has been formed as the 10th administrative region of Ethiopia. This Ethiopian year, South-West region has become the 11th regional state of Ethiopia. This new region is formed by one special woreda (Konta Special woreda) and 5 administrative zones (West Omo, Benchi Sheko, Kaffa, Dawuro, and Sheka). The new SNNP region is having 11 administrative zones and 5 special woredas.



these two regions and incapacitate them to respond to the high WASH demands of the rural population under their jurisdiction.

Decisions could have been made by the regional WASH steering committee had the problem happened before the launching of the project in the woredas. Like in the Oromia region, the COWASH IV implementation in SNNP Region started in the 4th quarter of the previous fiscal year (2013 EFY) and implementation has progressed in all 13 woredas, including the 2 project woredas in South-West region. The timing of the launching of COWASH IV has exacerbated the budget shortage in these regions.

The practical implications of the above is that COWASH and the SNNP and SW Regions have to

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negotiate how and in which time-schedule this split is to be managed. A portion of the GoF budget to SNNP shall be re-allocated to the SW region. The SW region shall commit its regional government contribution for COWASH IV and COWASH IV has to establish GoF contribution. A financing agreement must be signed between the MoF and SW region Bureau of Finance. Accounts need to be opened and Regional Support Unit (RSU) is to be established (ToR prepared and staff employed), although it cannot have many staffs as SWR has only two COWASH woredas. Office equipment, construction equipment, and motorbikes are to be procured from the GoF contribution. FTAT can train the new SWT RSU staff during 2014 EFY fiscal year so that they are fully involved and knowledgeable of the planning for 2015 EFY. The two SW Region woredas would continue COWASH implementation under the SNNP regions guidance during 2014 EFY. COWASH IV Federal Steering Committee shall consider allocating additional budget for the SW Region from the contingency budget once the budget deficiency is known.

5.2 Restructuring of the Federal Ministries

During the Inception Phase, several important changes took place in the working environment at governmental level. The most important for COWASH was the dismantling of the Water Development Commission (WDC). In practice, this means that all COWASH operational issues must be taken to the state minister, while before these could be agreed with the directors under the WDC, who had signatory rights. This has, and will in future, lead to delays due to the high workload of the state minister, and hence his unavailability to sign off on daily routine decisions required.

The Ministry itself was also restructured, as Irrigation was removed from MoWIE, and Irrigation became its own ministry. This restructuring has taken a long time, and at the end of December 2021 the new structure still not yet fully agreed upon.

There has also been changes in important decision makers within the ministry. The long-standing Minister, Dr Seleshi Bekele, left and has been replaced by Dr Habtamu Itafa. The State Minister of Water and Sanitation, Dr Negash Wagesho, moved to the new South-West Region to take on the Presidency in November 2021. The new MoWE State Minister of water and sanitation, Ato Asfaw Dingamo, was appointed on January 12, 2022.

5.3 Oromia RSU dismantled and COWASH coordination re-organized

Also at regional level, changes have happened. In Oromia, COWASH IV coordination was transferred from the Community Participation and Stakeholders Coordination Directorate to the NGOs and Associations Coordination Directorate (a new directorate created within Oromia water bureau).

Most of the Oromia Phase III RSU staff contracts were not extended, with the exception of the Financial Specialist. The recruitment of new RSU is delayed to quarter 3 of 2014 EFY, which means that all woreda level training activities for COWASH-Oromia will be correspondingly delayed, until the staff has been recruited and received COWASH ToT.

5.4 Regional Government (GoE) budget shortage

In 2020, the six project regions, including Tigray region, committed to allocate investment and operational GoE budget for COWASH IV implementation. The project regions did not consider the risks of split of regions, woredas and internal conflict in Tigray region, Metekel and Kamashi zones of Benishangul Gumuz (BG) region, where two of the four COWASH IV BG woredas are located. There is also conflict emerging in some areas of the two COWASH IV zones of Oromia region: Horo Guduru Wollega and East Wollega. While the conflict in Metekel and Kamashi zones is contained in the zones, the conflict in Tigray expanded from Tigray to some Amhara and Afar zones bordering Tigray region. In the inception period, these conflicts have hampered COWASH IV implementation in several North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shoa

zones of Amhara region, as well as Pawe and Mizhiga woredas in the Metekel and Kamashi zones of BG region and Horo Guduru Wollega and East Wollega or Oromia region.

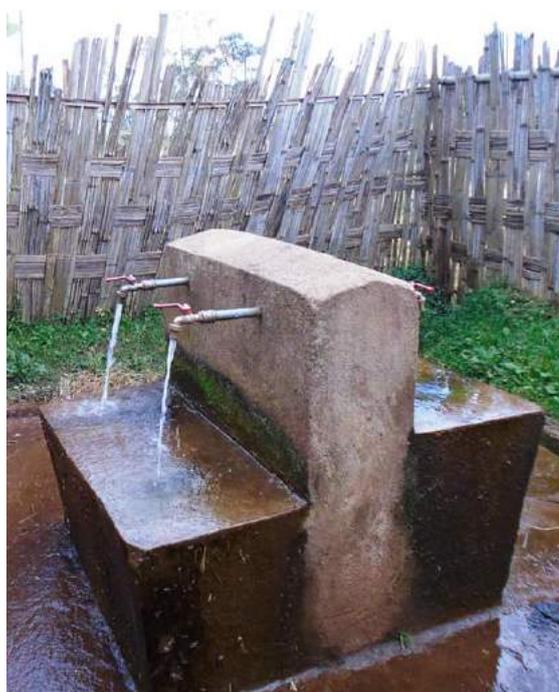
Implementation has not been started in Tigray due to the conflict and this conflict has also resulted in budget shortage in Amhara and BG regions. Due to the need for allocating funds for the emergency response for the conflict areas, these regions may fall short of GoE budget which they originally committed for COWASH IV. Overall, the escalation of the conflict will most probably have a direct effect on the budget of these regions in the implementation phase. Regions have not been willing to negotiate on the reduction of number of woredas due to their own internal, equality and political reasons. The only solution is to get more money for COWASH IV implementation either from the GoF or from other external sources.

Furthermore, the BG region has faced serious budget deficits. BG region committed ETB 80 million for COWASH IV, but BG region was able to allocate only ETB 1.1 million for 2014 EFY implementation. See table 15 above.

5.5 Revision of Amhara region Core Plan

5.5.1 Comparison of the Amhara original and revised core plans

Amhara submitted the draft annual core plan to the Federal FTAT on July 2, 2021. Thereafter the security situation changed in Amhara and the Amhara Regional WASH Steering Committee requested Amhara RSU to change the plan so that human capacity trainings were minimized as much as possible and the savings in the plan would be used more on physical capacity building. The main justification for the change was the high number of new woredas (24) and these woredas require physical capacity building items. In addition to this the Amhara RSU old cars are already 17 years old and most of them unrepairable. Therefore, the procurement of three new cars was included to the first-year core plan. This 2014 EFY revised plan was approved by



the Amhara Regional WASH Steering Committee at the end of September 2021.

The total budget of the core plan did not change. The change relates only to the capacity building budget, as demonstrated in the summary table 17 below.

The major changes in the budget thus relate to only to the capacity building budget, not the investment or operational budgets. Also, the total budget remains the same. The changes relate to (the details are shown in the excel file of Amhara Core Plan. Link to the plan is [here](#)).

Human capacity building

The human capacity building (trainings and workshops) budget in the revised plan decreased by ETB 10,591,033 as compared to the old plan. This translates into a reduced number of trainees in some trainings, and cancellation of some trainings & workshops.

Physical capacity building

The physical capacity building (procurements of items) budget in the revised plan increased by ETB 10,591,033. This relates to the need to increase the quantity of items to be procured. The major increase in the physical capacity building budget is the procurement of vehicles, for which ETB 9,369,760 is allocated in the revised plan. This is required as the number of vehicles to be procured has increased from 3 in the old plan to 5 in the revised plan and an increase in the unit price of one vehicle from ETB 4,000,000 in the old plan to ETB 4,273,952 in the revised plan. The Federal Steering Committee has anyhow proposed that all COWASH cars will be procured as bulk by the MoF with duty and tax free. If that will realise lots of savings in car procurement can be made and the remaining budget can be used for human capacity building.

5.5.2 Analysis of the impacts of the Amhara budget plan change

The impacts of reducing the human resource capacity building especially at the woreda and WASHCO level will have serious sustainability impacts or consequences. These consequences are analysed in the table 18.

Table 17. Amhara 2014 EFY budget plan comparison before and after revision

It. No.	Cost category	GoF budget in Birr		
		After revision	Before revision	Difference (After revision-Before revision)
	Total Investment Budget (I)	6,800,000	6,800,000	0
	Total Human Capacity Budget (H)	11,048,152	21,639,185	(10,591,033)
	Total Physical Capacity Budget (P)	30,648,646	20,057,613	10,591,033
	Total Operational Budget (O)	9,431,676	9,431,676	0
	Grand Total Annual Budget (I+H+P+O)	57,928,474	57,928,474	0

Table 18. Analysis of the impacts of Amhara plan changes

Change	Consequence
<p>ToT woreda level CMP appraisal and Climate Resilient screening training and reporting is cancelled. The new woredas do not have any training on how to conduct the appraisal and SECRSM, which are essential part for ensuring the ownership and sustainability</p>	<p>Basic principles of the CMP approach ignored, risking the sustainability of activities</p>
<p>Zone and woreda level new COWASH Financial Management Training costs reduced dramatically.</p>	<p>High risk of poor financial management</p>
<p>Water quality related trainings cancelled. All communication, documentation and Regional Communication Network trainings cancelled.</p>	<p>Water quality testing of each water point is mandatory, but according to this plan will not be carried out Water quality testing is at risk. 2014 EFY communication and documentation is at risk.</p>
<p>Disability inclusion training cancelled</p>	<p>Risk that projects are not all inclusive.</p>
<p>All Water Safety Planning trainings cancelled and WSP planned only as a pilot project, although the Phase IV was to apply blanket WSP approach</p>	<p>Sustainability at risk.</p>
<p>Open Defecation Free (ODF) trainings cancelled.</p>	<p>Sanitation targets achievement at risk.</p>
<p>WASHCO trainings for O&M, legalization and sanitation cancelled.</p>	<p>Sustainability and sanitation target achievement at risk.</p>
<p>Kebele WASH Team training on CMP management, Disability Inclusion, Menstrual Hygiene Management and Women empowerment cancelled.</p>	<p>Kebele support for COWASH, especially in new Kebeles at risk.</p>
<p>Region level disability inclusion awareness added to the plan.</p>	<p>This was done because of the special request from FTAT. Before it was not included. Disability inclusion requires high level support.</p>

5.5.3 Conclusion and recommendation

The rationale for the changes to the 2014 EFY plan stem from the increased need of support to the physical capacity building in the woredas located in the war zones of North Wollo, South Wollo and North Shoa of Amhara. The demand to increase the physical capacity building budget is understandable in the current situation. COWASH cars in Amhara are very old and not in good condition, therefore there is need for new car procurement to replace the old cars. The procurement of 3 additional cars takes the lions share from the physical capacity building budget. Anyhow, it is to be noted, that the decrease in the important human resource capacity building activities, which ensures equitable delivery of services, and supports the

Proposal: It is proposed that the Federal Steering Committee approves EUR 200,000 additional budget for Amhara from the existing contingency budget, to maintain the cancelled capacity building activities in the 2014 EFY plan.

5.6 Establishment of COWASH financial management at MoF

The project document clearly defines that the MoF shall employ Financial Specialist, whose task is to manage all GoF funds transferred through MoF. The budget for this purpose was allocated in the project document. FTAT prepared [ToR](#) for the Financial Management Specialist including a COWASH budget plan with MoF ([here](#)), and this was submitted to MoF by MoWE in the beginning of the inception Phase.

MoF has not yet employed the Financial Specialist. They have allocated the COWASH financial management responsibility to the existing One WASH Financial specialists contracted to MoF by the CWA.

MoWE requested in September 2021 MoF to request the first fund request from the MFA, The MoF opened the COWASH foreign currency account in October 2021. Because of the absence of the account the fund request to the Government of Finland was delayed until the November 1, 2021. GoF funds finally arrived on Mid-December 2021. The transfer of GoF funds to the regions has not yet (January 22, 2022) taken place.

MoF has not responded officially to the MoWE proposals to employ Financial Specialist. There is a need to discuss this thoroughly and MoF has to give guarantee, that if the Financial Specialist is not employed the present arrangement does not pose any risk of delays to implement the tasks defined in the [ToR](#) of the Financial Specialist.

proper functionality and sustainability of the achieved results, is risking the constructed infrastructure sustainability.

It is important to mention that Amhara's own budget contribution in the 2014 EFY plan is ETB 65,061,461. This is 23 % of the total committed amount ETB 288,000,000 for the 4-years of Phase IV. Regardless of the present situation, this amount of regional government own budget contribution for COWASH is still made available. It shows strong ownership and commitment for COWASH. See table 15 above and compare with other regions.



5.7 The independence of the Regional Support Unit

The project Document defines in Chapter 4.3.2 as follows: *“RSUs are established at Water Bureaux and work as independent sub-units of RWCOs. RSUs will have full control of its human, physical and financial resources and these shall not be used for other activities outside the COWASH IV implementation in the region.”*

During the financial management manual training the MoF representatives raised the issue about the RSU autonomy and RSU accounts. According to the MoF, since the project is in Channel 1, all fund management should adhere to the government structure and accounts are to be signed by Government staff (bureau heads, deputy and others), unless there is a specific decision made by the governing body of the project for others, such as RSUs, to open and sign accounts.

It was concluded that the decision is to be made by the Federal WASH Steering Committee and after which the RWSC also approves the autonomy and opening of separate account for the RSU to be managed by the RSU team leaders and other staff.

The experience varies now between the regions as follows:

1. In Amhara, the RSU is semi-autonomous. It has a TIN number and accounts are signed by the RSU team leader and the cashier.
2. In BG and SNNP, the RSU has a separate account opened and signed by the water bureau head and deputy.
3. In Oromia the RSU does not have separate account and it uses the account opened by the water bureau for all COWASH activities to be managed by the water bureau.

It is to be noted that the RSU autonomy is not only for managing funds but also for managing assets, such as vehicles, which can support the RSU work effectively.

5.8 Payment for the regional government personnel

COWASH, as a bi-lateral project, has been able to compensate some of the extra COWASH work required by regional government personnel in the form of travelling or communication allowances, as stipulated in the respective RWSC decisions. Now as COWASH IV is a Channel 1 project, these kinds of allowances are no more allowed. The pressure for compensation remains, especially as COWASH is a dynamic project, its performance depending on the inputs and activeness of the regional gov-

ernment personnel in the regions, zones and woredas. Especially the Woreda CMP Supervisor, who is responsible for COWASH implementation in the woreda, carries many extra responsibilities, but it is not compensated for this additional work in any way. This will, in the long run, put COWASH success at risk at the field level.

5.9 Lack of GoF funds in the regions

Due to the above-mentioned delay in fund transfers to the Regions, there has been no funds to pay the salaries of RSU staff at the end of the 6-months reporting period of 2014 EFY. For this reason, the GoF allocated Phase III rolled over money from Phase III in Finland to pay the RSU salaries to the end of September 2021. Some regions had some savings and paid salaries longer, some even to the end of the year. Others, such as BG and Amhara, had used all their funds by October, whereafter the RSU staff have not been paid. Most of the staff, including support staff, have remain in their duties nevertheless, in trust that the situation will be solved, and the unpaid salaries will be compensated to them later. In the new Region, Sidama, the lack of funds led to that the RSU has not yet been established, while preparations, such as drafting the RSU posts advertisements and draft detailed plans, for the implementation is being carried out by the Water Bureau experts.

The lack of funds has also affected the operations at regional level, since there have not been funds to carry out field work for supervision and monitoring, nor funds to organize training and other capacity building at woreda level. The same applies to joint detailed planning workshops, which is delayed in most regions, which also delays the fund transfers to woredas.

5.10 Procurement of vehicles for COWASH IV

COWASH IV procurement plan includes the procurement of 13 cars from which 11 are for the regions and 2 for the FTAT. The COWASH Steering Committee meeting in June decided that MoWE can procure the cars, but before doing it MoF shall provide the permission for duty-free purchase and instructions for the procurement process. This issue has not been finalized and the cars have not yet been procured (situation Dec 31, 2021). MoWE has send another letter in January 2022 to MoF to accelerate the procurement process. The funds for the car procurement are included to the deducted amount of first money transfer from Finland and in order to carry out the procurement the second half of the first transfer request is needed to be transferred to MoF from MFA.

5.11 Contract variation to share CTA inputs with FCDO scrs project

In August, NIRAS was informed that it had won the tender for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the British Government funded "Strengthening Climate Resilient WASH Systems Technical Assistance Project (SCRS WASH TAP)". This project started on October 6, 2021. The CTA of COWASH had also been proposed as the Technical Director in SCRS (before COWASH IV bidding) and NIRAS had expected this FCDO project to have been cancelled, since a long time had elapsed from its tender (more than a year) date. This created a dilemma. The CTA was now full-time appointed to COWASH IV. Meanwhile, all stakeholders agreed, that it would be mutually beneficial for the COWASH CTA to also have the technical director role in SCRS, creating synergies between the projects supported by different donors.

Therefore, NIRAS presented a plan for supporting the CTA in COWASH IV with short-term consultancy inputs, reallocating 157 days of CTA inputs into international and local short-term consultancy days. The plan was modified based on Client comments, and finally approved and formulated into Contract Amendment 1.

