

# The World Bank Group<sup>1</sup>

## Human rights assessment of development cooperation for water and sanitation

### Main policies and frameworks for human rights and water and sanitation

- Water Resources Sector Strategy (2004)
- Environmental and Social Framework (2016)
- Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming Citizen Engagement in World Bank Group Operations (2014)
- In 2014, the Water Global Practice became one of the World Bank's 13 Global Practices, aiming to improve water management and contribute to achieving SDG 6.
  - The Water Global Practice undertakes lending operations and analytical activities and currently manages several multi donor trust funds including the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership, the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa, the Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program, the Danube Water Partnership, and the South Asia Water Initiative. The practice also supports the High-Level Panel on Water, created to assist in the implementation of SDG6.

**The WBG's Water Global Practice is currently responsible for \$14.5 billion in funding for water supply and sanitation services, of which \$6.1 billion (43%) is managed by the International Development Association.**

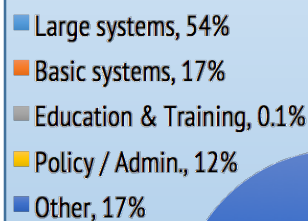
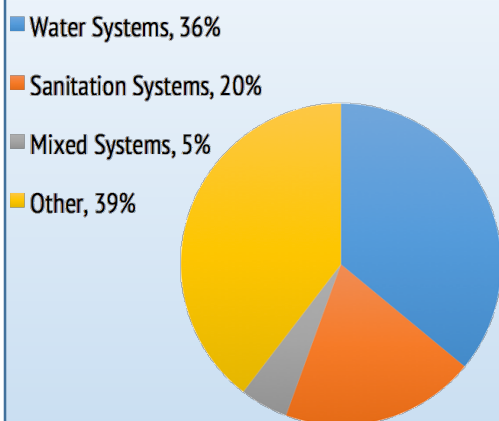
### Human rights and WASH policy

The World Bank Group (WBG) declares two goals: (1) end extreme poverty within a generation and (2) boost shared prosperity. At the same time, the WBG's policies demonstrate a categorical absence of reference to human rights.

In the publication, *A Water-Secure World for All* (2015), the WBG endorses the SDG agenda, which "reflects the growing importance of water and sanitation as a human right". Furthermore, the publication highlights perspectives on access to water and sanitation services that are relevant from a human rights standpoint: "access to a connection is not enough; future water availability is not guaranteed; pricing need[s] to play the role of...securing universal access and affordability".

Yet, the above document possesses an important caveat: "The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this work do not necessarily reflect the view of the World Bank Group, its Board of Executive Directors, or the governments they represent." This caveat is present in several other documents published by the World Bank which mention water and sanitation as human rights. Since such publications are not considered official, binding policies of the WBG, they are not incorporated in the analysis on page 2.

#### 1. Water supply and sanitation funding (IDA) by subsector 2011-2015'



Source: Based on data from OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), consulted April 2017.

#### 2. Average annual WASH disbursements (ODA): IDA vs. DAC<sup>2</sup> Members and multilaterals, 2011-2015

	VALUE \$ MILLION
DAC + MULTILATERALS	5,889
IDA	779
%	13

Source: OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

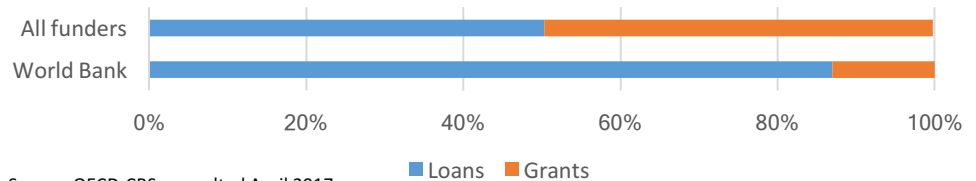
#### 3. IDA average annual disbursements for WASH (ODA) as a proportion of total funding, 2011-2015

	VALUE \$ MILLION
ALL ODA SECTORS	11,123
WASH	779
%	7

Source: OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

1. More than half (54%) of IDA funding for WASH in the 2011-2015 period was allocated to large systems, more than three times the share allocated to basic systems. Further, average funding for water systems outweighs funding for sanitation systems by 180%, and funding for projects involving both systems is a small percentage (5%) of overall annual funding.
2. The World Bank has long been the largest multilateral funder to WASH, sometimes second to Japan as greatest overall WASH funder. In the period 2011-2015, among all DAC Members and multilateral funders to water and sanitation, the IDA's yearly ODA disbursements to this sector represented an average 13% of total disbursements to the sector.
3. In the period 2011-2015, the World Bank Group's yearly average funding for WASH (\$779 million/year) represented 7% of its ODA disbursements to all sectors. In the same period, the average for all DAC Members and multilateral funders was 4%, indicating higher-than-average priority for water and sanitation in the World Bank's portfolio.

