

# Water, sanitation and hygiene – WASH



FOUNDING MEMBERS

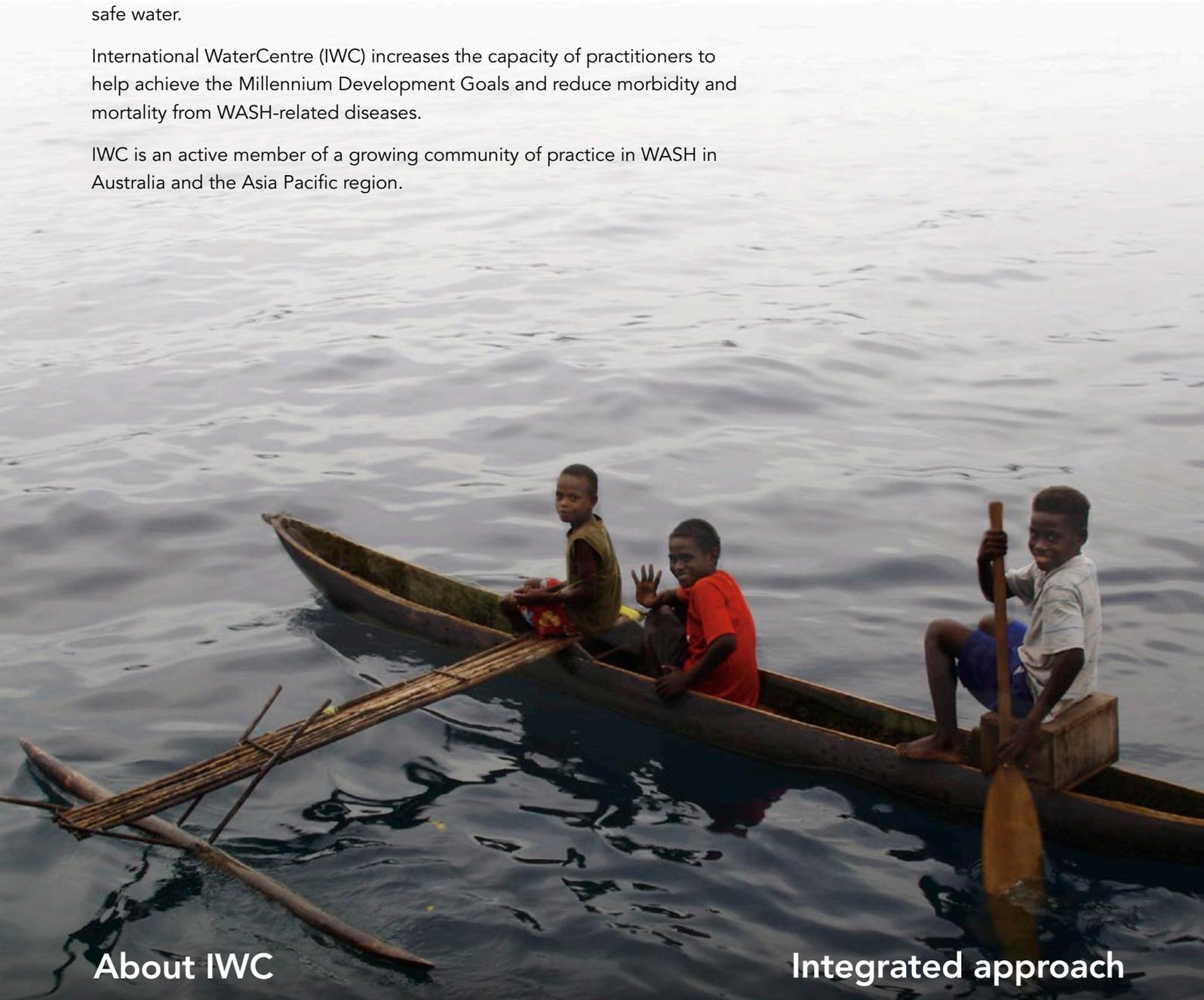


# Water, sanitation and hygiene – WASH

There is a global crisis in sanitation and water: almost two-fifths of the world's population (2.6 billion people) do not have access to improved sanitation, and roughly one in eight people (884 million people) do not have access to safe water.

International WaterCentre (IWC) increases the capacity of practitioners to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reduce morbidity and mortality from WASH-related diseases.

IWC is an active member of a growing community of practice in WASH in Australia and the Asia Pacific region.



## About IWC

Founded by four leading universities and with over 70 international networks, IWC provides a breadth of experience rarely found in a single organisation.

By bringing together the best academics and practitioners from a range of disciplines we can offer specialised project services, as well as customised education and training programs.

Our key focus areas include:

- water, sanitation and hygiene
- healthy river basins
- sustainable urban communities.