However, due to the travel restrictions established by the international community, the international short-term consultancy recruitment has been delayed and only some local short-term support to the CTA has been possible. At the end of the year, as the international travel restrictions were withdrawn, two international travel consultant ToR and proposed candidates have been presented to the Steering Committee for approval, but due to changes in the SC Chairperson, the approvals have been delayed. At the time of writing, they are still pending, and mobilization of the experts is further delayed.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Federal Steering committee meets, discusses, and decides the following:

- 1** Approval of the inclusion of South-West region to the COWASH IV. The financial details of the new region's Inclusion to COWASH IV will be defined and decided in 2014 EFY.
- 2** Approval of the RSU independency to have its own TIN number and own account.
- 3** Approval of the principles on the payments to the regional government staff who play important implementing role and work extra miles in the COWASH implementation such as: Regional COWASH Director/Coordinator, COWASH accountants at BoFEC managing COWASH funds, CMP specialists seconded to COWASH from Regional water bureau, etc.
- 4** Approval of the principle of the Bureau of Finance reporting responsibility to FTAT on the Regional Government contribution to COWASH IV.
- 5** Approval of the additional EUR 200,000 funds from the Government of Finland contribution to Amhara Region 2014 EFY budget plan.
- 6** The BG region is in difficult situation and cannot fulfill its commitments towards COWASH IV financial contribution. BG region committed ETB 80 million for COWASH IV, but BG region was able to allocate only ETB 1.1 million for 2014 EFY implementation. Federal COWASH Steering Committee to find solution for the adequate finance of BG WASH implementation of COWASH IV.
- 7** Bulk, duty- and tax-free procurement of 13 field cars for RSUs and FTAT.
- 8** Use of the Exchange Rate gain. It is proposed to cover the budget deficit of some regions, such as Benishangul Gumuz and the South-West regions.

COMMUNITY-LED ACCELERATED WASH (COWASH) PROJECT PHASE IV (2021-2024)



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Changes and revisions to the COWASH IV Project Document (PD)

In the project document says that the total grant by Finnish Government: EUR 18,400,000 and the total contribution of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: ETB 757,575,000, equivalent to approximately EUR 20,475,000. This EUR amount was derived by using exchange rate 1 EUR=ETB37.

Today the Government of Finland contribution to the COWASH IV is EUR 18,961,341 (EUR 18,400,000 from the document + roll over funds from the regions and from Finland EUR 561,341. The roll over funds from the regions were ETB 25,531,863.23 and from Finland EUR 88,529).

Similarly, the regional government contribution has increased to ETB 1,178,251 896. This is EUR 21,819,480 with the exchange rate of 1 EUR = ETB 54.

It is to be noted that the EUR-ETB exchange rate has changed from the 37 to 56.6 today (23 Jan 2022).

This means that the budget reserved for the regional governments from Finland is changed. The budgets reserved for the Federal Technical Assistance Team and the budget reserved for MoF and MoWE have not been changed.

In the document the regional government budget from GoF funds was EUR 13,854,000. When the roll-over additions are made, the total GoF budget for the regional governments becomes EUR 14,415,341.

Executing Agencies:

The project document lists the executing agencies as follows:

- Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy
- Amhara Bureau of Water
- Benishangul-Gumuz Bureau of Water
- Oromia Bureau of Water
- SNNP Bureau of Water
- Tigray Bureau of Water
- Sidama Bureau of Water

Today, the executing Agencies are:

- Ministry of Water and Energy (Name and structure changed)
- Amhara Water, Irrigation and Energy Resources Development Bureau.
- Benishangul-Gumuz Water, Irrigation and Energy Resources Development Bureau.
- Oromia Water and Energy Bureau
- SNNP Water, Mines and Energy Development Bureau.
- Tigray Bureau of Water
- Sidama Water and Irrigation Development Bureau.
- South-West Water, Mines and Energy Bureau (will be added to COWASH IV as 7th region during 2014 EFY)

This means that COWASH IV will have 7 regions instead of 6 regions.

COWASH IV Result Framework

The COWASH IV Results Framework proposed in the Project Document (PD) has been revised in a way that COWASH IV data are aligned with SDG requirements and considering the rural WASH situation of the country. The revised system considers the COWASH III Results-Based M&E (RBM&E) system, which covers the planning, monitoring, and reporting processes, considering the changed results framework, and incorporating the recommendations given on COWASH III implementation. COWASH IV Results Framework and performance monitoring plan can be found [here](#). The main reasons for modifying the Results framework are:

- Some Outcomes and Outputs in the PD were generalized and congested;
- Some Outcomes and Outputs in the PD were not included in the framework, like Full WASH. COWASH IV wants to implement Full WASH approach;
- It was necessary to make the Results Framework implementable considering the existing WASH situation of the country and SDG.

A separate “[Indicator Reference Sheet](#)” or “Indicator Definition Book” that defines, describes, and clarifies the COWASH IV indicators has been developed. The indicators are explained or defined to have common understanding of the M&E staff on the required data thereby removing ambiguity in the data collection at the grassroots level.

ANNEX 2

Changes made to the M&E Framework of the Project Document (PD) during the development of final Phase IV M&E Framework

Impact statement in the project documents	Impact statement in M&E Framework	Remarks
“Improved public health and well-being, social development and climate resilience in the communities in the Project area”	“Improved public health and well-being, social development and climate resilience in the communities in the Project area”	Same
Phase IV expected outcome in the project document	Phase IV expected goal in the M&E Framework	Remarks
“Increased and sustained coverage of safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of selected woredas.”	“Increased and sustained coverage of safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of selected woredas.”	Project document talks outcome, M&E Framework talks about GOAL
Result Area 1: Community Water Supply	OUTCOME 1; COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY	Remarks
Outcome 1 Increase of rural population in selected woredas served by safely managed water supply services	OUTCOME 1: INCREASED & SUSTAINED ACCESS OF SAFE CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS OF PROJECT WOREDAS	Difference in definition of result area and outcome. The PD definition uses OWNPN II/CWA criteria. The M&E Framework uses both SDG & OWNPN II/CWA as the criteria.
Outputs of Result Area 1	Outputs of Outcome 1	Remarks

Output 1.1 Rural population in selected woredas provided with new safe water supply or with upgraded service level to comply with OWNP II/CWA criteria – on demand basis	Output 1.1: Rural population in project woredas provided with new climate resilient safe water supply or with upgraded service level as per the design to comply with SDG service level	The PD definition uses OWNP II/ CWA criteria. The M&E Framework uses SDG as the criteria.
Output 1.2 Improved functionality of rural water supply in Project regions	Output 1.2: Improved Functionality of Rural Community Water Supply through Different Interventions in the Project Woredas	M&E Framework definition is more elaborative

Result Area 2: Household Sanitation	OUTCOME 2: HOUSEHOLD SANITATION	Remarks
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Outcome 2: Increased access to and usage of improved household latrines and increased practice of handwashing with soap in selected woredas)	OUTCOME 2: INCREASED ACCESS TO AND USAGE OF IMPROVED HOUSEHOLD LATRINES & INCREASED PRACTICE OF HANDWASHING WITH SOAP IN COWASH IV WATER SUPPLY BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS OF PROJECT WOREDAS	M&E Framework definition is more elaborative and mentions hand washing with soap separately so that it is understood that it is part of household sanitation. M&E Framework uses SDG criteria.
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Outputs of Result Area 2	Outputs of Outcome 2	Remarks
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Output 2.1 Coordinated and effective sanitation and hygiene demand creation and BC activities in woredas with a sanitation marketing pilot	Output 2.1: Increased number of accessible and improved household latrines as per SDG service level	PD Output’s sanitation marketing is included in the Output 4.4 of the M&E Framework. M&E Framework output also includes the demand creation activities and latrine products.
Output 2.2 Improved latrine products developed which are of good quality and attractive to households developed	Output 2.2: Increased number of household level handwashing facilities and handwashing practices with soap & water	PD output’s sanitation marketing is included in the Output 4.4 of the M&E Framework. M&E Framework Output gives emphasis to hand hygiene.
Output 2.3 Points-of-sale for improved latrine products established in sanitation marketing pilot woredas	Output 2.3: Increased access to credit services for household sanitation and hygiene products	PD Output’s sanitation marketing is included in the Output 4.4 of the M&E Framework. M&E Framework Output includes the PD output 2.4
Output 2.4 Financing strategy for household improved latrine construction in place)		PD output 2.4 is included in the M&E Framework Output 2.3
Output 2.5 WASH sector stakeholders from regional to kebele level have strengthened capacity to plan for and implement sanitation and hygiene behaviour change activities in the selected regions, with a special emphasis on inclusion of persons with disabilities, women and girls, and the poor		PD Output 2.5 is included in different Outcomes & Outputs of the M&E Framework: Outcome 2, Output 2.1; Outcome 4, Output 4.1 & Outcome 5, Output 5.3

Result Area 3: Institutional WASH	OUTCOME 3 INSTITUTIONAL WASH	Remarks
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Outcome 3: improved hygiene at schools and health centres by narrowing the gap in institutional water supply and sanitation and making better use of existing sanitation facilities in rural areas in selected woredas	OUTCOME 3: IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL WASH BY NARROWING THE GAP IN IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL LATRINE, CLIMATE RESILIENT AND SAFE WATER SUPPLY, AND MHM	M&E Framework Outcome elaborates more on climate resilience and menstrual hygiene management (MHM).
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Outputs of Result Area 3	Outputs of Outcome 3	Remarks
Output 3.1: Rural schools and health facilities provided with safely managed water services for drinking and cleaning	Output 3.1: Rural schools (with improved latrines) provided with innovative, climate resilient and inclusive safely managed water services and MHM with handwashing with water storage from COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output makes separate output for school water supply financed by the GoF or GoE (latrine exists at school). Innovative technical solutions are part of the package.
Output 3.2: innovative technical solutions experimented for supplying water in difficult conditions	Output 3.2: Rural schools (with safe water supply) provided with safely managed latrines with handwashing with water storage and MHM as per the design from COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output is separate for the school latrine financed from the Regional Government budget (water supply exists at the school). Innovative technical solutions are part of the package.
Output 3.3: functionality and sustainability of institutional water supply secured	Output 3.3: Rural health institutions (with improved latrines) provided with innovative, climate resilient and inclusive safely managed water services with handwashing and water storage from COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output makes separate output for health facilities water supply financed by the GoF or GoE (latrine exists at health institution). Innovative technical solutions are part of the package.
Output 3.4: hygiene, functionality, and sustainability of school and health centre water, sanitation, and handwash facilities improved	Output 3.4: Rural health institutions (with water supply) provided with safely managed latrines with handwashing facility with water storage as per the design from COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output is separate for the health facility latrine financed from the Regional Government budget (water supply exists at the health institution). Innovative technical solutions are part of the package.
Output 3.5: enabling physical, social, and cultural environment for menstrual hygiene management improved at schools	Output 3.5: Schools provided with Full WASH service package* with the support of COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output is for the GoE financed schools which do not have water, latrine, handwashing and MHM. Innovative technical solutions are part of the package.
	Output 3.6: Health Facilities provided with Full WASH service package* with the support of COWASH IV	M&E Framework Output is for the GoE financed health facilities which do not have water, latrine, handwashing and MHM. Innovative technical solutions are part of the package
	Output 3.7: Improved functionality and management of rural institutional WASH (water supply, latrine, handwashing, and MHM) through different various interventions (treatment, monitoring, WSP, availability of spare part supply, private sector, WASH clubs, PTAs & Health Committees) in Project Woredas	M&E Framework Output compiles the PD Outputs of 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5
Result Area 4: Strategic Learning and Dissemination	OUTCOME 4: SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY	Remarks
Outcome 4: Project achievements documented via learning activities and shared strategically to enhance the impact of COWASH IV on WASH sector policies and practices	OUTCOME 4: SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY OF ACHIEVED WASH OUTCOMES ENHANCED	PD Outcome is included in the M&E Framework Outcome 5. M&E Framework Outcome is additional and focusing on sustainability and inclusivity

Outputs of Result Area 4	Outputs of Outcome 4	Remarks
Output 4.1: Learning activities and processes integrated and facilitated throughout all major Project components	Output 4.1: Human Capacity of COWASH IV Stakeholder holders for WASH implementation enhanced	The PD Output is managed in Outputs of Outcome 5 M&E Framework Output is additional focusing on human capacity building
Output 4.2: Learning facilitated and shared internally	Output 4.2: Physical Capacity of COWASH IV Stakeholders for WASH implementation enhanced	The PD Output is managed in Outputs of Outcome 5. M&E Framework Output is additional focusing on physical capacity building
Output 4.3: Evidence and lessons from COWASH IV disseminated strategically among key WASH sector stakeholders	Output 4.3: Women empowerment and disability inclusion in WASH management enhanced	The PD Output is managed in Outputs of Outcome 5. M&E Framework Output is additional focusing on women empowerment and disability inclusion and including the PD Output 3.5
	Output 4.4: Private sector support for WASH implementation enhanced	M&E Framework Output compiles and includes the PD Outputs of 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4
Result area 5	OUTCOME 5: MANAGEMENT, LEARNING AND DOCUMENTATION	Remarks
	OUTCOME 5: COWASH IV IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTIVELY MANAGED, LESSONS LEARNT, DOCUMENTED, COMMUNICATED, AND SHARED AND PUT INTO ACTION	This M&E Framework Outcome includes the PD Outcome 4 and is included under the outcome into the output 5.3
Outputs of Result Area 5	Outputs of Outcome 5	Remarks
	Output 5.1: Implementation Guidelines and Manuals prepared and implemented	This additional Output summarises all guidelines and manuals produced
	Output 5.2: Project Implementation Monitored and Performances Reviewed	This additional Output illustrates the necessity of project monitoring and performance review processes.
	Output 5.3: Project Implementation Progress and Achievements Documented and Disseminated	This Output replaces the PD Outcome 4 and includes the PD Outputs of 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
	Output 5.4: Project budget effectively managed	Added Output for financial allocation and performance

ANNEXE 3

COWASH IV Inception Progress Report (Dec 31, 2021)

Task/ item	Narration	Responsible person/unit	Planned completion date	In progress (x means ok)	Completed (x means ok)
A Operational facilities and human resources in place					
Project Long-Term TA staff fielded	MFI/MSE Specialist started May 24, 2021. Behavioral Change and Water Safety Planning Specialists started in June 2021. Communications specialist left the project and new recruitment took place in September- November, contract to be signed.	CTA/HOC	Apr-21		X
Partner organization staff appointed and working; counterpart assigned to the TA	Draft ToR for MoF Financial Specialist prepared but not yet approved. The employment of Financial Specialist for MoF not yet started.	MoWIE and MoF	N.A	X	
One staff member in place with knowledge on local regulations and conditions (local tax laws, banking arrangements, other relevant requirements)	Niras Financial Director in Ethiopia and COWASH Office Manager put in place	Niras Finland	Apr-21		X
Programme / project bank account opened, signatories agreed and professional accounting software in use (in line with local regulations)	Niras Finland/COWASH bank account opened in AWASH bank. Access Database created and in use., accountant trained.	CTA/HOC	Apr-21		X
A local employer status organization identified (with respect to local professional and support staff), and necessary VAT exempt codes and other formalities with tax and other relevant authorities in the Partner Country	TIN number received from the Revenue and Niras registered as income tax, pension and withholding tax payer. Also withholding tax receipts printed and taken into use.	CTA and Niras Ethiopia	Apr-21		X
Recruitment strategy and process agreed; recruitment process for the Programme's support staff has been completed, contracts issued and insurances in place to all support staff members and all staff working.	Recruitment strategy and guideline agreed. Support staff employed and insurances organized.	CTA	Apr-21		X
Recruitment process for the Programme's National TA staff has been completed, contracts issued and insurances in place to all staff members and all staff working.	CTA, GDI, MEL, CMP, CD, MFI/MSE, BCS, CDS and WSP Specialists employed and insurances organized.	CTA/HOC	Apr-21		X
One staff member has expertise and responsibility to monitor HRBA compliance and implementation of the cross-cutting objectives as a delegated responsibility from CTA	Gender and Disability Inclusion Specialist (GDIS) selected for this responsibility. One national short term consultant proposed to support GDIS in this.	CTA	Apr-21		X

Project Office established and connected with electricity, internet, phone connections secured, project web page open	Project office in MoWE established and internet and web page secured. It is anyhow too small for the entire TA Team.	CTA/State Minister	Apr-21	X
	Discussions held with State Minister to provide additional space for the TA team. Additional office was provided for two FTAT staff members.		Sep-21	X
Project Office established and connected with electricity, internet, phone connections secured, project web page open	Project office in MoWE established and internet and web page secured. It is anyhow too small for the entire TA Team.	CTA/State Minister	Apr-21	X
	Discussions held with State Minister to provide additional space for the TA team. Additional office was provided for two FTAT staff members.		Sep-21	X
First outline of the procurement guide developed (final version be included in the PIM); agreement on which procurement methods to follow (Finnish or local)	Federal TA team procurement follows the Finnish procurement guidelines. This was included to the Federal TA Team Project Administration Manual (PAM). This manual is finalized.	CTA	Sep-21	X
	Regions will follow the Regional Government Procurement guidelines. Separate Guideline for Community procurement prepared and finalized			X
Equipment and furniture for Project Office and Project Staff procured, delivered and installed (including computers)	All existing staff has been fully equipped. When new staff will arrive they will be equipped accordingly.	CTA	Apr-21	X
Procurement of project vehicles completed and vehicles delivered and registered	Embassy of Finland and MoWE have sent letters to the MoF requesting MoF to facilitate the car procurement of 13 cars for FTAT and regions without taxes and duties as decided in the COWASH steering committee meeting in June 2021. No response received from MoF. Procurement of new vehicles is still pending.	CTA	May-21	X
Steering Committee members identified; schedule for initial meetings defined	First extraordinary SC meeting conducted in April 24, 2021. Second extraordinary SC meeting conducted on May 24, 2021. Third, 2-days Steering committee meeting with regions was conducted in June 2021.	CTA	Apr-21	X

B Project Management, Planning and Monitoring systems in place

Home Office Coordinator support mission (1-2 weeks) in relation to support the establishment of the programme/ project administrative and management structures	Due to the COVID and vaccination issues the HOC could not travel to Ethiopia. But intensive follow up and assistance provided on distance.	HOC	Apr-21	X
A simple workplan for the inception phase approved by the PMT.	Inception work plan reviewed by the PMT and revision made.	CTA	Apr-21	X