#### WASH ODA disbursements funding type: yearly average, 2011-2014



Source: OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

- ❖ Compared to all funders' funding type for WASH in the period 2011-2015, the World Bank disburses comparatively more loans (87%) than grants.

<sup>1</sup> Having focused on the World Bank's development cooperation to the WASH sector through official development assistance (ODA; financing that is concessional in character with a grant element of at least 25 per cent, using a fixed 10 per cent discount rate), the statistics analysed herein apply only to the World Bank Group's International Development Association. The policies analysed herein can encompass other World Bank institutions, including the entire World Bank Group, when specified.

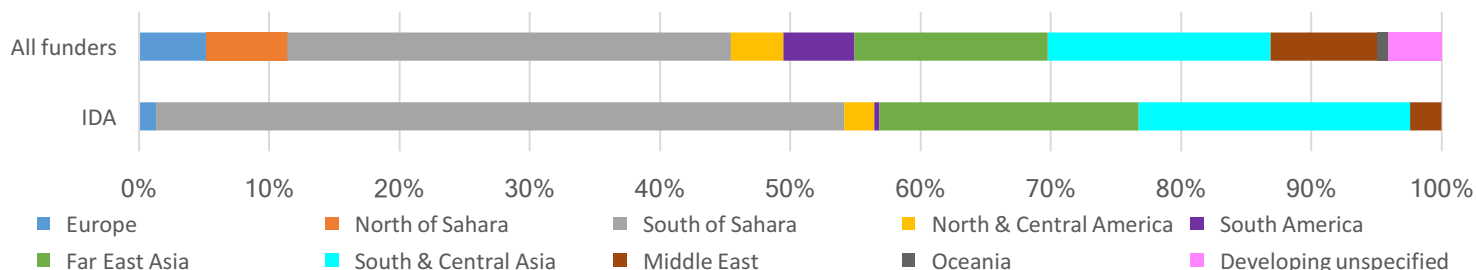
<sup>2</sup> The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a 30-member forum of the OECD made up of many of the largest funders, including the European Union.

**Incorporation of normative content & principles relevant to the human rights to water and sanitation  
in development cooperation policy**

