



LEARNING BRIEF

Water+ 2021 Retrospective Report Summary Brief

OVERVIEW CARE's Water+ 2021 Retrospective Report highlights a selection of lessons learned from programs demonstrating WASH systems approaches – and CARE's work to strengthen conditions and capacities for governance, accountability, investment, monitoring and learning that are essential to successfully sustaining WASH services. This summary brief identifies key recommendations pulled from the thematic lessons learned across CARE's broader water+ work.

Water, WASH and water resources management are critical to CARE's Vision 2030 in helping fulfill the right to food, water and nutrition for 75 million people

12 million
people reached with emergency WASH, including CARE's COVID response

>5 million
people reached with WASH, water resource management, or water smart agriculture activities in 2021

Stories Highlighted in the Water+ 2021 Retrospective Report

- **Madagascar: System Strengthening in RANO WASH** describes “quick wins” from working with commune governments, service providers and community to strengthen sustainable WASH services.
- **India: How Women's 'Stories of Change' in the Women + Water Alliance Captured Improvements in Water Supply** describes how training women in life-skills led to government installing and rehabilitating boreholes in 39 communities, and how our monitoring systems almost didn't capture it.
- **Zimbabwe: Ex-Post Evaluation of the Chivi WASH program** was developed after a series of dissemination events where government and community stakeholders discussed the findings of an Ex-post evaluation, conducted four years after project endline (2017) and the implications for improving WASH conditions in Chivi district.
- **Bangladesh: Progress in Scaling-up WASH Innovations in Remote Locations** is an interview with CARE and iDE teams on how together they improved sanitation coverage in seasonally flooded communities of rural Bangladesh through Human Centered Design and training of latrine producers and sellers.
- **Ecuador & Ghana: Promoting Equitable Payment Models for Water Resources Protection** dives into a Water Fund model in Ecuador and a Conservation loan model in Ghana to explore lessons learned from these two different approaches to financing conservation practices that sustain water and protect watersheds.

Key Lessons and Recommendations



People demanding their rights are the greatest force for change, including changes in WASH services. **Enable and support citizens to advocate** for themselves and **strengthen the capacity of governments and service providers** to hear and respond to those demands.



Systems approaches are complex, and progress is often non-linear. Working with the government, at various levels, requires **continuous assessment and adjustment** to **identify leverage points and opportunities** and address inevitable turnover and change.



Sustainable sanitation requires greater attention to finance. While community-led total sanitation (CLTS) is an effective social mobilization strategy, it must be layered with **policy, market-based approaches, increased public investment, and better access to finance for households** and entrepreneurs for sanitation to be sustained at scale.



Recognize and address power dynamics and incentives for equitable and sustainable water resources management and conservation. CARE continues to **refine and adapt political and financial mechanisms to support local governments** in water resources management planning and action and **equitably compensate communities and small-scale farmers** that implement soil and water conservation practices for public benefit.



A child washes hands in rural Madagascar as part of the RANO WASH program. ©RANO WASH / CARE Madagascar



A sales agent displays sanitation products in Bangladesh as part of the SHOUHARDO III's Market-Based Sanitation program. More than 16,000 latrines were sold in one year. ©SHOUHARDO III/iDE