Broad and equal participation opportunities are arranged particularly for women and vulnerable groups in all preparatory activities.	Project team includes one person with disability and two women at the moment. In recruitment of remaining staff this issue will be taken care.	CTA/GDIS	Apr-21	X
Staff provided with informal discussions and formal meetings on the project purpose, its working environment and its risks.	One day Induction workshop with the staff conducted and all employment and integrity related issues discussed	CTA/HOC	Apr-21	X
An initial Kick-off Workshop has been organised and attended by the main stakeholders (for initial information sharing about the Project / Programme)	COWASH IV kick-off meeting was organized on May 27, 2021 and was a success.	CTA	May-21	X
All levels of levels of project management and decision-making structures have been established (PMT, SC, SB) and are operational	GoF budget allocation to the regions was approved by the extraordinary Steering Committee on May 24, 2021. Regional Steering Committees are functional and established in 5 regions. Tigray region is on hold.	CTA/Federal SC and Regional SCs	Jun-21	X
All decisions necessary for starting activities for the first year prepared (e.g. field / district assessments, selection of target communities and other critical decisions) alongside the first year workplan and budget. These are presented and approved to the SC.	The work plans for the first 3 months have been accomplished and prepared at Federal level and in 5 regions. This 3 months plan at region level is using the Phase III budget.	CTA/RSUs	Apr-21	X
	The first annual plan of 2014 EFY work plans by 5 regions and federal level have been completed. Planning Workshop with 6 regions was organised in June 2021. Regional Steering committees have approved the 2014 EFY core plans.		Jun-21	X
Terms of Reference prepared for the Baseline Data Report (minimum requirement: data for impact, outcome and output indicator data in actual Programme villages/units on a sample basis), Service Provider / External Consultant approved by SB; Baseline data collection underway; data disaggregated.	The baseline data collection was postponed due to the security situation. The Baseline has been split in half and will be procured in two-three lots. The first and second lot will include SNNP and Sidama, and Oromia, and will be outsourced during January 2022	CTA/MEL	Dec-21	X
M&E plan in place and M&E responsibilities further developed and agreed based on the Result Chain and Results Framework of the PD	M&E framework has been finalised and ready for sharing. Main outcomes and outputs as well as indicators as well as targets for the Phase IV for federal and 5 regions have been established.	MEL	Nov-21	X
Procurement plan prepared and presented to the SB for approval	There is no procurement plan needed at Federal level. Only major procurement at Federal level is the procurement of cars, and that is pending due to the tax/duties issue. Regions procuremeent plans are part of the 2014 EFY annual plan and approved.	CTA	Sep-21	X

<p>Project Implementation Manual (PIM) has been produced and presented to the SB for approval (in case of 2nd and 3rd phase projects: PIM reviewed and updated as necessary)</p>	<p>The PIM of COWASH is a combination of several manuals. The main manual is the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial Management Manual for GoF fund management. This has been completed. Other related and completed manuals, which form the PIM, are the 2. Federal TA team Project Admin Manual, 3. Regional RSU ToR, 4. CMP implementation manual for GoE funds using the MFI channel (includes the community procurement guideline) 5. CMP implementation manual for GoE funds using the Woreda Finance office channel (used in Sidama and SNNP) 6. CMP implementation manual for GoF funds used for institutional WASH and using the Woreda Financed Office channel 7. National short term consultant selection process. 	CTA	Oct-21	X
<p>The annual work plan and budget for the 1st operational year has been prepared and approved by the Steering Committee.</p>	<p>Annual plans of 5 regions and federal level for 2014 EFY have been finalized.</p>	CTA/MEL and RSUs in 6 regions	Sep-21	X
<p>Inception Report has been prepared and approved by the SC.</p>	<p>Inception report prepared in January 2022</p>	CTA/HOC	Dec. 21	X
<p>An Inception Workshop has been organised and attended by the main stakeholders to disseminate information about the PIM, Annual Work Plan and Budget, Baseline and planning, management and monitoring tools of the programme, and instructions for potential beneficiaries on support available (grant calls, application to training courses, etc.)</p>	<p>FTAT has visited in May the SNNP, and SIDAMA and discussed with officials of the start up of COWASH IV. Separate planning workshop was organized in October in SNNP. FTAT visited also Tigray in May and discussed with officials the extraordinary situation of Tigray. Tigray needs special planning as conventional implementation is not possible there. Inclusion of Tigray is on hold until the Tigray crisis is solved. Separate Inception workshop of COWASH will be organized in February 2022.</p>	FTAT/RSUs	Jul-21	X
<p>C Project approach finalized</p>				
<p>Local ownership, wide partnerships and problem-oriented flexible operational modality designed.</p>	<p>COWASH is using CMP approach which also includes strong local ownership of the projects implemented. The problem oriented flexible operational modality is already built in COWASH IV.</p>	CTA/RSUs	Apr-21	X
<p>Results Chain (including activities) reviewed and updated; Results Framework reviewed and finalized and submitted for the SC/SVB for approval. Programme document reviewed as necessary.</p>	<p>Results Framework is ready and is submitted for approval in January 2022</p>	CTA/MEL	Dec-21	X

<p>Baseline Report available; Based on the Baseline report, annual and end-of-project indicator targets for all results presented to the SC and SB</p>	<p>Baseline postponed and split into three lots. First and second Lot will be implemented early 2022.</p>	<p>CTA/MEL</p>	<p>Feb 2022</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>Risk matrix and analyses and mitigation measures reviewed and finalized</p>	<p>This is still pending until all regions have been visited and issues discussed with the regional SC members.</p>	<p>CTA/HOC</p>	<p>May-21</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>Gender and human rights analyses are revisited (based on the initial analysis in the PD) and their integration in project logic, approach, activities and M&E is ensured; priority areas and crosscutting objectives have been taken into account in resourcing.</p>	<p>This is all taken care in the process of preparation of M&E Framework and monitoring plan.</p>	<p>CTA/MEL/ GDIS</p>	<p>Jun-21</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>System for learning is established: Programme Document has milestones for learning like internal monitoring workshops and mid-term reviews.</p>	<p>This will be established in the Communication and Learning Strategy under preparation. The regional part of it was discussed with regions on June 11-14 planning workshop. The learning strategy will be developed in February 2022 when the employment of the new Communication specialist is finalised.</p>	<p>CDS</p>	<p>Jun-21</p>	<p>X</p>	

ANNEX 4

Summary of the Overall WASH sector development in Ethiopia

1.1 One WASH National Programme and Consolidated WASH Account

To address the challenges faced by the WASH sector, the Government of Ethiopia initiated and supported the establishment of the One WASH National Programme (OWNP) in 2013. OWNP is a national model for planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of the WASH sector. It has created an opportunity to witness coordination, harmonisation, partnership, and alignment in the WASH programme implementation with the objective of achieving one plan, one budget and one report for the whole programme in Ethiopia.

OWNP was built on WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) and the MoU for it was signed by the four ministries of water, financier, health and education. The first phase of OWNP (OWNP I) started in July 2014. OWNP II was approved November 2018 when OWNP I program ended.

The cornerstone of the OWNP is the Consolidated Annual WASH Plan (CAP), which includes a budget. Progress in achieving goals of the plan is reported in quarterly and annual progress and utilisation reports at Federal, regional, city, zonal, woreda and town levels. OWNP has been designed to have a financing system through three channels:

- Channel 1 – Consolidated WASH Account (CWA), in which donors contribute to a basket fund that is managed by MoF;
- Channel 2 – Cash transfer by DPs, NGOs or other organisations directly to government implementing partners in the water, health and education sectors; and
- Channel 3 – Direct implementation by DPs, NGOs or other organisations as per project agreements with the respective WASH sector offices.

GoE encourages Development Partners (DPs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), training institutions, the private sector, community members and other stakeholders to channel contributions to the Consolidated WASH Account (CWA) at the Federal level. Donor contributions are channelled to a specific foreign currency account at the National Bank of Ethiopia. Yet, OWNP encompasses the whole WASH sector activities, not just the contribution from the CWA. Finland formally joined the OWNP/CWA group in 2017.

OWNP has helped in the development of an enabling environment in the sector strategy development, established a system for programme coordination and integration, enhanced sector capacity development and enabled accelerated provision of WASH services. Creating a learning ground through sector coordination fora, conducting Joint Technical Reviews (JTRs), undertaking research, studies and surveys has also contributed to a better way to achieving results. The setup of a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) under the OWNP has accelerated progress in the sector.

1.2 Ethiopian 10 years development plan (2013-2022EFY) for the WASH Sector

The 10 years plan has taken in to account the strengths and weaknesses of previous plans, the nation's vision for 2030, national policies and strategies, and the commitment to global sustainable development goals (SDG).

The plan touches all aspects of the development of Ethiopia and its citizens and focuses on various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, urban development, energy, WASH, innovation, and technology.

The WASH sector plan was prepared first by evaluating the sector performance at the end of 2012EFY (2020/21) which is the baseline year for the development plan. Based on the evaluation the national access to safe drinking water in rural areas reached 78.7%, in urban areas 65.5% and an overall access to safe drinking water supply (both for rural and urban) 75.9% as per the GTP II standard. Institutional water supply access (to safe drinking water) reached 23% of the schools, 76 % of health posts and 44% of health centers respectively. Rural sanitation coverage was only 28%. The plan also used the 2010EFY (2017/18) WASH inventory data which showed 19% non-functionality rate of water supply schemes. The challenges of the planning include low service level, limited budget and low level of budget utilization, limitation in technical capacity of the government and the private sector, the town water supply network cannot keep up with the population growth rate, lack of well-established database, lack of strong sanitation policy and weak institutional capacity.

The document also analyses the important elements of the sector's performance which are mainly natural resources, institutional capacity, human resources, financial resources, and an enabling environment. The above elements are the ones which enable the implementation of the sector plan.

The focus areas of the WASH sector in the development plan include:

- Distribute safe drinking water and sanitation in areas where access is not available.
- Expand Climate resilience Water Supply Projects.
- Carry out renovations, maintenance for existing drinking water facilities to sustainably provide services.
- Use renewable energy drinking water supply option as a source of energy for rural drinking water facilities.
- Strengthen urban drainage systems and build the necessary infrastructure.
- Expand urban and rural sanitation services to create a clean Ethiopia.
- Create a conducive workplace with information technology and streamline information exchange
- Seek funding from various development partners and stakeholders for the implementation of the plan.
- Increase access to drinking water and sanitation services and the participation of women and persons with disabilities and special needs in the management of institutions.
- Focus on providing safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services to those affected by man-made and natural disasters.
- Support the sector in pastoral areas in areas that require special support.
- Creating conducive working environment and structures, and cascading of the roles and responsibilities of the different statehooders and the sector strategic plan dawn.
- Carry out extensive capacity building activities to enhance the executive capacity of the sector.

The main objective of the development plan is to enable the country to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030) by expanding the supply of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in the medium term and benefiting the inaccessible people. In general, the WASH sector component of the development plan has 10 objectives and each objective having its own goal/s as presented below.

The plan also estimates the number of water supply schemes to be constructed each year to achieve the goal. The type of rural water supply schemes to be implemented hand dug wells, springs, shallow wells, rural piped schemes and expansions. Close to 200,000 rural water supply schemes are estimated to be constructed to achieve the rural water supply coverage of the 10 years plan.

The National Water Policy and Strategy has been in the draft stage since 2020. The draft policy overall goal is to guide and coordinate all national efforts towards efficient, equitable and optimum utilization and management of the water resources for the overall socio-economic development of the country on a sustainable basis. It is the first attempt to create policy and strategy in the same document. COWASH offers access to the draft policy with this link: [Draft National water policy and strategy, March 2021](#)

1.3 School WASH Development

The Ministry of Education (MoE) through firm commitment and leadership of the federal government has been registered impressive results nationwide in creating and expanding equitable access to education and training. However, there are still unfinished agendas in the achievement of quality education. Several compounding factors such as school organization and management; teachers' training; school supplies, availability of materials and other enabling environments impede the quality of education. An essential enabling factor for quality education is having access to child- friendly WASH services. It is, however, a handful of schools who offer access to such facilities. This is due to financial constraints, low implementation capacity of WASH facilities and lack of coordination among actors. Improvements in educational outcomes will be limited without expanding and improving WASH services in schools.

WASH integration in schools is a proven mechanism that contributes to improve educational outcomes and fostering bright and healthy students. It also helps to increase attendance rates and prevents disease spread. For this purpose, in October 2017 the Ministry of Education published the National School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) Strategy and Implementation Action Plan which has nine focus areas:

- development and or provision of dependable, inclusive, safe and sustainable water supply
- development of clean, gender separated, ensure privacy, adequate and improved latrine and urinal facilities
- development of a life-skill hygiene education programme
- development of clean, safe, well ventilated and adequate natural light class rooms and play grounds
- development of guidelines, toolkits and appropriate technology options
- capacity building of SWASH for students, teachers and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs)
- creating school WASH forums/networks at all levels
- addressing cross-cutting issues to create equity and inclusiveness to the student body
- enhancing collaborated and integrated activities with all stakeholders and partners in SWASH.
- In the same year the Ministry published a National School WASH Implementation Guideline to serve as a tool for the proper implementation of the national school WASH program. In addition to the strategy and implementation guideline the ministry together with development partners prepared different manuals and guidelines to improve the implementation and management of school WASH facilities. The two main documents are: -
- Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Facilities in Schools Design and Construction Manual, November 2019.
- A Guide to School WASH Facilities Management, Operation and Maintenance: A companion to the WASH in schools design and construction manual, November 2019.

Based on recent statistics of MoE EMIS data, the number of primary schools in 2019/20 is 37,750 and the number of secondary schools is 3,688. However, school infrastructure development of WASH facilities has not kept pace with these rates of construction and enrolment. Recently released figures from MoE's Educational statistics annual abstract in 2019/20 show that in primary schools 78% have access to water supply (improved plus unimproved). On the other hand, 87% of the primary schools have any type of latrine (traditional plus improved). In secondary schools 89% have access to water supply and 76.5% of the secondary schools have functional latrines.

1.4 Health Facility WASH Development

Sanitation, water, and hygiene in health care facilities are recognized in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly in SDG 6. SDG 6 calls for the "availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Furthermore, SDG 3.8 calls for "access to quality essential healthcare services" for all. The global community will not reach the goal of universal access to essential services, nor will it achieve its SDGs without WASH services in Health Care Facilities (HCFs).

WASH in healthcare facilities refers to the provision of water, sanitation, health care waste management, infrastructure for hygiene and environmental cleaning, and services across all parts of a facility. Healthcare facilities in Ethiopia include primary health care units (health posts, health centers, and primary hospitals),

general hospitals, comprehensive and specialized hospitals, and temporary emergency-related structures (e.g., cholera treatment centers and COVID-19 treatment centers).

The primary objective of healthcare facilities is to provide clients and workers, caregivers, and all visitors with reliable and secure care. It is understood that to seek medical or health care, people go to a healthcare facility. However, due to the lack of sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, the quality of the provided health services is significantly compromised. Lack of or poor WASH facilities in HCFs also compromises patient safety and dignity, worsens the spread of antimicrobial-resistant infections, and undermines efforts to improve health care practices, including child and maternal health.

In Ethiopia, about 34% of health facilities have an improved water source on the facility premises. Furthermore, two-thirds (61%) of facilities have access to an improved sanitation facility on the premises, and 52% of health facilities utilized safe disposal of infectious wastes according to service availability and readiness assessments.

A lack of national policies, consolidated guidelines, and standards on implementation of WASH in HCFs coupled with limited financial and human resources for effective and efficient implementation, as well as a lack of a clear approach toward standardizing and strengthening monitoring mechanisms for WASH interventions in HCFs are significant challenges. To fill some of the gaps the MoH together with development partners has developed different guidelines and manuals for the implementation and management of health care WASH facilities. The two main guidelines/manuals include: -

- Design and construction manual for water supply and sanitary facilities in health institutions, June 2012.
- National guideline for WASH in health care facilities, August 2021.

Basing the national guideline for WASH in health care facilities a “health care facilities WASH training manual” with the leadership of MoH in collaboration with development partners is under preparation by the Ministry of Health.

1.5 National Campaign for Open Defecation Free Ethiopia

In 2019 Ethiopia launched a national campaign for Open Defecation Free Ethiopia. The campaign is called TSEDU – Clean Ethiopia. The main objective of the campaign is transformative actions to improve sanitation services, behaviours and the health status in a sustainable manner. The vision of the [National ODF Campaign Ethiopia 2024](#) is to see “TSEDU-Ethiopia” – a “Clean-Ethiopia” where citizens enjoy a prosperous life with dignity. The overall campaign objective is to eliminate open defecation by creating sustainable behavioral change and provision of at least basic sanitation and declare all woredas and Ethiopia ODF by the end of 2024. The specific objectives of the campaign are to:

- Achieve at least sustained basic sanitation infrastructure and hygiene behavior to declare kebeles, woredas, regions and the nation as a whole open defecation free (ODF) and sustain ODF status over time.
- Achieve sustainable behavioral change that would ensure utilization of basic sanitation and in time transform to safely managed toilets.
- Achieve post ODF sustainability

The campaign has five main components, and all the components shall have proper implementation mechanisms with essential budget to ensure sustainability:

- Advocacy
- Sustainable Behaviour Change Campaign
- Sanitation/Latrines Products and Service Provisions
- Capacity Building
- Resource Mobilization

Unfortunately, the planned ODF campaign has not started as planned and its implementation is still unclear.