Normative content	Description of policy/measure	Details
Availability	No guarantee in policy	No clear guarantee exists in policy committing the WBG to ensure availability (i.e. sufficient and continuous water supply for personal and domestic uses and a sufficient number of sanitation services) in projects related to water supply and sanitation services.
Accessibility	Indirect and incomplete policy provision	A possible, indirect reference to guaranteeing accessibility of water and sanitation services is found in the Environmental and Social Safeguards: “where the project involves provision of services to communities ... the Borrower will ... apply the concept of universal access, where technically and financially feasible...The concept of universal access means unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances”. The WBG’s definition of universal access is not tailored to water and sanitation services, for example not setting standards for key aspects such as the location of services and time required to access them.
Affordability	Statement of intention in policy, no guarantee	In the Water Resources Sector Strategy, the WBG states that the “overriding thrust of [its] work on water and sanitation is to ensure that poor people gain access to safe, affordable water supply and sanitation services by reducing costs and increasing accountability”. No provisions exist to safeguard the affordability of water supply and sanitation services.
Acceptability	Partial assurances in policy	Water Resources Sector Strategy: provision to “incorporating the preferences of poor communities for service quality standards, delivery modality and management arrangements”. The Framework for Citizen Engagement <sup>3</sup> outlines some approaches to incorporating project beneficiaries into project development processes that can possibly contribute to ensuring greater acceptability: consultations, collaboration, collecting input, grievance redress mechanisms, citizen-led monitoring, social inclusion and empowerment, capacity building, and incorporating technology. However, they are not specifically oriented to water and sanitation services.
Quality/Safety	Policy commitments exist	The Environmental and Social Safeguards contain an indirect reference to ensuring quality of water and sanitation services: “where the project involves provision of services to communities, the Borrower will establish and implement appropriate quality management systems to anticipate and minimize risks and impacts that such services may have on community health and safety.” Water Resources Strategy: commitment to providing “safe... water supply and sanitation services”.
Human rights principles	Description of policy/measure	Details
Participation	Several policy guarantees, some specific to WASH and others general	Water Resources Strategy: provision to “empowering communities to make informed choices about their participation, service levels and service delivery mechanisms... vesting communities with ownership rights and authority to select service providers; building local capacity to support community decision making in planning, management and delivery of services”. Through the Framework for Citizen Engagement and the Environmental and Social Policy for Investment Project Financing, <b>the</b> WBG requires borrowers to engage with stakeholders through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation, and further commits itself to applying several citizen engagement approaches (see above in <i>Acceptability</i> ). In the Gender Strategy 2016-2023: the WBG supports women in local governance institutions and notes that women’s participation in water projects leads to “more sustainable outcomes”.
Transparency / Access to information	Policy guarantees unspecific to WASH	In the Environmental and Social Framework, the WB states it “will require Borrowers to provide sufficient information about the potential risks and impacts of projects for Borrowers’ consultations with stakeholders. Such information must be disclosed in a timely manner, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to project-affected parties and other interested parties... so they can provide meaningful input into project design and mitigation measures.” An Access to Information Policy (2015) provides further general assurances for these criteria.
Accountability	Policy guarantees and commitment	Water Resources Strategy: WBG outlines central concern to realign “policy, regulatory and service provision functions and governance structures to enhance accountability and incentives for distinct actors to perform; [strengthen] regulatory oversight capacities, institutions and processes”. Environmental and Social Policy for Investment Project Financing: the WB commits itself to support and require the borrower in providing project-based grievance mechanisms whereby project-affected parties may submit complaints.
Non-Discrimination /Equality	Some policy guarantees, most unspecific to WASH	In the Environmental and Social Framework, the WB explains that its objective to integrate inclusion in all its development interventions “encompasses policies to promote equality and non-discrimination by improving the access of all people, including the poor and disadvantaged, to services and benefits.” WB further states that it should take into account “risks that projects’ impacts fall disproportionately on individuals or groups who... may be disadvantaged or vulnerable”, and “any prejudice or discrimination toward individuals or groups in providing access to development resources or project benefits, particularly in the case of those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable”. The Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership lists <i>inclusion</i> as one of its five priority themes critically needed to achieve SDG 6. In the World Bank Group Strategy (2013), the WBG states its support for country-specific policies and investments that strengthen growth, inclusion and sustainability including support for gender equality. Gender Strategy 2016-2023 includes the aim of enhancing women’s voice and agency, and recognizes that “across water projects, women’s participation leads to more sustainable outcomes”.
Sustainability	Policy guarantees, some specific to WASH and others general	Several principles of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) are cited throughout the Water Resources Management Strategy, and the WB commits to support borrowers in developing and managing priority hydraulic infrastructure in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. It is noted that the WB reaffirms its vision of user payments as essential for financial sustainability of systems without outlining necessary safeguards for service affordability. Tenets of sustainable development are integrated in the World Bank Group Strategy (2013). Sustainability is one of the five pillars of the Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership.

<sup>3</sup> “Framework for Citizen Engagement” refers to the Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming Citizen Engagement in World Bank Group Operations (2014).

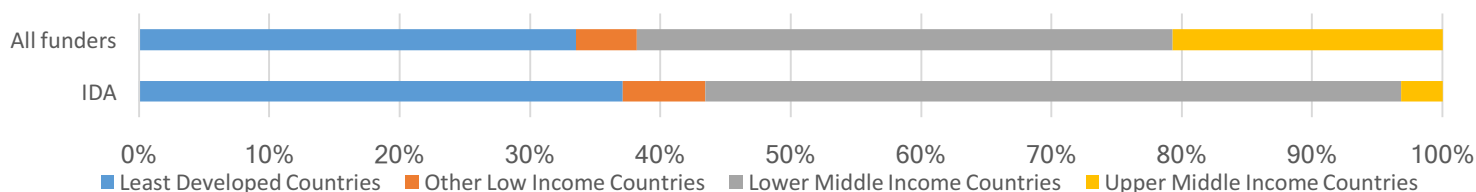
## ODA WASH disbursements to world regions: yearly average, 2011-2015