1.6 Hand Hygiene for All initiative

The Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A) Global Initiative aims to implement WHO’s global recommendations on hand hygiene to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic and work to ensure lasting infrastructure and behavior. This WHO and UNICEF-led initiative calls for countries to lay out comprehensive roadmaps that bridge together national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans with mid- and long-term national development plans to ensure hand hygiene is a mainstay beyond the pandemic, as part of infection prevention and control (IPC) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) efforts. It also proposes a framework for coordination and collaboration among global and regional partners, with the primary aim of supporting and growing country-led efforts and investments to achieve hand hygiene for all by 2030-which ultimately means a new way of working and living, where hand hygiene is embedded not only in health systems to prevent infection, but also in our everyday lives. It means all people will have access to the supplies they need to clean their hands at critical moments – in public spaces, schools, health care facilities, workplaces, and homes. It also means a fundamental shift in education, attitudes, and behaviors, so that hand hygiene becomes normalized and habitual. HH4A is working to support country roadmap development process and strengthen our understanding of financing needs for hand hygiene

Considering the low coverage of basic hygiene practice of the households and the occurrence of the COVID 19 pandemic in Ethiopia; the government of Ethiopia was joined the global “Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A)” initiative by developing a [10 years HH4A strategic road](#) map with the aim of sustaining the culture of hand hygiene practice at all settings among all Ethiopians. The roadmap envisions to bridge existing national regular hand hygiene efforts and COVID-19 response interventions through designing game changing strategic actions which will be implemented in 10 years with three phases (in short and mid and long-term periods). At the end of the strategic period sustainable hand washing points will be setup at all settings and the national hand hygiene coverage will sustainably increase to 100% by 2030. The road map has five interrelated strategic objectives that will be contributing for meeting the broader goal:

- Ensure universal and equitable access to affordable hand hygiene products, facilities, and services
- Ensure sustainable behavior change interventions towards hand hygiene through evidence based, context specific social and behavior change approaches
- Ensure strong enabling environment for hand hygiene in place at all setting
- Strengthen political leadership, multi-Sectoral engagement, and partnership
- Ensure Inclusiveness, Equity and Sustainability.

1.7 Market-Based Sanitation

Market Based Sanitation (MBS) replaces the older name of Sanitation Marketing. MoH initiated the development of the [Market Based Sanitation \(MBS\)implementation guideline](#), and it was finalized in November 2020. Market based sanitation initiative implementation has made impressive progress, but it required further strengthening and expansion. One of the challenges was to ensure that weak coordination among stakeholders receives sufficient attention. In addition, established centers sustainability, delivery of different feasible technology options, lack of strong government support and lack of sustainable market for sanitation and hygiene products and services were common constraints for strengthening the enabling environment for sanitation business growth. Therefore, this revised market based sanitation implementation guideline will alleviate and solve challenges and constraints faced in the implementation of market based sanitation initiative. Furthermore, the Transform WASH (USAID financed sanitation project) supported the preparation of [Market Based Sanitation Training Manual](#) and Training Facilitators Guide for Business Development Service (BDS) Providers and Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVETs), in Ethiopia.

The purpose of this MBS training manual is to provide guidance for designing, developing, planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation of market-based sanitation approach and related sanitation product & service delivery mechanisms in a simple, clear, and participatory manner. This manual provides tools for designing a market-based sanitation program, to understand what MBS means, the different components of MBS and its relevance to the improvement of household sanitation in a sustained manner. The MBS training manual will also use for further reference for sanitation marketing actors. The MBS

training manual aims to develop the skills of WASH sector staff, policymakers, and sanitation sector specialists.

1.7.1 Sanitation Subsidy Protocol

Ministry of Health in collaboration with development partners has introduced a new sanitation subsidy approach to reach the vulnerable households to construct improved latrine, ultimately to achieve universal access to sanitation by 2030. This approach is new for the country and needs clear protocol to maximize the efficacy and efficiency in attaining its objectives. Currently, the main challenge in such program where it is being implemented is the efficient and equitable processes for identifying and targeting poor households for subsidies and minimizing its distortionary effect on the market. To address this issue MoH has finalized the [draft protocol](#) for higher level endorsement. Major issues the protocol is discussing are:

- Reviewing and enriching lists of sanitation products and raw materials for tax exemption
- How to increase engagement of MFIs in providing sanitation loan
- Reviewing and enriching the drafted guiding principles of sanitation subsidy protocol
- Feasibility of beneficiary selection/identification criteria
- Reflection on the proposed Implementation modality, implementation phases, budget size and source, monitoring and evaluation,
- Available opportunities in the local level to pilot the subsidy scheme and
- Anticipated challenges in implementing sanitation subsidy the program

Tax exemption is one of the tools to subsidize the sanitation. The following sanitation products and raw materials are proposed for tax exemption:

- Sato stool, Sato pan, Sato ducka, AIM slab, hand washing station?
- Raw material for aim slabs,
- Hand washing facilities
- Household water storage containers
- Chemicals to produce sanitation products like, plastic slab
- Chemicals for producing liquid soap Iron bar

Regarding sanitation loan, the groups provided different inputs to expand and increase the engagement MFI in providing loan to household and enterprise sanitation financing. Below are some of these:

- Providing instalment payment method
- Include WASH loan in their portfolio
- Inject some revolving fund
- Cover the Service charge, commission payment
- Establishment of Saving and Loan Associations at village level

ANNEX 5

M&E

1.1 COWASH Working Areas: Old and New Regions and Woredas

COWASH Phase I had been gradually intervening in 63 woredas of four regions (Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR & Oromia)

The 2-year COWASH II project (2014-16) worked in 76 woredas, in 5 Project Regions: Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, Oromia, and Benishangul Gumuz (BG). Among the COWASH II woredas, four were new and 5 were FINN-WASH BG project woredas.

COWASH III (2016-19) supported all COWASH II project woredas; 40 woredas in Amhara, 12 in Oromia, 7 in Tigray, 8 in SNNPR, and 9 in BG. COWASH III was extended with 2 years mainly to complete rolled over activities and to respond to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In COWASH IV, the establishment of the Sidama regional state has increased the number of COWASH regions from 5 to 6. The regional geographical coverage of COWASH IV has not increased as the Sidama zone was previously part of the SNNP region. However, the number of woredas has increased with 37% compared with COWASH III. The six COWASH IV project regions have decided to, and committed budget (for investment and some operational activities) to implement COWASH IV in 104 Woredas (37 COWASH III & 67 new woredas). All the regions except Benishangul Gumuz have included some new woredas into COWASH IV.

While Amhara maintained the COWASH III number of woredas, with some replacements, other regions have increased the number of woredas. Amhara water bureau was dropping some of Phase III woredas out from Phase IV as they had already achieved high water supply coverage and benefitted from COWASH I-III. Some woredas, which require more drilling and deep ground water exploration, were also dropped from COWASH IV as COWASH woreda level budgets are so low that in these challenged groundwater conditions high technology options could not practically be implemented. Region wanted to include new woredas which were more behind of water supply coverage targets and where groundwater is easily accessible and therefore more suitable for CMP approach to quickly increase the water supply coverage.

Altogether, COWASH IV is being implemented in 6 Regional States, 34+ Zones, and 104 Rural Woredas. The number of COWASH IV Project woredas ranges from 4 in BG to 40 in Amhara region. The summary list of COWASH IV project Regions, Zones, and Woredas are included in Table 1 below. Sidama region has not yet established administrative zones. The detailed list of COWASH IV woredas can be found [here](#).

Table 1: COWASH IV Project Regions, Zones, and Woredas

Regions	Old	New	Total	Number of Zones
Amhara	16	24	40	8
Benishangul Gumuz	4	0	4	3
Oromia	12	18	30	11
SNNP	0	13	13	7
Sidama	2	3	5	0
Tigray	3	9	12	5
Total	37	67	104	34
%	36%	64%	100%	

1.2 COWASH IV Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) Framework

1.2.1 COWASH IV Results Chain

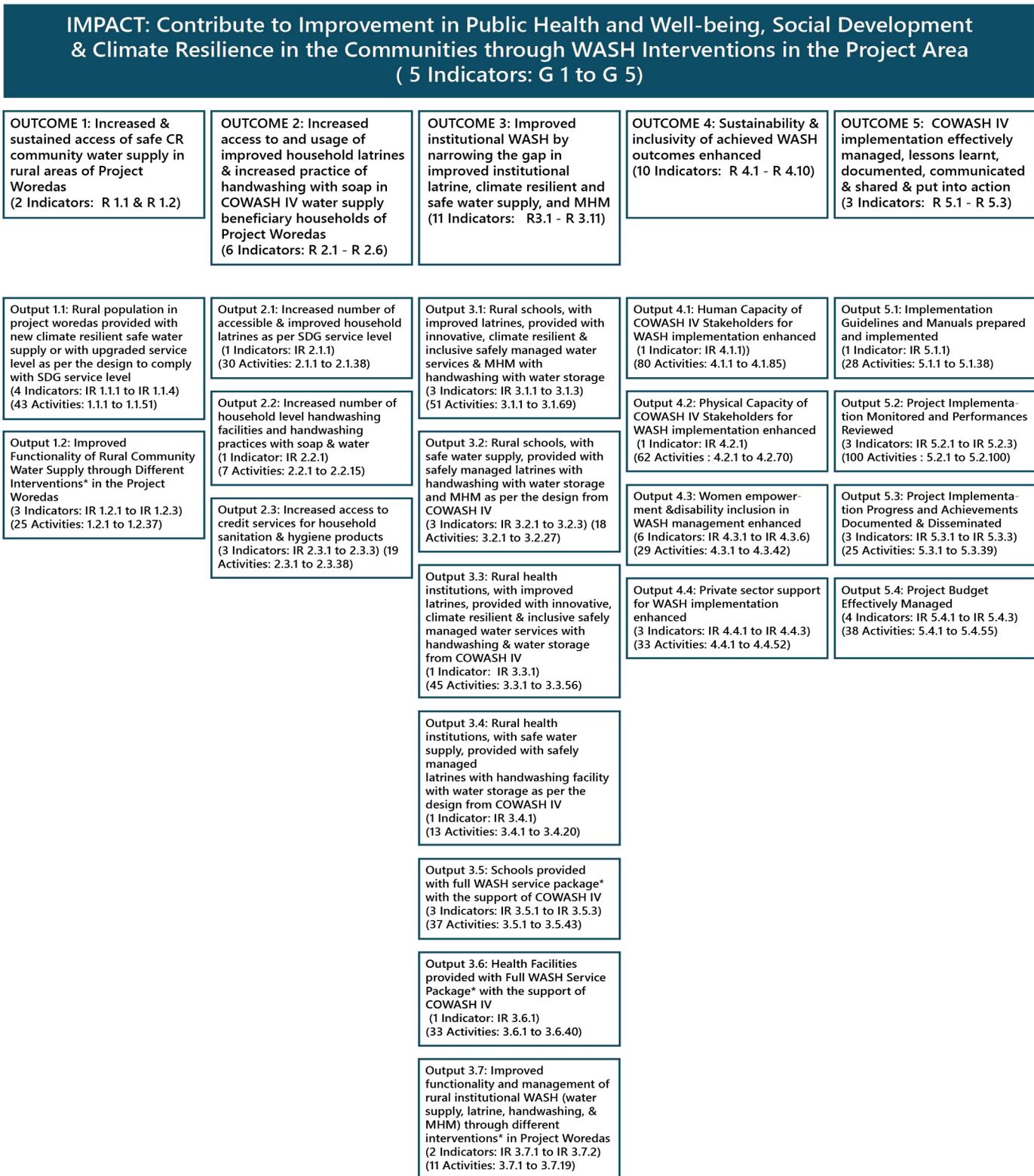
The COWASH IV Results Framework proposed in the Project Document (PD) has been revised in a way that COWASH IV data are aligned with SDG requirements and considering the rural WASH situation of the country. The revision has been made with the participation of the COWASH IV FTAT through a series of intensive discussions on each of the proposals (from impact to lower-level results). The revised system considers the COWASH III Results-Based M&E (RBM&E) system, which covers the planning, monitoring, and reporting processes, taking into account the changed results framework, and incorporating the recommendations given on COWASH III implementation.

COWASH IV will follow Results-Based M&E system, guided and governed by the Federal and Regional Steering Committees on COWASH, focusing on progress towards achieving the planned results (outputs, outcomes, and impacts) of the project. This RBM&E differs from process or activity-based M&E system in its focus on results, and particularly on the causal linkages between the results in the causal model that seeks to test the assumptions implicit in the causal model. To improve the monitoring of the results, the project will also give due emphasis to process monitoring. Cross-cutting issues like human rights, gender equality and social inclusion and environment/climate resilience are mainstreamed in the results areas. More information on the indicators and indicators' specifications can be found [here](#).

As depicted in the Results Chain (Figure below), the revised RBM&E system is structured with one impact statement, five Outcomes (Results) and twenty Outputs (Intermediate Results) contributing to the attainment of the results. The detailed RBM&E system is presented in the COWASH IV Result Framework and Performance Monitoring Plan, including assumptions and can be found [here](#).

A total of 714 activities are planned to be implemented, by different stakeholders at different levels, in the project implementation period. To measure the attainment of the different results, 85 indicators (5 impact level, 32 outcomes and 48 output level) having different data sources, means of verification (MoV) and frequency of reporting (quarterly, annually and base-year and end-year) have been designed. [A separate "Indicator Reference Sheet"](#) or "Indicator Definition Book" that defines, describes, and clarifies the COWASH IV indicators has been developed. The indicators are explained or defined to have common understanding of the M&E staff on the required data thereby removing ambiguity in the data collection at the grassroots level.

Figure 1. COWASH IV Result Chain



Planning Process

As indicated in the bilateral agreement of the Governments of Finland and Ethiopia, COWASH IV funds are contributed from two sources: Government of Finland (GoF) and Project Regions (GoE). Both the Government of Finland and project regions have committed budget for the four-year implementation of the project. Whereas project regions are allocating the committed GoE budget annually, based on annual plans, the GoF part is transferred to the

project, from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland, through the Ministry of Finance (MoF) based on approved annual Core Plan of project regions.

The annual plan preparation of COWASH' stakeholders, is made in two stages: Core Planning and Detailed Planning. Core plans are prepared by project regions and summarize the regional annual plan of core or major activities, not disaggregated by project beneficiary institutions. Regions prepare their Core Plans in the last quarter of the preceding fiscal year to avoid delay of implementation of project activities thereby mitigating the extension of the

project beyond the agreed period. Every implementation year, each project region prepares a "Core Plan" based on the agreed "Core Planning Template" prepared by the COWASH FTAT to get GoF funds in the first quarter of the implementation year. The regional Core Plans should be approved at two stages. Firstly, regional WASH Steering Committee (RWSC) on COWASH approves the plan before submitting fund

transfer request to MoF as per the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between the Bureau of Finance (BoF) of the project region and Channel 1 directorate of Ministry of Finance. Secondly, the approved Core Plan should be approved by the Federal WASH Steering Committee (NWSC) and, finally, regions submit their first fund transfer request to Channel 1 directorate of the MoF by attaching the Core Plan approved by the NWSC to request GoF funds for the first six months from the fund. As the regional core plan approvals by the regions are not coming at the same time, and that one late region will not delay the other regions, NWSC approval is not mandatory for the fund transfer if there is common understanding established for the approved regional annual plan by the Embassy of Finland and MoWE.

Once the requested fund is transferred to the project's account at the bureau of finance (BoF) of regions, based on the approved Core Plan, project regions start implementing some of their plans early in the fiscal year and prepare their detailed plans with the participation of all stakeholders. As their Core Plans are already approved, the physical and financial detailed plans (all activities to be implemented by stakeholders at the different levels) of the regions need not be approved by the federal steering committee. Every fiscal year, each region organizes a 2-day workshop to review the performance of the previous fiscal year and to prepare the next year's detailed plan with the participation of all stakeholders of the project. This is the biggest learning forum where stakeholders take advantage of demonstrating their good practices and/or learning from other stakeholders and improve their methodologies, approaches, and processes. The lessons drawn from one region will also be shared to other regions by COWASH FTAT to improve stakeholders' results. All the project plans (physical and financial) are prepared using the detailed planning templates prepared by COWASH FTAT. Detailed planning template can be found [here](#).

Based on the committed budget (GoE & GoF) and the contribution of the beneficiary community, regions have prepared the four-year targets with the participation of the COWASH FTAT. The main results targets are presented in the COWASH IV Results-Based M&E (RBM&E) framework developed with the joint effort of Regional Support Units (RSU) and COWASH FTAT. The RBM&E framework can be found [here](#).

Every fiscal year, the project's regional annual plans will be prepared in a way to attain the targets set in the RBM&E. Based on this planning process, project regions have prepared their 2014 EFY (2021/22) Core Plans and full implementation will start after the transfer of the GoF fund requested to MoF. COWASH FTAT's four-year plan has also been prepared, based on the planning template, and implementation launched starting the last quarter of the previous fiscal year. Some of the 2014 EFY main activity plans of the regions are summarized and presented hereunder.

1.2.3 Regional Level Plans in 2014 EFY

Some of the major activity plans of the regions in 2014 EFY are presented in table below. Due to the extended internal conflict in the region and its environs, Tigray could not plan for 2014 EFY. The region level core plans can be found [here](#).

Table 2. Major facility Construction Plans in EFY 2014 in the 5 Project Regions

Indicator	Project Region/Annual Plan					
	Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	Total
Community Water Supply Schemes construction (new + rehabilitation)	280	23	470	153	178	1,104
New Institutional Water Supply Schemes Construction	14	9	30	31	18	102
New School Water Supply Schemes (with MHM & handwashing) construction	8	3	18	11	10	50
New Health Facility Water Supply Schemes (with hand-washing) construction	6	6	12	20	8	52
New Institutional Improved Latrine Construction	7	6	36	86	19	154
3.1 New School Improved Latrine (with MHM & hand-washing) construction	3	0	5	40	10	58
3.2 New Health Facility Improved Latrine (with hand-washing) construction	4	6	31	46	9	96

The COWASH IV regional construction plans will contribute to the improvement of the (rural community and institutional) WASH situation of the project woredas. Secondary WASH data have been collected from the project woredas to estimate average values of some of the WASH Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the woredas. As estimate from the secondary WASH data, the average water supply and improved latrine access coverage plans of the woredas at the end of 2014 EFY are indicated in Table below.

Table 8. Average water supply and improved latrine access coverage plans of the project woredas at the end of 2014 EFY (Due to All WASH Actors in the Woredas)

Indicator	Baseline/Plan	Project Region/Baseline & Annual Plan					
		Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	Total
Rural Community Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	68.9	74.8	68.3	26.2	42.1	61.5
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	73.0	77.5	72.0	31.0	6.4	65.5
School Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	41.5	54.7	30.5	22.7	28.0	35.1
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	48.0	64.1	40.4	33.4	40.0	43.7
Health Institutions Water Supply Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	22.4	46.6	22.6	10.1	20.6	21.7
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	34.4	57.3	37.0	26.3	38.1	35.3
School Improved Latrine Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	37.3	52.3	31.7	21.9	25.2	33.3
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	45.2	58.6	40.9	30.0	37.1	41.8
Health Institutions Improved Latrine Access Coverage (%)	Baseline (2013 EFY)	40.0	82.5	45.1	33.9	52.6	43.3
	Plan (end of 2014 EFY)	47.8	86.4	59.4	44.3	66.0	53.7

Table below presents the main items planned to be procured in 2014 EFY with the support of COWASH IV.

Table 9. Some of the Major Procurement Plans in EFY 2014 in the 5 Project Regions

Item	Project Regions/Plan					Total
	Amhara	BSG	Oromia	SNNPR	Sidama	
Field vehicle	3	1	3	3	1	11
Motorbike	26	6	31	16	11	90
Desktop Computer	0	4	65	26	16	111
Laptop	34	4	25	0	13	76
Printer	2	6	66	26	19	119
LCD Projector	0	1	24	13	4	42
Photocopy Machine	27	0	24	0	10	61
Scanner	0	0	1	1	9	11
Water Quality Test Kit & Reagents	6	0	7	13	6	32

1.2.4 COWASH FTAT Plans in 2014 EFY

Some new initiatives have been included and existing ones strengthened in COWASH IV, such as: WSP4+, disability inclusion, behavioral change communication, loan system for household improved latrine construction, and WASH MSE development. The inclusion of these new initiatives in COWASH IV requires planning and activities in collaboration with the Regional Support Unit (RSU) staff. Consequently, COWASH FTAT planned to implement several such activities in 2014 EFY. Many of the activities are related to the development of manuals and guidelines and systems that enhance the implementation of the project interventions at all levels. Some of the main issues planned to be implemented in 2014 EFY are presented below. The detailed COWASH IV FTAT Plan for 2014-2017 EFY can be found [here](#).

1.2.5 Manuals or guidelines development

At the federal level, number of guidelines or manuals are planned to be developed or revised by COWASH FTAT. These guidelines are required to speed up implementation of the project initiatives at different levels: region, zone and woreda. This is the list of manual, guidelines and strategies developed during the inception phase.

- COWASH IV Financial Management Manual
- Regional Support Unit (RSU) ToR
- CMP Investment Fund Management Manual by Woreda Finance Office via Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE)
- Community Managed Project (CMP) Implementation Manual for Water Supply Schemes (for MFIs)
- Institutional WASH Implementation Guideline using Woreda Managed Project (WMP) Approach
- COWASH IV Training manual on Institutional WASH Implementation using WMP
- COWASH IV Water Safety Planning 4+ Working Manual
- COWASH IV Social, Environment, Climate Risk Screening Management (SECRSM) Guideline
- Social, Environmental & Climate Risk Screening (SECRSM) Guideline (Revision)
- WASHCO Procurement Guideline for COWASH IV (Revision)

- Gender Transformative and Disability Inclusion Strategy
- COWASH IV WASH- SLA Training Facilitators Guide
- COWASH Social Behavioural Change Strategy
- Behavior Change Training manual
- Artisans Training Manual for Inclusive Water Supply Designs (Revision)
- Roles and Responsibilities of COWASH IV Stakeholders (Revision)
- COWASH IV Federal Project Administration Manual (Revision)

1.2.6 Enhancing Implementation Capacity

COWASH FTAT planned a number of trainings, many of which are Training of Trainings (ToT). Many of them are to be conducted in 2014 EFY. Out of the total number of people planned to be trained (1,217), by COWASH FTAT, in the four years, some 490 (40.3%) are planned to be trained in 2014 EFY. The main trainings planned by COWASH FTAT are listed below.

- ToT training for Regional financial personnel on COWASH IV Financial Management Manual
- Federal COWASH FTAT team training on Communications, Advocacy, branding and team building
- Advocacy training to Bureau Heads of all COWASH regions by FTAT
- Train federal level media professionals from all media houses on WASH reporting & documentations & Establishment of Media Forum on WASH
- ToT training to Regional Staff on Women-led MSEs establishment & Entrepreneurship
- Training for Regional M&E staff on COWASH VI Result-Based M&E Framework and COWASH IV Web-Based Database
- Train the baseline data collectors and supervisors on the data collection questionnaires together with the private consultant
- Train the end line data collectors and supervisors on the data collection questionnaires together with the private consultant
- ToT training to Regional Staff on WSP4+ (CR, O&M, inclusion, sanitation safety plan)
- ToT training to project region on SECRSM
- ToT training on WASH Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) for WASH sector experts
- ToT training to Regional Experts (RSU staff & WASH sector focal persons) on Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) establishment
- Train RSU staff in school WASH design and construction guideline of Ministry of Education
- Train RSU staff and Health and Education Bureau experts in institutional WASH O&M training manual
- Basic training on SBC for FTAT, Federal WASH Ministries & RSU staff
- Overseas training for NWSC members on WASH implementations
- Orientation on COWASH IV for Sidama RSU
- ToT training for Sidama region WASH partners on women leadership in WASHCO management
- ToT training for Water Quality testing and monitoring (for Regional Staff)
- ToT training on "home-made re-usable sanitary pads production"
- Refresher training on women in leadership in WASHCO and disability inclusion in COWASH
- Staff Induction Training

1.2.7 COWASH IV Web-Based Database development

A database is an essential tool in monitoring and evaluation of projects. For a database to serve for the intended purpose, having qualified staff is key. In COWASH III, two databases have been used for monitoring the progress and storing the WASH facility data of the project. This software are:

- Web-based WASH Facility Database (WFDB)
- Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting (PMRDB).

The PMRDB is an MS Access-based database, which is not web-based. This database does not give real-time data from the project stakeholders at different levels: Region, Zone and Woreda. This has been delaying the project information sharing and mitigating the effect of different challenges identified by the monitoring system. Moreover, the two databases have not been accessible to the woreda and zone level stakeholders of the project. Cognizant of this fact, national short-term consultants were hired during the Inception Phase to develop a new web-based Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and WASH Facility (PMR-WF) database. The new web-based database merges the two COWASH III databases and it will be accessible to all the project stakeholders from the federal to the woreda level. This will enable the project stakeholders to get real-time data about the progress of the project and prepare performance reports (quarterly and annual) timely thereby getting management solutions to the challenges identified at the different levels through the monitoring system. The development of these two databases is 80 % ready in January 2022.

1.2.8 Conducting Baseline Survey

COWASH IV baseline survey has been planned, and the methodology developed, during the inception phase. The baseline data will apply both qualitative and quantitative. Baseline survey is done to set benchmarks against which project achievements will be measured periodically.

Due to the varying security situation in the project regions, it was not possible to conduct the COWASH IV baseline survey during the inception phase. Currently, it is not possible to conduct a baseline survey in three (Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz, partially Amhara) of the six regions. As the project follows a decentralized approach in the implementation of the project interventions, it is recommended to conduct the baseline survey separately for each region. The baseline surveys will start with Sidama, SNNPR (including the Southwest region) and Oromia regions. The survey will be conducted in the remaining regions (BSG, Amhara and Tigray) when the security situation is improved.

FTAT developed the [baseline survey ToR](#), which was approved by the COWASH Steering Committee. The security situation in Ethiopia improved and the tendering of the survey consultants started and the survey company will be selected in January 2022.

COWASH IV's baseline survey will employ both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. WASH data will be collected from six sources: i) Rural Households; ii) Rural Schools; iii) Health Institutions; iv) WASHCOs of Community Water Supply Schemes; v) Rural Kebele Administrations; and vi) Woreda Sector Offices. As part of the baseline information, the WASH situation of rural institutions (schools and health institutions) and communities in the sample kebeles will be collected. Due to shortage of resources and time, it is not possible to collect representative data from all the targets: rural institutions and communities. Whereas the data to be collected from the rural households (household survey) will be representative of the WASH situation of the beneficiary population, the data that will be collected from the institutions (community WPs/WASHCOs, schools and health institutions) will represent only the situation of the targets in the selected data collection sites.

Baseline information will be established for selected indicators with particular emphasis to the project results and goal. The baseline data or information for COWASH IV indicators come from two sources: secondary WASH data and survey. The secondary WASH data is collected from the project woredas, and indicator values estimated.

To get data or information to triangulate the quantitative findings, additional qualitative questions will be included in the household data collection tools. The sample size of the quantitative survey will be determined based on the key result level indicators using a scientific sample size estimation method. A short-term consultant will be hired to conduct the baseline survey. The main duties of the short term consultant will be: i) work out a doable and affordable survey methodology, including determining the representative sample(s); ii) developing data collection tools based on the Terms of Reference (ToR); iii) developing a data entry software for entering the raw data; iv) collecting data based on the tools and entering to the data entry software; and v) making statistical analyses, and preparing the survey report.

1.2.9 Monitoring and Reporting Process

FTAT developed quarterly and 6-months reporting templates for the use of the regions. During the inception phase only reports for the period of last quarter of 2013 EFY were received from the regions.

These 2013 EFY region reports from Amhara, BG, Oromia and SNNP can be found [here](#). FTAT is in a process to produce 2014 EFY first 6-months progress report.

The COWASH IV Results-Based M&E System (RBM&E) is governed and guided by the National WASH Steering Committee (NWSC), Regional WASH Steering Committees (RWSC) and the Woreda WASH Team (WWT). The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Specialist at the COWASH FTAT oversees and coordinates the implementation and follow-up of the COWASH IV RBM&E system. At the regional, zonal and woreda levels, COWASH IV beneficiary sector offices have assigned staff to coordinate and lead the monitoring and reporting processes of the project in their jurisdictions.

Like the previous phases of COWASH, every COWASH IV beneficiary sector office assigns focal persons to coordinate and lead the COWASH implementation in the sector including the monitoring and reporting of the interventions. The whole regional COWASH monitoring, and reporting will be coordinated and led by the regional M&E Specialist at RSU, established in the regional Water Bureau. At the zonal level, the focal person at the Zonal Water Department will assist the project woredas and coordinate and lead the project monitoring and reporting in the project zone. At the project woreda level, the woreda CMP Supervisor, who is assigned and based in the Woreda Water Office, oversees the woreda level project monitoring and reporting with the support of the focal persons in the woreda sector offices.

Supportive supervision and performance reports are the basic means or events of monitoring of interventions. COWASH IV's results-based monitoring and reporting focuses on progress towards realizing impacts that the project is contributing to the project intervention areas and the planned outcomes and outputs that the project is solely responsible for. The activity-level implementation will also be monitored and supervised regularly with the aim of getting insight into the realization of the different outputs measured based on the measures of change or indicators designed. The project's progress reports, paying attention to cross-cutting issues like gender and inclusiveness, climate resilience, etc., comparing the achievements with the plans, will show the progress in the reporting period along with cumulative progress. COWASH IV's annual reports show the progress of the reporting period and the cumulative progress made in the previous implementation years of the project. Performance reports, which will be prepared based on agreed (quarterly and annual) reporting outlines constituting the reporting templates, provide both quantitative and qualitative data and information including major challenges and reasons for possible delays and corrective measures taken at different levels of implementation.

The process monitoring, which focuses on follow-up of the proper and timely implementation of project activities and obtaining immediate results, is also given importance in COWASH IV. The process monitoring includes physical activity and financial utilization monitoring, and accomplishment data are collected through performance reports, supportive supervisions and quarterly performance reviews.

COWASH IV Activity and Financial Utilization Monitoring: every year, the project prepares detailed plans (physical activity and budget) for all the stakeholders at all levels with clear responsibilities for implementing partners. Activity accomplishments are recorded every quarter, based on monitoring tools, and comparisons against plans made. Implementation of each and every project activity planned will be tracked and reported regularly by the respective focal persons at different levels. The focal persons in each woreda and zone sector offices, coordinated by the Zonal Coordinators and Woreda CMP Supervisors, will make sure the proper use of the COWASH monitoring tools and timely reporting of activities in their respective project woredas. Progresses measured in terms of indicators and activities will be encoded into the web-based Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and WASH Facility (PMRWF) database being developed by a private consultant by merging the two COWASH III Databases. At all levels, quarterly and annual performance reports, incorporating fund utilization performance, will be prepared, and sent to the next levels for project level reporting and documentation. COWASH IV's bi-annual and annual performance reports will be presented for the COWASH IV decision-making bodies (Regional and National WASH Steering Committees) for better informed decision-making that will improve the bottlenecks on the implementation of interventions at all levels.

COWASH IV Quarterly and 9-Month Review: as part of the process monitoring of project activities, quarterly and 9-month reviews will be made in project woreda and zone, respectively. In addition to encoding the accomplishments at the woreda and zone levels, to the new web-based database, the CMP Supervisors will make analysis of quarterly achievements against plans and share to the woreda and zone

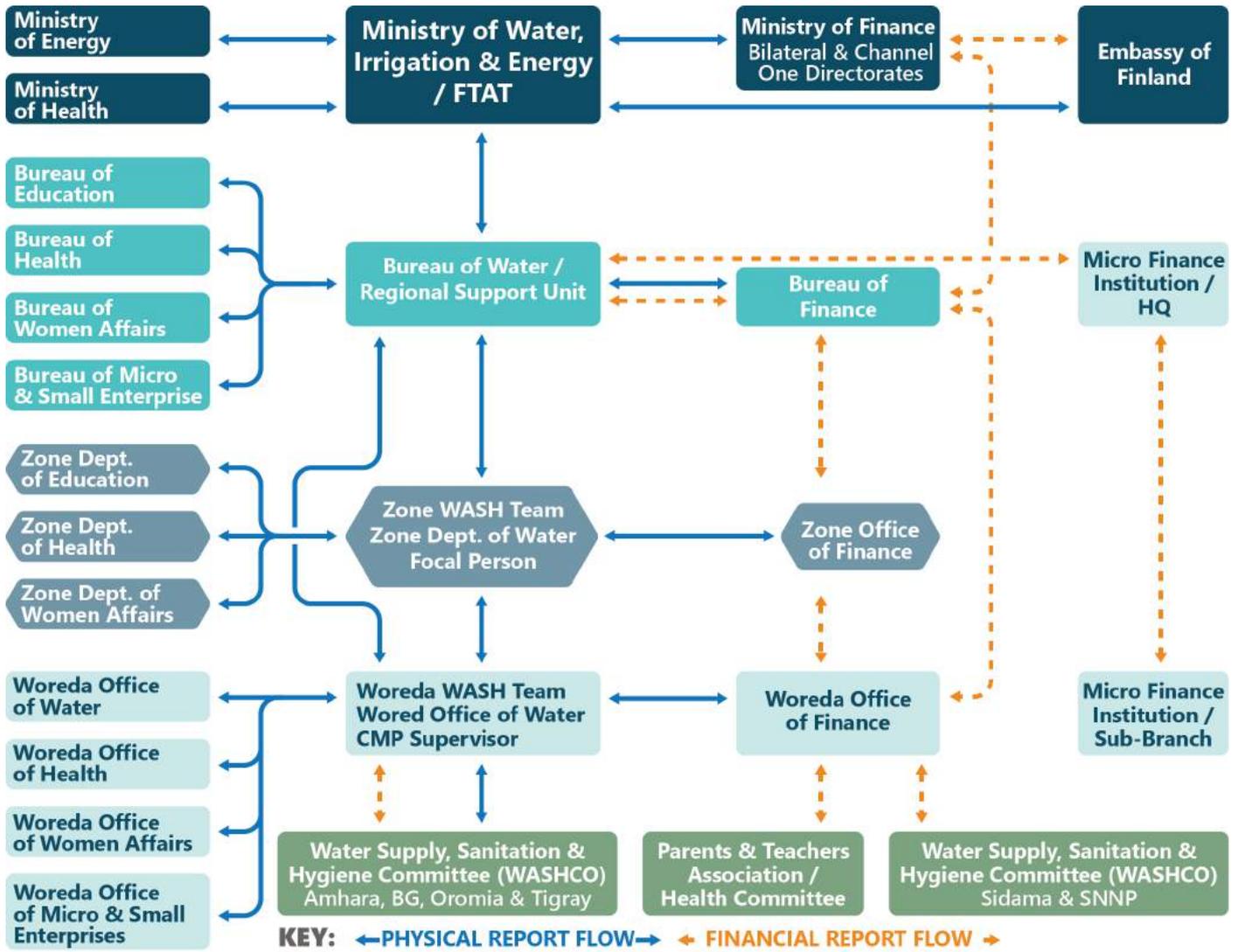
staff, including the members of the Woreda WASH Team (WWT), in the form of meetings. At the zone level, the COWASH coordinator, at the Zonal Water Department, will prepare a 9-month summarized report incorporating the achievements of woredas and zonal sector offices (physical activities & budget utilization) and organize a review meeting in the presence of project woreda representatives, zone WASH team members and experts from each zonal sector offices. The whole purpose of these review meetings is to check the proper implementation of planned activities and quality of implementations and share and learn experiences among implementers.

COWASH IV Joint Supportive Supervisions: Regular supportive supervisions are important to get insight into the implementations and providing timely technical support to implementers of the project. Though the format or checklist may differ depending on the depth and type of support, this is a common practice in project implementation. The supportive supervision tools used at the different levels can be reviewed and updated by the M&E Specialists to make them concise and user-friendly.

To save time and reduce workload and fatigue on the sector offices being visited, it is advisable to carry out COWASH-supported supportive supervisions jointly in a coordinated manner. Quarterly supervisions will be done at the different levels of the project by different people: i) with the coordination of the regional M&E Specialists, regional sector bureaus will provide technical support to their respective Zonal and Woreda offices based on agreed tools or checklists; ii) in project regions where zones are active, Zonal sector departments will provide technical support to their respective woreda offices with the coordination of the project focal person at the Zonal Water Department; and iii) with the coordination of the CMP Supervisor, Woreda sector offices will provide technical support to the COWASH beneficiaries (WASHCOs, PTAs and Health Committees) at the grassroots level and collect data or information about the COWASH interventions. COWASH FTAT will also conduct supportive supervisions quarterly to selected project woredas, zones and regions with the participation of the respective regional sector office experts or RSU staff. For every supportive supervision, short and summarized event or field report will be prepared and shared with the visited sector offices and RSU. The COWASH FTAT event reports will be shared with RSU to assist the respective sector offices to act on the issues identified and other sectors to learn from them.