Source: Based on data from OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

❖ In comparison with all funders' regional disbursement of funds for WASH in the period 2011-2015, the World Bank disburses more to countries in the regions: South of Sahara and, to a lesser extent, South & Central Asia and Far East Asia. In particular, the World Bank is currently involved in seven projects in India worth an accumulated total of \$1.3 billion, four projects in Kenya worth \$805 million, and four projects in Vietnam worth \$760 million.<sup>4</sup>

## ODA WASH disbursements to country groups (World Bank) income status: yearly average, 2011-2015



Source: Based on data from OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

❖ Compared to all funders' disbursement of funds for WASH in the period 2011-2014, the World Bank disburses comparatively more to Least Developed Countries and comparatively less to Upper Middle Income Countries.

### Key tools

- The World Bank Group has prepared and supported the creation of several operational instruments to help borrowers improve the delivery of WASH services. Such tools elaborate on project assessments, research, and other lessons learned, providing guidelines on WASH and other cross-cutting social issues. These include, for example:
  - ❖ Toolkit for Mainstreaming Gender in Water Operations
  - ❖ Water and Sanitation Services Toolkit: Achieving Sustainable Outcomes with Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - ❖ Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) tools diagnose the status of cities' services and guide decision-making on the best solutions for the emptying, conveyance, treatment and disposal of faecal sludge. The tools offer, for example, faecal waste flow diagrams; service delivery assessments; political economy analyses; and options for technical intervention.
- The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities (IBNET) is an initiative founded in 1999 by the WB and the British Department for International Development (DfID), is a global initiative providing comparative information on utilities' costs, performance and tariffs from more than 5,000 service providers across 150 countries. By delivering access to technical and financial information on utility performance, "IBNET seeks to expand access to comparative data among utilities globally, helping to promote best practice among water supply and sanitation providers and eventually providing consumers with access to high quality and affordable water supply and sanitation services."<sup>5</sup> Yet, its methods are weakly aligned with all principles and normative content related to the human rights to water and sanitation.
- The World Bank's *WASH Poverty Diagnostic* initiative aims to identify "poor people" in different countries, their location, level of access to quality WASH services, linkages of inadequate WASH services with health and nutrition and binding constraints to improving service delivery. This initiative has been developed in 18 countries, ranging from fragile and conflict-affected states to middle-income countries. This global initiative aims to offer "new insights on how data can be used to inform allocation decisions to reduce inequalities and prioritize investment in WASH to boost human capital".<sup>6</sup>

### Partnerships & Projects

- The World Bank's new Water Global Practice is the lead institution responsible for development cooperation in the WASH sector. Its staff consists of roughly 300 specialists, based in 56 countries, with expertise in, *inter alia*, water supply and sanitation, institutional reform, gender and inclusion, economics, finance and behavior change.
- In 2017, the World Bank Group and its partners launched the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), a partnership hosted by the Water Global Practice. "The GWSP primarily focuses on advancing knowledge and building capacity. It supports client governments to achieve the water-related SDGs through the generation of innovative global knowledge and the provision of country-level support", while leveraging World Bank Group financial instruments and promoting global dialogue and advocacy with key partners and clients to increase reach and impact.<sup>7</sup>
- World Bank shifted in practice at the turn of the millennium, "supplementing traditional support for accountable, public sector utilities with support for private sector involvement in the provision of water and sanitation services".<sup>8</sup> Regarding access to sanitation services in particular, the World Bank encourages governments to leverage capacity and investment from the private sector, considering this essential to meet the needs of all people.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Based on data retrieved from World Bank database [www.projects.worldbank.org], consulted January 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Danilenko A, van den Berg C, Mancheve B & Moffitt LJ. The IBNET Water Supply and Sanitation Blue Book 2014. World Bank Group, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> World Bank Group, Reducing Inequalities in Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene in the Era of the Sustainable Development Goals: Synthesis Report of the Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Poverty Diagnostic Initiative, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> World Bank Group, Working Together For A Healthy And Water Secure World (brochure), August 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Water Resources Sector Strategy, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank, Sanitation (Strategy). Consulted October 2017. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/sanitation>