Moreover, a Joint Technical Review (JTR), which is the main joint monitoring event in the WASH sector, will be organized for COWASH IV once in a year. This JTR will be organized by MoWE and MFA/EoF and other WASH sector ministries and the findings will be presented at the WASH Multi-Stakeholders Forum (MSF) and experiences will be shared with the WASH stakeholders.

Figure 2. COWASH reporting flow



1.2.10 Evaluation Process

The project's implementation and results will be evaluated by independent consultants and results will be judged against baseline values of some main indicators.

While the annual regional performance reviews are limited to assessing lower level annual and cumulative achievements, the other types of the evaluations try to assess the project's results achieved until mid-term or the whole period of implementation.

Annual Regional Performance Review: every fiscal year, COWASH FTAT facilitates annual performance review and planning workshop, which is the largest information sharing and learning forum of COWASH, in the project regions in the presence of all the COWASH IV beneficiary sector offices. WASH sector officials and members of the WASH governing bodies at the different administrative levels (RWSC, Zonal WASH Committees and WWT) will be in attendance. In this forum, annual performance reports of COWASH beneficiary woredas, zones and regional sector bureaus will be presented and evaluated comparing with their annual and cumulative plans. Regional M&E Specialist collects the participants data (no. participated disaggregated by sex) and include these data into their quarterly performance reports.

Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE): The MTE provides evidence of the performance of COWASH IV to date and the likely performance in the remaining period of the project. Recommendations are expected from the MTE on changes or adjustments to be made on the project to improve performance as well as recommendations for Finnish support to the WASH sector after COWASH IV

End line evaluation: To understand the changes brought (by all WASH actors including COWASH) in the project areas need to be assessed through surveys somewhere at the end of the project implementation period. The endline evaluation will employ similar method with that of the baseline survey so that comparable data can be collected to measure changes in the WASH situations of the target communities. The endline evaluation or survey focuses mainly on higher level results and measuring the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the project comparing with the baseline WASH situation.

1.2.11 Proposed research

It is proposed that COWASH will support at least the following two research topics:

- Research on menstrual hygiene management practices, and its implications on education, psycho-social characteristics, and health, among schoolgirls.
- Ecological sanitation option use in COWASH IV as a household level sanitation option. The research is to recommend on how COWASH should adopt the ecological sanitation in its household level sanitation interventions.

ANNEX 6

CMP Development

1.1 CMP implementation guide for community water supply using MFI

1.1.1 Major features of CMP approach

The WaSH Implementation Framework (WIF) introduces the Community Managed Projects (CMP) approach, as one modality for rural water supply implementation modalities in Ethiopia. The major features of the CMP Approach are:

Fund Transfer: The unique and innovative feature of the CMP approach is that funds for the physical construction of water schemes are transferred directly to the community through a micro finance institution (MFIs)

Community Financial Management: The communities, through water and sanitation committees (WASHCOs), are responsible for the full development process through planning, financial management, implementation and maintenance. The unique feature in CMP approach is that WASHCO manages not only community-generated funds but also the government subsidy provided for capital expenditures.

Procurement: A further aspect of community management is that the WASHCO (representing user community) is directly responsible for procuring the goods and services required for water scheme construction and installation.

MFIs play a significant role as conduits of investment fund channeling to WASHCOs for implementation of water schemes in the CMP model due to various reasons. To mention few, MFIs have a mandate and experience to serve rural communities, have an extensive branch and satellite office network covering COWASH implementation areas and MFIs services are easily accessible even in remote areas. It is also essential to intensify interaction with MFIs in support of financial services provision for private sector, WASHCO's and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (SME's) initiatives within the WASH sector.

CMP approach in COWASH IV

The CMP approach has been in use in COWASH since 2011 in three phases.

There are different changes made in phase IV as compared to the past three phases. For instance, previously institutional WASH was also implemented using the CMP approach, while in the fourth phase only community water schemes are to fully follow the CMP approach in implementation. Institutional WASH is to be implemented using the Woreda Managed Project (WMP) approach. Another change is that in addition to using MFIs as investment fund channeling to WASHCOs, there is a need also to test the use of woreda finance offices for investment fund channeling to WASHCOs.

The CMP investment fund management guideline, which has been in use in phase III, was therefore revised during the Inception Phase. The revised guide for channeling investment fund to WASHCOs via MFI is to be used for community water supplies implementation in Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and Tigray regions. The guide focuses and presents the major principles, procedures, and formats to be used for the promotion, application preparation, appraisal, approval, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Community Managed Projects approach for community water supply schemes implementation.

CMP implementation guide for community water supply using WoF

In previous COWASH phases, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) were used as intermediaries to transfer funds to communities/WASHCOs to procure project goods, materials, and services for the implementation of WASH facilities at communities and institutions.

In phase IV another channel, namely the woreda finance office, will be tested for channeling investment funds to WASHCOs. A manual has been prepared during Inception Phase, and will be tested in SNNP and Sidama regions. Based on the testing result the fund flow modality will be scaled up to other COWASH regions.

The need for the testing of the system arises from two major points; in some regions MFIs do not have the required capacity or liquidity to provide funds timely or give satisfactory services to WASHCOs. The other major reason is from the point of replicating the CMP approach by the GoE and other donors in the OWNP. Donors and government say that they do not feel comfortable/are not allowed to channel money with other/third party channels such as MFI other than the government structure. This is one of the major reasons given by UNICEF for stopping the use of the CMP approach after testing the approach in 7 woredas of Amhara region some years ago. Therefore, for other donors and also the government to use the CMP approach widely, there is a need to show how the fund channeling to WASHCOs via government office (WoF) works.

So, some challenges faced in working with MFIs and to lay good ground for the possibility of replicating the CMP approach by the GoE and other donors the guideline for testing of system of investment fund channeling via woreda office of finance is prepared. The guide focuses and presents the major principles, procedures, and formats to be used for the promotion, application preparation, appraisal, approval, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Community Managed Projects approach for community water supply schemes implementation.

In addition to demonstrating the fund flow to WASHCOs via WoF, the guide presents the key issues when implementing the CMP approach for community water supplies. The guide also presents a clear demarcation between the role of the woreda office of water and woreda office of finance in the implementation of the CMP approach in the woreda.

1.4 CMP implementation guide for institutional WASH using WMP approach

One of the outcomes of COWASH IV is Outcome 3 which deals with institutional WASH which is articulated as follows. **“Outcome 3: Improved Institutional WASH by Narrowing the Gap in Improved Institutional Latrine, Climate Resilient and Safe Water Supply, and Mensural Hygiene Management (MHM)”**.

To achieve this outcome, COWASH IV focuses on (i) provision of safe water supply to institutions (schools and health facilities) where sanitation suffers from lack of water supply; (ii) improving hygiene in institutions by better management and use of existing sanitation facilities; and (iii) provision of improved sanitation facilities to schools and health facilities, where they do not exist.

In COWASH I-III, the implementation of institutional WASH was following the CMP approach (procurement, construction, and financial management) was handled by the institutional communities (PTAs and HCs) with the technical support from the woreda WASH sector office experts.

In COWASH IV the implementation of institutional WASH facilities is to use the Woreda Managed Project (WMP) approach in which procurement, construction contracting, and financial management are to be handled by the woreda WASH sector offices.

Although the institutional WASH implementation does not follow the full CMP approach which includes the financial and procurement management by WASHCOs, it is recommended that preparatory activities of the CMP approach such as promotion, application preparation & submission, appraisal and project approval by the Woreda WASH Team (WWT) are to be followed also in the institutional WASH implementation as they are important cycles contributing to the sustainability of the institutional WASH facilities.

The guideline for the use of the Woreda Managed Project (WMP) approach in water supply, latrines, and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) implementation in schools and health institutions in COWASH IV has been prepared in the inception period.

The guide includes the major principles, procedures, and formats to be used for the promotion, application preparation, appraisal (desk & field), approval, implementation, and management of the Woreda Managed Projects (WMP) approach for institutional water supply schemes and latrines implementation.

The two key issues which are given focus in the guide are:

- Institutional WASH implementation procedures using WMP approach and,
- Highlights on school and health institutions WASH facility packages (designs and bill of quantities)
- The major principles in the implementation of institutional WASH using the WMP approach in COWASH IV:
- Although institutional WASH implementation in COWASH IV does not follow the full CMP approach, some of the cycles in the CMP approach which have contributions in ensuring the sustainability of WASH facilities such as application/demand expression by the institutions, project appraisal by woreda experts, approval of the project application by WWT, monitoring the implementation of the facilities, and operation & maintenance management of the facilities by the institutions committees will be followed in the WMP approach for institutional WASH implementation.
- Implementation will fully depend on institutions own initiative (application to the WWT).
- Institutions will receive technical and material support from the Woreda authorities during and after the construction of sanitation facilities.
- Institutions have to demonstrate both their willingness and capacity to cover the operation and maintenance cost for the specific technology. The possible criteria which demonstrate the willingness and capacity to operate and maintain the facilities can be: -
- Guarantee letter from the institution to manage the O&M of the facilities including the possible sources of O&M fund or
- Stamped/certified copy of the institution annual budget clearly showing the allocation for O&M of WaSH facilities.
- The sources of funding for new or rehabilitation of water supply schemes constructions to institutions where there is standard functional latrine, but no functional water scheme is from the Government of Finland (GoF). The GoF fund to be used for this purpose accounts only 15% of the total GoF share of each region allocated for the phase.
- The sources of funding for new or rehabilitation of water supply schemes constructions to institutions where there is functional latrine but no functional water scheme can also be covered from the Government of Ethiopia (GoE).
- The sources of funding for institutional latrines and MHM for institutions having functional water supply schemes is from the Government of Ethiopia (GoE).
- The sources of funding for “full package WASH facilities” construction to institutions (water supply, latrine and MHM) to institutions without functional water supply, institutional latrines and MHM is from the Government of Ethiopia (GoE).
- Both GoF and GoE fund for the physical construction of WASH facilities (water supply, latrines and MHM) are transferred directly to the woreda finance office from the region via Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE).
- Community/institution contribution for the construction of WASH facilities for institutions is not a must but in case needed support in improving access road and provision of storage service for construction materials and equipment are appreciated.
- Institutional WASHCOs/committees: The Parents and Teachers Association (PTAs) members and Health

Committees (HCs) are expected to commit themselves to follow the progress of construction and cover the finance for the operation and maintenance of the WaSH facilities after the construction, but they are entitled to receive technical support from the Woreda sector offices.

- Contract and Fund Management: The fund for the implementation of institutional WASH facilities is managed by the woreda finance office (WoF). And: -
- the contract administration/management of the institutional water supply implementation is handled by the woreda water office (WoW),
- the contract management for the school sanitation facilities is handled by the woreda office of education (WoE), and
- the contract management for health institutions sanitation implementation is handled by the woreda office of health (WoH).

The guide lists the different activities to be implemented by each woreda WASH sector offices (finance, water, health and education) in the planning and implementation of the WASH facilities. The guide contains all WMP project processing cycle management (application, appraisal and approval) and reporting formats to be used at the institution and woreda level.

1.5 School WASH O&M training manual preparation

Though learning can proceed even under difficult circumstances, school water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is imperative to achieving a healthy school environment and making a difference in the health, attendance, and learning ability of pupils and their teachers. Poorly maintained latrines lacking in privacy may prevent adolescent girls from attending school. Lack of instruction on why hygiene is important will prevent pupils from properly using their WASH facilities and developing good hygiene habits for life.

Nonetheless, the provision of these facilities and services is the first step; to ensure that they continue to work effectively for the long term, a series of operations and maintenance (O&M) tasks must be attended to-latrines need to be cleaned, hand and drinking water containers filled, and soap and toilet paper made available on a daily basis. Down-the-line repairs must be budgeted for, spare parts procured, and pumps serviced. We all know how important it is to have a source of clean water in or adjacent to the school, but functioning toilets and handwashing facilities are just as important.

Recently released figures from MoE's Educational statistics annual abstract in 2019/20 show that in primary schools 78% have access to water supply, out of which 82.7% are functional (17.3% are non-functional). On the other hand, 87% of the primary schools have any type of latrine (traditional plus improved) out of which 72.3% are functional (27.2% are non-functional). In secondary schools 89% have access to water supply out of which 75.4% are functional and 76.5% of the secondary schools have functional latrine. This non-functionality rate is much higher than the target of 7% in the Growth and Transformation Plan II (GTP II).

In schools where these facilities exist, some of them may not be properly designed and constructed, and hence they are not functional. In addition, the failure to give due consideration to the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities during planning, design and implementation of these facilities has resulted in a high level of non-functionality. Poor design and construction play a role in the frequent breakdown of school WASH facilities which increases the cost of operation and maintenance.

Therefore, having a workable operation and maintenance manual for schools WASH facilities has been very important to address the key O&M tasks necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of school WASH services and the longevity of related hardware. In this regard different efforts have been made to tackle the operation and maintenance issues of school WASH facilities in Ethiopia, of which the preparation of "A Guide to School WASH Facilities Management, Operation and Maintenance: A companion to the WASH in schools design and construction manual, Ministry of Education, November 2019" by Ministry of Education with the support from UNICEF is the major effort made so far. The guide has so many good features such as: -

- It includes the most common water supply technology for schools.
- It includes all the possible sanitation facilities at schools (latrines, MHM rooms, solid waste and

wastewater management).

- It lists what are the O&M activities for each of the water supply and sanitation technologies at schools.
- It describes the roles of the different stakeholders in school WASH management.

But to bring increased functionality rate of WASH facilities at schools the guide needs details how to give training to the different stakeholders which have roles and responsibilities in the O&M of the school WASH facilities. For this purpose, a discussion has been made between COWASH, Ministry of Education WASH experts and UNICEF, and agreed to have a “training manual on school WASH O&M”. The preparation of the training manual will be led by the MoE and financial support from COWASH. There will be a technical committee composed from COWASH, MoE, MoH, UNICEF and different NGOs such as Splash, Water Aid, Plan Ethiopia, etc. working in school WASH to follow the timely preparation and practicality of the training manual. In the inception period ToR for the consultancy has been prepared and tender has been floated. In the month of January 2022 contract for the work will be awarded to a consultant.

1.6 WASH Facilities O&M training manual for Health Institutions

During the design and development phases of WASH facilities at health institutions, it is most important to consider the cleaning, maintenance, repair, and eventual replacement of facilities. For this purpose, it is important to develop an operation and maintenance plan to cover the operation and repair of sanitation facilities and services.

There is no separate guideline or manual prepared for the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in the health institutions. The O&M of the health institutions WASH facilities are included in the design and construction manual for water supply and sanitary facilities in health institutions, and national guideline for WASH in health care facilities. These sections focus mainly on O&M requirements and major O&M activities required for the facilities (water supply, latrines, incinerators, and placenta pits).

Ministry of Health (MoH) is developing institutional WASH training manual basing the existing design and construction manual for health institutions where O&M of WASH facilities to be the part of the manual. COWASH will follow this carefully and support MoH through technical assistance in the institutional wash technical working group.

ANNEX 7

Water Safety Planning Development

In COWASH III, the project had been implementing Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning (CR-WSP). CR-WSP is a comprehensive and continuous proactive risk assessment and management approach encompassing all parts of a water supply system, from catchment to consumer, taking into account both the climate change impacts on the water supply system itself, and service level including quantity, quality, reliability, affordability and accessibility. The project was implementing CR-WSP at a pilot scale in 20 selected project woredas and in 38 micro-watersheds where about 153 small community water schemes were included.

The COWASH IV project document indicated that to avoid duplication in WASH planning and implementation, the CR-WSP concept is proposed to be further expanded in COWASH IV to a holistic WSP4+ approach. This is an instrument for ensuring that all main factors contributing to safety, reliability, functionality, long term sustainability and equality are duly addressed in a holistic WSP4+ approach that extends beyond water quality and covers climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (+), O&M and water fee collection (++), inclusion (+++) and sanitation safety (++++). In COWASH IV, WSP4+ will be implemented at full scale to ensure that all WASH facilities will have WSP4+.

1.1 Major components of WSP4+

The major components of WSP4+ are: climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (+), O&M and water fee collection (++), inclusion (+++), and sanitation safety (+++).

Implementing WSP4+ taking into account its major components mentioned above helps to:

- Prevent or minimize contamination of water sources, remove contaminants, and prevent re-contamination of water during collection in the reservoir tank, distribution, storage, and use at household level. This helps in maximizing public health protection, efficient and effective use of existing resources, provide information to maximize current and future investments, improve water suppliers' practices, and facilitate decision making on safe drinking water framework for all stakeholders
- Secure continuity of water supply and sanitation services by mitigating and adapting to direct and indirect environmental and climate-induced hazards (flood, drought, wider catchment degradation, contamination, land slide, gully, etc.) that may threaten safe and adequate water supply and sanitation services
- Prevent or minimize O&M related risks to the community managed water supply and sanitation. WSP is a valuable tool to strengthen O&M, and O&M has critical role in meeting WSP objectives. The risk assessment process that underpins WSPs is a mechanism to identify any gaps in a water supply system's O&M practice and the control measures required to manage risk to water quality and service delivery. This gap analysis becomes the platform to drive O&M process improvements.
- Water contamination along the water supply system prevented/minimized and public health protected through improved sanitation at household and institutions, agricultural field, solid waste dumping site, and other sources; and
- Ensure equitable WASH service delivery through integrating equity issues in the WSP4+ processes. It helps contribute to equitable realization of access to safe and adequate water and sanitation services, minimize any (inadvertent) discrimination through the WSP4+ process, and strengthen WASH effectiveness through an inclusive WSP4+ approach. It also helps vulnerable groups to participate/engage in the decision-making process in all WASH service delivery processes.

In COWASH IV, WSP4+ shall be implemented for all WASH infrastructures. Otherwise, the WASH infrastructures will not be counted, and their users will not be recorded as COWASH beneficiaries.

The fourth plus refers to sanitation aspects. This is because community managed water schemes such as dug wells, springs and boreholes are vulnerable to microbial and chemical contamination due to onsite contamination sources (solid waste dumps and refuse pits, agrochemicals from agricultural fields, stormwater drains, stagnant surface water, animal enclosures and free-range animals). In addition, when COWASH is promoting and implementing sanitation interventions at household and institutions (schools and health facilities) levels, the sanitation interventions should be climate resilient, and consider O&M and inclusion issues. Hence, sanitation safety should be integrated into the water safety planning to integrate sanitation related risks to the water supply system and to the public health.

1.2 Major challenges and risk mitigation in WSP4+

The major challenge for WSP4+ implementation is that:

- WASH implementing experts at regions and woredas may take it as an additional activity though it is an important tool to ensure WASH service delivery is safe, adequate, and equitable. **Risk Mitigation:** Providing continuous capacity building trainings to those experts who are directly involved in the WSP4+ implementation. Include WSP4+ activities in the experts' job descriptions/ToR and measure experts' performance against the ToR.
- It may not be mainstreamed into the regular WASH planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. **Risk Mitigation:** Mainstream WSP4+ in the WASH planning supported with budget, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system of the WASH sectors.
- Limited sector integration. There is a need to bring on board non-WASH sectors such as agriculture and

natural resource. Agriculture and natural resource office especially at woreda level has crucial role in the successful implementation of WSP4+ to manage risks related to climate variability and change and DRM, environmental degradation, and also sanitation related risks. Risk Mitigation: including officials and experts from ANR office in workshops and trainings related to WSP4+. Involve the sector in the woreda WASH technical team including woreda WSP4+ technical team.

- Resource limitation to implement erosion control measures such as management of flood (flood protection structures), land slide (retaining wall) and gully rehabilitation infrastructures like check dam construction. Risk Mitigation: retaining wall construction cost can be included in the WASH infrastructures cost. Flood protection, gully rehabilitation and wider catchment management works can be managed by the beneficiaries with technical and some resource support like gabions structures from agriculture and natural resource offices. For this purpose, the agriculture and natural resource office should be engaged starting from the planning stage.
- Resource limitation in conducting water quality monitoring for baseline and compliance monitoring when implementing WSP++++ to verify that the WSP++++ we are implementing is successful in achieving its objective. Risk Mitigation: if possible, capacitate woreda water and health offices in terms of providing water quality monitoring test kits, providing training on water quality monitoring. If not possible, collaborate with regional and zone public health laboratories, and universities to get water quality monitored for those water points constructed.

1.3 Recommendations in WSP4+

- Continuous capacity building and technical support to woreda, kebele and scheme specific WSP4+ teams in the whole processes of WSP4+ implementation cycle.
- Strong sector integration and mainstreaming WSP4+ in their sector plan supported with budget, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- The water bureau and woreda water office take the lead in the implementation of WSP4+. This may include bringing on board all sectors which are included in the WSP4+ team including agriculture and natural resource.
- The federal Technical Assistance Team and RSU should take the lead in facilitating and providing continuous capacity building and technical support especially to Woreda WSP4+ team and conducting performance review of WSP4+ implementation.

1.4 Water Quality Studies

During COWASH IV Inception Phase, a Junior Technical Advisor joined the FTAT team. His background lies in water quality monitoring, and hence he has taken the responsibility to develop the aspects of improving water quality monitoring in COWASH IV.

A water quality monitoring plan for COWASH IV was drafted, to comply with the MFA mandate, which requires an initial water quality monitoring of newly built water points. Although the mandate only requires the initial water quality to be monitored, the COWASH IV plan includes continuance for the monitoring, in case previous water quality data indicates potential concern for health risks for humans. Continued monitoring in case of potential health concerns is a common practice in the water quality monitoring schemes in Finland, and the COWASH IV monitoring plan was drafted similarly.

Furthermore, the MFA mandate does not specify the parameters to be monitored, but the intention is to ensure that the water is of safe quality for the beneficiaries' consumption. The parameters to be monitored include both biological, as well as the most common physio-chemical qualities. The chemical parameters also include fluoride concentration analysis as excessive fluoride concentrations have been found to be an issue in some parts of Ethiopia.

ANNEX 8

Market-Based and Household Level Sanitation Development

1.1 Market-Based Sanitation

Ethiopia is far behind to attain SDGs target goals with the current sanitation advancement progress rate by the year 2030. To achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all by the year 2030 needs special attention and focus. Ministry of Health is committed and has developed leading coordination of planning and implementation of Sanitation and Hygiene development strategic plans, implementation guideline and training manuals in collaboration with partners to accelerate the progress of sanitation coverage.

Sanitation and Hygiene development status both in rural and urban shows there are different challenges hindering the progress. Among the others, financial access shortage, poor socio-economic status of the rural communities, inaccessible sanitation technologies - slow progress of initiative like Market – Base Sanitation (MBS) and existing household traditional latrines are found to be inadequate to prevent waterborne diseases. Therefore, the populations should be supported by strategic support from governments and developments partners to have access to improved sanitation and hygiene facilities through implementation of strategies and plans, capacity building and community mobilization interventions using Market- Base Sanitation (MBS) approaches.

To this effect, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with partners (where COWASH is part of it) have developed Market-Based Sanitation training manual going to be applied by all government offices and partners working on sanitation and hygiene development. Market based sanitation is defined as a development approach to improve sanitation in a country by building the sanitation market of goods and services for which the customer makes a full or partial monetary contribution (with savings and/or cash equivalents) towards the purchase, construction, upgrade, and/or maintenance of their toilet from the private sector. The aim of MBS programs is to increase sustained access to and use of basic sanitation with a focus on low-income populations. It does this by supporting sustainable, competitive businesses to better reach and serve the unmet sanitation needs of low-income households.

This MBS training manual is an update to the earlier National Sanitation Marketing Guideline with the focus of building sustainable markets for sanitation goods and services. MBS program will work with local government, businesses, and households at the same time to link and expand supply and demand for basic sanitation. MBS helps businesses profitably and sustainably deliver and sell affordable toilets and related services, so that households can easily get the 'good toilet' they want, for a price they are willing to pay, and helps customers to get the finance they need to make the purchase. At the same time, it supports local government to take the lead in motivating households to prioritize this investment, while ensuring competition and quality.

The purpose of developing this training manual is to provide guidance for designing, developing, planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation of market-based sanitation approach and related sanitation product & service delivery mechanisms in a simple, clear, and participatory manner. This manual provides tools for designing a market-based sanitation program, to understand what MBS means, the different components of MBS and its relevance to the improvement of household sanitation in a sustained manner.

COWASH as a development partner in the country will follow and use this national training manual for new WASH enterprises establishment and support for existing ones in the project target woredas.

Access to basic sanitation remains a critical challenge to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2. Market-based approaches to sanitation, which unlock household investment and develop private sector supply of household toilets and related services, to achieve SDG 6.2 targets have gained in popularity and feature in many sanitation development programs. Relatively it is a recent phenomenon that private sectors (especially small and medium enterprises) are engaging in the provision of WASH products and service to the communities. It has come into play over the last 5-10 years, mostly driven by development partners. In Ethiopia it is in 2013 that National Sanitation Marketing guideline was developed and started to be applied. WASH delivery is mainly considered the role of the government and partners like, NGOs. Market -Based interventions are now getting emphasis to provide WASH products and services to make it sustainable and efficient, instead of donor financing and simple granting approach. This approach is supposed to reach more clients and increase coverage of sanitation and hygiene facilities. Cognizant of its importance, COWASH IV project has planned to establish new small and medium enterprise and strengthening the existing ones.

Subject to new developments and opportunities in each specific locality new establishments planned in this phase includes, Sanitation products and facilities marketing, Water schemes maintenance, Water schemes spart part supplies MSEs and combination of each as appropriate. In addition, to new establishments, existing WASH enterprises will also be technically supported to expand and grow their business. This includes need-based business development service, market linkage to both the supply chains and consumers. Business health assessment tool has been developed to identify specific gaps in each existing enterprise and provide the technical support. In establishing new MSEs, availability of different resources will be considered. Budget shortage, technical expert limitation to provide continued business development support and business feasibility are among the limiting factors for the establishment of new MSEs.

All guidelines, training manuals and directions of COWASH IV project which are developed and under development will follow and be in line will the National Market-based Sanitation training guide. This is the latest (April 2021) national guideline developed by the participation of relevant stakeholders lead by the Ministry of Health where COWASH is a member. This training manual elaborates on the barriers to the success of MBS interventions and recommends approaches. Regardless of successful application of sanitation marketing, many sanitation enterprises failed to scale up,. In the experience of COWASH IV project, confirmed by global latest studies, the following factors influence the viability and sustainability of sanitation enterprises:

- WASH/Sanitation enterprises are attractive as a business line but not as a standalone, full-time business,
- Availability of enterprise capital and
- Availability/profile of entrepreneurs

All new enterprises establishment in the COWASH IV project will consider these factors in recruiting entrepreneurs, having related alongside business lines and close follow up support with existing, related business to start WASH business and follow up technical support.

The success of WASH business require work in both demand and supply sides. In COWASH IV project activities to increase the awareness of the community about improved sanitation will implemented. To stimulate the demand for hygienic sanitation with the project target woredas, different behavioral change and promotional activities focused on the benefit of having improved latrine are planned. Existing and newly established WASH enterprises by COWASH will supply appropriate and affordable rural latrine options in the target woredas to respond to the demand created among the rural communities. In addition, COWASH will also work on developing the supply chain and facilitating linkage between demand and supply of improved latrine. Below diagram show the link between demand, supply and other enabling environment for the success of WASH enterprises.

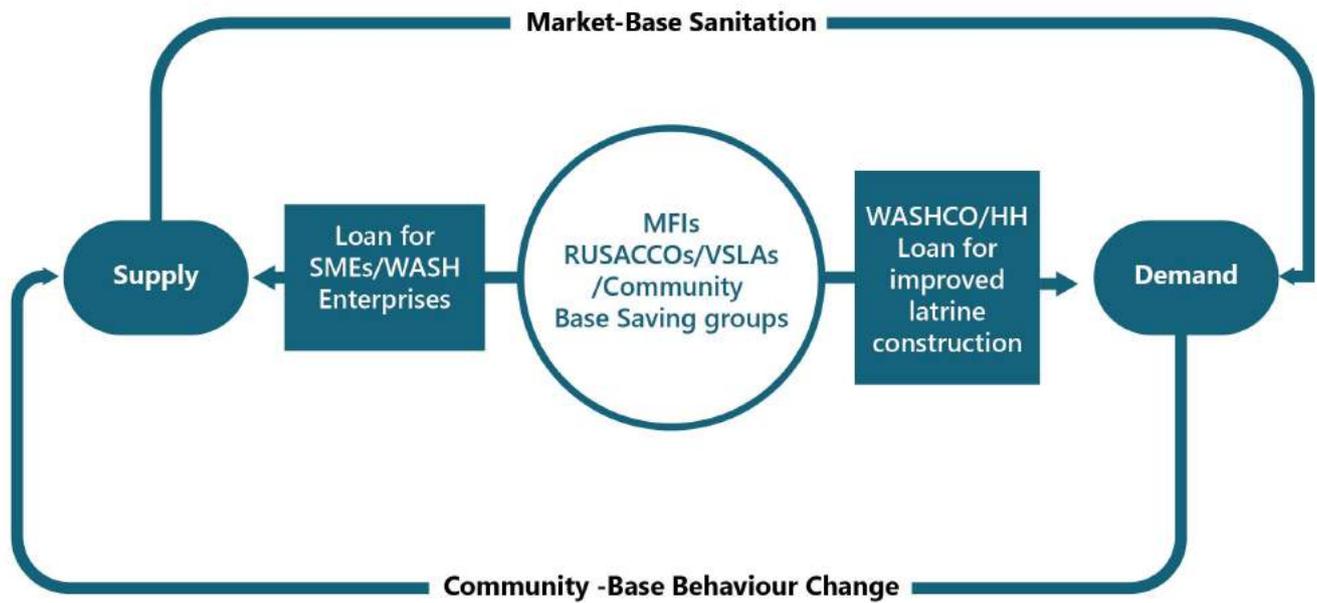


Figure 1. COWASH IV rural sanitation delivery process

As shown in the diagram, supply side constraints of affordable and appropriate latrine options will be made available through the market channels by WASH enterprises established by COWASH and other like-minded partners working in the targeted project woredas. In addition to direct support and establishment of WASH enterprises, COWASH IV will play a facilitative role to link WASH enterprises with financial institutions such as micro finance institutions and other financial sources available in each locality. So those enterprises will be able to fill their financial gap to grow their business.

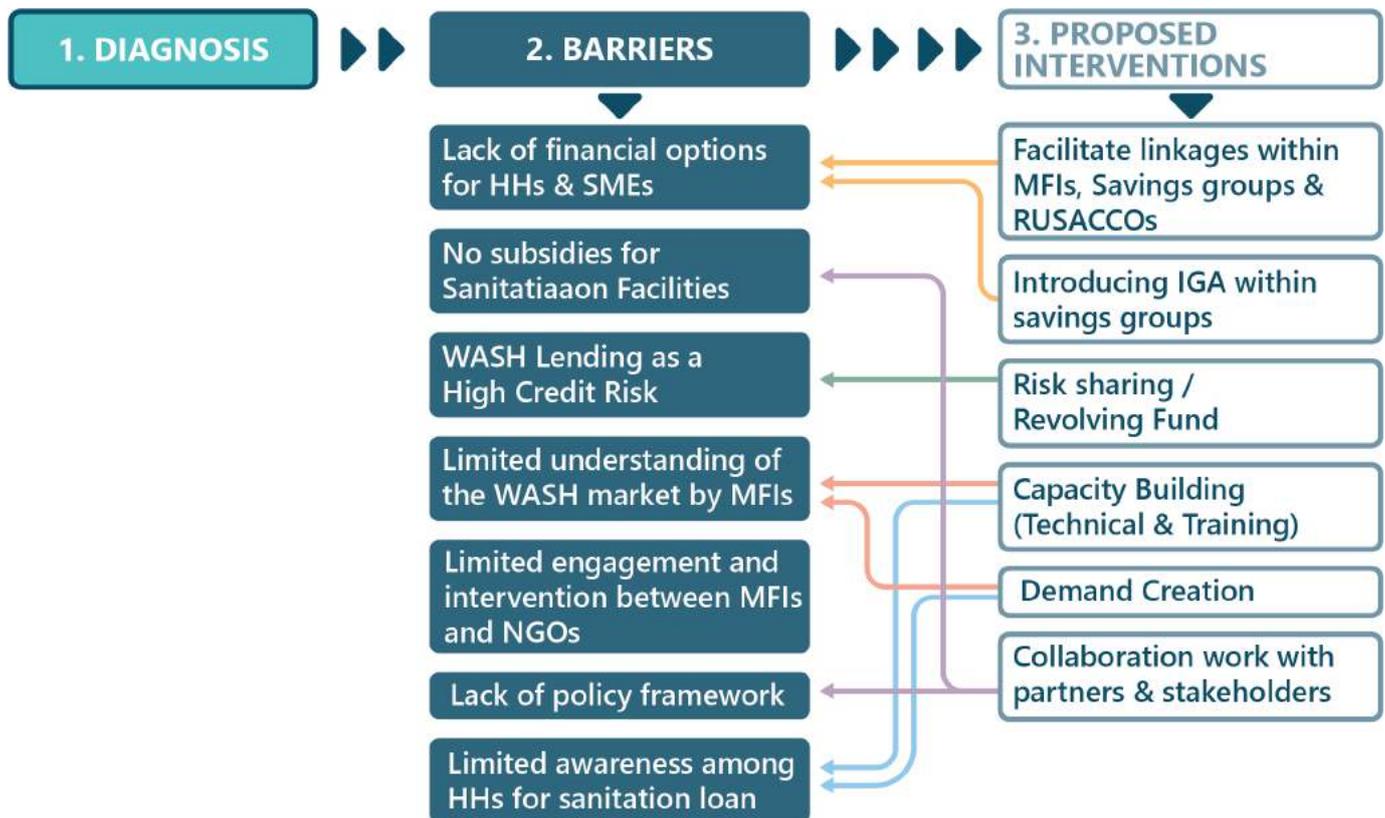
Demand side constraints will also be addressed by community – based behavior change, and promotional activities as depicted in the diagram. COWASH IV project has planned different activities to stimulate improved latrine construction in rural communities. In addition, other partners including Ministry of Health work in promoting hygienic sanitation through e.g. Community- Led Total Sanitation. Even when households are inspired to have improved latrines, they may face financial constraints to access promoted latrine options. For that purpose, COWASH will facilitate linkage with available financial credit access in their respective areas in addition to introducing WASH Saving and Loan Associations (WASH- SLA).

1.2 Household Sanitation

The Sanitation and Hygiene sector is lagging behind in achieving its SDG target. COWASH IV project gives focus to deliver WASH facilities in a more integrated manner. COWASH IV will put more emphasis on latrine development in comparison to previous phases. As research reports show, financial access is among the barriers that hinder improved latrine construction.

During the Inception Phase, a rapid assessment was conducted in SNNP and Sidama regions at bureau level to identify the possible household financing mechanisms and see the existing sanitation financing landscape. In this rapid assessment micro financial institutions, cooperative agencies and government

Figure 2. COWASH IV Household Sanitation Financing Framework



Facilitate linkage among WASHCOs and RUSACCOs – Currently, WASHCOs have accumulated savings for operation and maintenance of water supplies. As an option to sanitation loan access to households, these savings can serve as collateral to get credit from RUSACCOs by facilitating linkage among them. Assessing the possibilities that WASHCOs can register and save in the RUSACCO for sanitation loan is an option in creating access to sanitation loan for Households.

As per Ethiopian WASH Credit Market assessment conducted by M2i Consulting in partnership with Water.org, The following are the barriers identified in developing the WASH credit and availing loan WASH related business.

- Limited understanding of the WASH market by MFIs
- Perceived WASH lending as a high credit risk
- Limited engagement and interaction between MFIs, NGOs and the private sectors
- Lack of policy frameworks
- No subsidy for sanitation facilities
- Lower preference for sanitation products in rural areas

stakeholders including the Bureau of Health have been contacted. The assessment found, that there were no direct financial mechanisms devised for household sanitation facility delivery. Existing micro financial institutions that were contacted do not have any designated financial product for household sanitation and hygiene finance as a form of loan. Since these micro financial institutions focus is on economic activities to provide loan, activities which have a social element only are not their priority. A reason might be the risk of non-repayment.

Following the rapid assessment, various financial mechanisms were proposed to household sanitation financing. The main one is to introduce WASH Saving and Loan Associations (WASH – SLA). In this mechanism the communities will be their own source of fund for improved sanitation construction by regular saving and lending modality. This mean of financing will work not only for the sanitation sector, but also for water scheme maintenance. The saving group can also serve as a platform to other deals. It is a more sustainable solution to address the problem by the community instead of waiting for donor fund or direct material provision to construct improved sanitation. The training guideline has already been developed in the Inception Phase and will be applied in the implementation phase. In addition to this, COWASH will play a facilitative role to link households with available financial sources for sanitation loans, like with Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives/ RUSACCOs/ whenever possible.

Ministry of Health together with partners is advocating a subsidy approach to relevant government stakeholders for endorsement and adoption for those households who cannot afford to purchase improved latrines. The protocols have already been prepared and are waiting for endorsement. This is the other alternative that vulnerable COWASH target households will benefit from and can be able to access improved latrines.

Although in-depth review and analysis is still needed to clearly depict the status of WASH financing in Ethiopia (especially for COWASH IV project - the status of RUSACCOs and saving groups in the target regions and woredas), the rapid assessment on water credit market in SNNP and Sidama regions shows WASH financing is an underdeveloped sector in Ethiopia. Most Financial Institution including the MFIs (OMO and Vision Fund) do not have WASH credit in their policies and portfolios. Their experience in WASH financing is very limited and perceive WASH lending as a high credit risk. The enabling environment including policies and regulations is also lacking in the sector. In addition, the demand for sanitation products is lower in rural areas. For COWASH IV implementation purpose assessing the status of community-based saving groups/cooperatives including rural saving and credit cooperatives/RUSACCO will be essential in developing approaches/models towards linking WASHCOs and households for sanitation facilities construction. In addition, the status of existing platforms among different partners and stakeholders on WASH credit development will be analyzed and be part of that development. MFIs will also be approached on mechanisms in availing loan for WASH SMEs and WASH credit development.

Proposed Intervention in Household Sanitation Financing

To curve out these barriers and increase the usage of improved sanitation facilities among project target communities, the following intervention activities will be implemented.

Capacity Building – as the WASH business in general and the credit access to WASH related facilities are emerging, capacity building to MFIs, community saving groups/ cooperatives and WASHCOs is important. Activities include trainings/ awareness on WASH financing, saving, facilitation linkage among WASHCOs and RUSACCOs.

Demand Creation – Two important activities will be done in relation to demand creation. One is awareness for RUSACCOs and MFIs about sanitation credit development. The benefits it will bring to them in terms of diversifying loan products and reaching new customers. The other is demand creation among communities about improved sanitation.

Collaboration work with partners and stakeholders - The effort done by different partners and stakeholders in creating enabling environment for sanitation product marketing and financial access is in good progress. Ministry of Health with partners and NGOs has already developed market- base sanitation marketing guideline. COWASH IV will actively participate and be part of the development process towards availing sanitation credit access to WASCHOs and households.

ANNEX 9

Gender, Equity, Women Empowerment and disability inclusion

Gender transformative and disability inclusive WASH strategy preparation has been finalized in the last month of the inception period to be used in the project life of COWASH IV. The overall goal of the strategy is to scale up the practice of mainstreaming women empowerment, gender equality and disability inclusion during the project implementation period through improving the awareness and capacity of WASH experts and communities on equity and inclusion issues. Specific objectives of the strategy include:

- To use learnings of COWASH III on gender and disability inclusion as input and capitalize on its accumulated knowledge and practices
- To give clear guidance for implementing partners on gender and inclusion focus areas of COWASH IV that need deliberate action by individual WASH sector partners and make a call for increased collaboration among the sectors and target communities
- To identify and enable target communities including people with disabilities, as well as women and men, boys and girls benefit, actively participate and contribute in an equal way in WASH planning, implementation & WASH services management (including O&M);
- To contribute for the national efforts challenging gender stereotypes as well as prejudice (including pity/shame) on people with disabilities and closing these gaps in bringing women and people with disabilities to leadership/decision making positions in WASH management & WASH businesses; and to document & disseminate learnings & research findings.

The strategy is developed for use by COWASH regional support unit (RSU) staffs, and COWASH regional WASH sector partners including woreda and kebele WASH team members, health extension workers and community-based structures (both formal and informal).

The guideline is prepared based on learnings of COWASH III. Key gender and disability inclusion learnings from COWASH III to be scaled up in the new phase of COWASH include:

- Preparation and dissemination of gender and disability focused materials that are translated into regional working languages (Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrigna). Such materials will be revised & disseminated to COWASH IV regions during year one of COWASH IV project period.
- Conducting gender and disability inclusion ToT trainings at regional level and cascading down to zones and woredas as well as to kebele WASH team members to make constructed water and sanitation facilities be accessible for all and to increasingly include persons with disabilities in the community WASH activities and to make them WASH facilities accessible. Such training methodology will also be adopted in COWASH IV implementation period.
- Providing training for focal persons with disabilities in each region (regional DPOs) to bring their expertise to the lower levels. Gender and disability trainings will continue to be mainstreamed in other trainings.
- Accessible design for a water point with a hand pump (hand dug well or shallow well) and a design for an accessible community tap stand (for RPS and spring protections) to suit persons with disability, especially those physically disabled who use crutches or wheelchair, was prepared by COWASH FTAT and disseminated in the previous phase. Attention will be given to the new woredas to enable them to use the accessible designs.

- COWASH data collection formats used in the woredas for the construction of WASH facilities to include information about community members with disabilities will continue to be in use in phase IV.
- Disaggregation of data by gender and disability will be continued in phase IV like Phase III.
- Household level sanitation, including addressing needs of family members with disabilities will be done intensively in phase IV as it was started in Phase III.
- Supporting project woredas to raise awareness of school community in general and adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene management besides providing water supply and sanitation facilities in schools. COWASH IV will give more emphasis in piloting MHM interventions in selected schools in each region.
- Strengthening leadership capacity of WASHCO members, working closely with government partners, DPOs and communities at different levels. Phase IV will continue working in partnership with WASH actors and build leadership skill of WASHCOs.

In COWASH III, much attention was given to address practical needs of women, men, boys and girls. COWASH IV will give attention in addressing strategic needs adopting the gender transformative programming approach as a tool. This strategy adopts [gender transformative programming approach](#) that address strategic gender needs that aim to transform the power structures that underlie unequal gender power relations and norms through empowering marginalized women and girls to come into public domain, share their perspectives, take on leadership roles and be effective in discharging their responsibilities of managerial positions besides addressing issues related to intra-household inequalities. Regarding disability inclusion COWASH adopts a twin track approach in WASH and advances equality of rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities. COWASH follows the guiding principle of “leave no one behind” for its inclusive WASH intervention. Major components of the strategy are focused on elaborating the following:

Staff assignment and sharing of responsibilities – To provide technical support and oversee implementation of the gender and disability inclusion, each region supported by COWASH is expected to have a Gender and Inclusion Specialist (GIS) full time staff or focal person as part of the regional support unit team. Besides, each COWASH staff and RSU member consider gender and disability responsibilities in his/her respective area of work. COWASH also continues to work closely with local people with disabilities and disabled people organizations /associations exist at different tiers.

Equity and inclusion in decision making of WASH implementation & WASH services management – The CMP approach stimulates demand among the communities to have water facility and then both men and women members take part in electing WASHCOs democratically. The role of women and marginalized groups is promoted by the project as decision makers beyond mere service recipients. Thus, in each WASHCO, at least one or two of the three leadership (chairperson, treasurer and secretary) positions shall be hold by women. Besides, in each WASHCO there should be one person with a disability and in one of the three leadership positions. Beyond quota system for representation of women and PWD in WASHCOs, strengthened and coordinated effort is needed to build their leadership capacity.

Capacity development / strengthening - The present phase of the project continues to increase the awareness, understanding and capacity of WASH stakeholders in the COWASH regions at all levels on issues related to women empowerment, gender equality and disability inclusion through formal awareness raising training using training materials prepared by COWASH; sharing electronically or printed materials, posters and leaflets on gender and disability inclusion as well as sharing links and creating conducive environment for RSU and sector government partners to attend virtual meetings on the same subject; and cross learning and experience sharing, site visits and discussion with user communities

Equal access to and control over WASH services -Building on experiences of the previous phase, COWASH shall aggressively work to institutionalize the implementation of accessible water points and latrines at community, household and institutional level. To facilitate implementation of accessible water points (including the path leading to the WASH facilities) COWASH has developed inclusive hand dug well design and inclusive public tap design to be adopted in all target regions in phase IV as well.

Promote Menstrual Hygiene Management/Menstrual Health and Hygiene - All students benefit from improved WASH facilities and adolescent girls will benefit from menstrual hygiene management (MHM) / menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) interventions to be implemented in selected schools of COWASH IV woredas. The focus areas of COWASH IV on MHM/MHH include:

- Enhancing knowledge of adolescent girls and women (including women and girl students with disabilities) that exist in and out of school system on MHM/MHH.
- Support the construction of MHM rooms in schools as per the design of Ministry of Education, along with construction of separate toilets for boys and girls.
- Promote enabling environment for local manufacturing and distribution of menstrual hygiene products (including the supply chain to ensure sustainability).
- Support awareness raising training for regional, zonal and woreda staff, teachers, school supervisors, directors, school gender and WASH club leaders.
- Promote awareness raising to the communities to address societal beliefs, taboos and stigmas surrounding the issue.

Partnership, networking, and advocacy- At federal level, COWASH shall continue to work closely with the NWCO and with the established gender equity and disability inclusion taskforce, strengthen partnership with disabled people organizations, and shall extend technical support for the Women Affairs Directorate in the MoWE as deemed necessary. At regional and woreda level, COWASH works closely with Women Affairs Bureau and Women Affairs Office respectively and with regional gender focal persons of sector Bureaus as well as regional and zonal DPOs. At kebele level, COWASH work with and strengthen kebele WASH team, WASHCOs and community-based organizations.

Research on Gender and Inclusion in WASH - Research on gender and social/disability inclusion shall be conducted to respond better to women's, men's and people with disabilities needs for improved WASH services in COWASH regions and beyond. Findings of the research shall be disseminated to WASH sector partners in every way possible.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting - COWASH experience in integrating gender equity and disability inclusion in its M&E framework shall be continued in strengthened manner. As a trend, performance monitoring plan of COWASH is prepared by way of including monitoring indicators and clearly shows the frequency of the data to be collected in disaggregated manner by regions, sex and disabilities. Equity and inclusion indicators in baseline data collection, outcome surveys and sustainability studies shall be included to measure progress in the course of COWASH IV implementation period. Joint supervision with the involvement of FTAT, RSU, regional, zonal and woreda WASH teams as well as discussion with WASHCO and other community level organizations need to be conducted on regular basis in each of COWASH regions.

ANNEX 10

Social Behavioral change

1.1 Focus on demand creation

Improving sanitation and water conditions of households and institutions cannot be done only by implementing hardware such as constructing toilets or water points. Many water and sanitation programs have failed in the past because they were supply driven (organizations wanted something, not the people!). Even when there is impetus for sanitation and water improvement among the local authorities, the level of demand within the general population may be much lower. Communities will only use WASH products/ services properly when they really want them themselves (demand driven). Furthermore, people will only accept solutions when they understand them and see their benefits.

Creating demand and changing behavior requires innovative and novel approaches in the right context, otherwise it can be a difficult and complex undertaking. The commonly known, traditional promotion programs often focus on educating people about health, germs and disease using leaflets, posters and messaging only. However, such approaches rarely result in positive, sustained behavior change as they fail

to account for the fundamental role of broader structural determinants. These include, cultural or social norms, environmental constraints, such as access to facilities and products, and emotional aspects such as increasing status and ensuring comfort. Demand for WASH product/service is only created when end-users are motivated, opportunity and ability to invest in a WASH which suits their needs and aspirations. To create demand for sanitation and hygiene and move the households up the sanitation ladder, COWASH IV will design and implement audience specific WASH demand creation interventions through strategic behavior change approaches at all level. COWASH IV will strengthen the existing demand creation approach, i.e., Community/School-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH/SLTSH) with approaches and methods to address specific determinants of (barriers to and drivers of) improved latrine acquisition and will align the demand creation interventions with the rural household water supply interventions.

1.1.1 Social Behavior Change for COWASH IV

COWASH IV conducted a desk review of existing documents and engaging stakeholders to gain a deep understanding of the key constraints at households, communities, and institutions, as well as their incentives to adopt and sustain improved WASH behaviors. COWASH IV has developed the [social behavior change \(SBC\) strategy](#) which is intended to suggest evidence-based behavioral change and demand creation approaches and to guide WASH behavior change intervention efforts implemented by the project.

This strategy is informed from a desk review of WASH-related policy, strategy, and program documents and survey reports; a review of WASH-related social behavior changes communication (SBC) material mapping; and a critical review of existing tools from the Ministry of Health (MoH), and stakeholder and partner consultation/discussion at national, regional, zonal, and woreda levels. Furthermore, the social behavior change (SBC) strategy is expected to improve the effectiveness of WASH service delivery by addressing the demand/user side gaps by creating awareness, demand, and acceptability for the WASH products and services provided through community-based approaches.

The main goal of this strategy is to guide the design and implementation of SBC interventions to improve the health of rural communities in the target districts through increasing their knowledge and demand for improved WASH products and service. The strategy has seven components:

- Goals and objectives
- Theoretical framework
- Priority Areas and Behaviors
- Audience segmentation
- Demand Creation Strategic Approaches
- Communication Materials and Tools
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

COWASH has conducted behavior change the inventory of the existing WASH communication tools that were developed by the MoH and partners. Based on gap and the barriers, motivators, and facilitators identified in the process of behavioral analysis to enable households to practice WASH behaviors, the communication materials, messages, and medias will be developed/adopted. This strategy also helps the lower structure especially the Woredas to design and implement local and context specific demand creation activities in their localities. The following are some of the communication materials and tools that will be used by the project while implementing WASH demand creation activities:

- Posters, flyers and stickers
- Audio- and audio-visual materials including radio and TV messages
- Digital platforms like webpages, Facebook, and Telegram
- Flip chart/counseling cards, etc.

The behavior change (BCC) components of the COWASH SBC strategy will primarily focus on sanitation/latrine and hygiene behaviors such as:

- Family members building and using a clean toilet
- Handwashing with soap at critical times
- Safe Water collection, proper storage and households water treatment.

Improved sanitation facilities and hygiene behaviors resulting in sustained behavioral changes over time. This will be achieved through:

- Building improved toilets and handwashing facilities with soap and water in each household, and in public locations
- People using clean toilets (by all family members and in public locations) at all times
- People practicing handwashing with soap and water at critical moments
- People practicing proper water storage using a lid and treating drinking water at the household level

ANNEX 11

Communication and dissemination issues and activities to consider in the development of the COWASH IV communication strategy

1. Development/revision of COWASH-IV Communications Strategy

- Development/revision of COWASH-Niras Communications objectives
- Development of Vision, Mission and Objectives and Value of COWASH Niras- Phase IV programme should be stated. This one locks the behaviors the COWASH staff should display and live up to.
- Conduct training on COWASH communications strategy to Federal and RSU staff so everyone will be abided by the COWASH Communications Strategy.
- Execution of the COWASH Communications strategy. It is the key focus of the Communications and documentations Specialist; however, everyone is expected to be brand guardian of the COWASH Communications branding. At Federal level, the Communications and Documentations Specialist and the CTA will be the brand guardian while in regions, the RSU Head; will be the lead for branding related issues.

2. COWASH Visibility and Public Relations Objective

- Preparation of annual calendar for COWASH visibility
- Preparation of various visibility materials
- Ensure COWASH receive publicity in regional and national media
- Promote brand recognition and brand awareness of COWASH

3. Dissemination objectives

- Create Instagram and Twitter account
- Build audience and promote the page
- Disseminate quarterly/six months and annual updates

4. Influencing and advocacy objectives

- Advocate COWASH thematic issues such as inclusion, gender, ODF on national and international forums
- Participation of national and international events to influence/advocate COWASH objectives

- Organize high level media round table discussions with high level federal and regional government officials to advocate about COWASH and key COWASH's influencing work
- Based on programme objective of COWASH, develop influencing actions and influence partners and high-level government officials

5. Periodic Communications and documentations Goals

- Preparation of COWASH Monthly Update Report (Across all thematic issues)
- Compile Quarterly Newspaper for COWASH
- Develop policy advocacy brief for governments and development partners
- Develop key programme learning notes, articles, case studies/case stories, programme briefs, fact sheets, human interest stories and various other communication products on periodic basis
- Coordinate and compile brochures and COWASH communications materials for promotion of organizational Knowledge in COWASH
- Production of videos for dissemination purposes annually
- Produce various communication products (fliers, factsheets, stories, learning notes) for local and international COWASH-Niras field visit.

6. Strengthening and transformation of Regional COWASH Communications Network to Regional WASH network

- Strengthen the existing COWASH Regional Communications Network through trainings and field supervision support
- Ensure effective coordination body to enhance COWASH communications
- Advocate RCCN to Regional WASH Communication Network (RWCN)

7. Internal and external Communications objectives

a. Internal Communications Objectives

- Put in place COWASH Federal and RSU staff are updated and abreast to the communications and branding guideline of COWASH-Niras
- Ensure COWASH-Niras work and all materials and equipment/vehicles, Water points built by COWASH are branded with COWASH-NIRAS
- COWASH Federal team and RSU team are engaged and trained in COWASH Communications strategy

b. External Communications Objectives

- Engage regional and national media on COWASH
- Engage the WASH sector in COWASH
- Ensure brand guardian of COWASH-NIRAS project
- Engage local and international media to share outputs
- Organize visit for international COWASH-Niras visitors

8. Lead on COWASH programme communications objectives

- Promote COWASH thematic programme communications (Example, Water safety planning, Climate change, Inclusion, MSE, CMP etc.)
- Across the programme goals, communications objectives should be planned, monitored and output and outcome indicators should be clearly shown.