## Integrated approach

At IWC we consider the social, environmental and economic impacts of water-related decisions by integrating community, scientific, engineering, economic, legal, health and political perspectives.

We focus on three intricately related areas — education and training, applied research and knowledge sharing services — to develop and promote best practice in integrated water management.



# Our role in the WASH sector

IWC works with clients to:

- **Strengthen WASH enabling environments** (through, for example, improved governance, decision-making processes, and institutional, policy and regulatory outcomes).
- **Improve WASH services** by enabling effective implementation of locally-appropriate, demand-driven, sustainable and scalable interventions.
- **Develop evidence-based strategies** to change the WASH behaviours of individuals and communities to ensure maximum and sustained public health and environmental outcomes.



## Our WASH services

### Applied research

IWC brings together leading researchers to understand the nature of WASH challenges and identify solutions. By combining the knowledge and expertise of researchers from around the world we are able to deliver high quality, innovative and locally-relevant research outcomes and enhance the capabilities of local research institutions. We engage all stakeholders in the research processes and ensure that research outcomes are readily useable.

### Institutional capacity partnerships

IWC provides support to implementing organisations such as Civil Society Organisations (CSO), national and local governments and funding organisations to enhance their institutional capacity to design and deliver WASH programs. Partnerships are highly collaborative and provide practically-focused expert input while building the institutional capacity of the implementing organisation.

### Knowledge sharing and events

IWC hosts a range of events to support knowledge sharing of best practices in water, sanitation and hygiene, including international conferences such as WASH 2011 and WASH 2014.

### Education and training

IWC offers:

- **Master of Integrated Water Management** — the program has a strong focus on developing countries and in teaching students fundamental engineering principles and tools to design and operate water and sanitation systems. In addition, the Water and Sanitation module introduces non-conventional approaches to water and sanitation.
- **Tailor-made training programs** — our custom-designed capacity development programs are aimed at current and future water leaders with a vision for sustainable and integrated water management.
- **Online and distance learning** — IWC offers WASH and integrated water management training courses for remote or offshore participants to gain further knowledge and skills in WASH. The courses are highly interactive and practically-focused, drawing on real-world case studies.



# Our portfolio and achievements

## Research projects

### Mind the Gap: Estimating WASH human resources capacity shortages

With the International Water Association (IWA), IWC assessed the capacity of WASH sectors in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and Lao PDR. We worked with local experts to describe existing human resources and organisational contexts, then predicted the additional capacity needed for the 2015 MDGs to be met.

### School WASH: Enhancing sanitation and hygiene practices of Philippines' school children

IWC is working with UNICEF Philippines to improve sanitation and hygiene behaviours of school children. Through research of the current practices, knowledge and attitudes of school children and staff, the project will develop and evaluate a behaviour change program to improve sanitation and hand-washing practices.

### Evaluation of World Vision WASH projects

IWC and partner researchers evaluated World Vision WASH projects in the Pacific. The fieldwork involved techniques such as focus group discussions, key informant interviews, household surveys, and observations of water and sanitation infrastructure.

### WASH and climate change adaptation in the Pacific

This three-year project, funded by Australian Aid, will enable communities and water managers to understand climate change impacts and evaluate adaptation options for water supply and sanitation. We will work with stakeholders to explore risks throughout the region, produce tools for adapting to climate change, and develop Bayesian models that incorporate current management and adaptation opportunities.

### WaterAid WASH in Papua New Guinea: Hygiene behaviour change

IWC has partnered with WaterAid to support hygiene behaviour change activities in their four-year WASH program in PNG. IWC will research local practices, knowledge and attitudes to hygiene, in particular hand washing at critical times. This builds on existing preliminary research indicating health knowledge was not sufficient to motivate improved hygiene practices. Our research will guide the development and evaluation of locally-appropriate hygiene promotion activities and contribute to sustained hygiene improvements.

## Institutional capacity partnerships

### Live and Learn sanitation marketing in the Pacific: An evidence-based approach to improving implementation

IWC has partnered with Live and Learn Environmental Education and the International Women's Development Association to design and deliver the Western Pacific Sanitation Marketing and Innovation Program. This four-year program will build capacity in community enterprises in informal settlements to improve local sanitation and hygiene. IWC will build institutional capacity for an evidence-based approach to the program by supporting market research, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge and learning.

### Understanding demand and fostering sustainable WASH marketplaces

In parallel to the implementation partnership with Live and Learn (previous project), Australian Aid has funded IWC to conduct a three-year research project to develop market-place solutions to WASH service delivery. The research will build knowledge about the motivations and desires of consumers as well as their willingness to pay for services. It will also review the local context and assess locally-suitable WASH products and services.

## Custom-designed training

IWC custom designs capacity development programs in WASH. So far we have delivered programs focusing on sanitation and public health in rural and peri-urban areas for Indonesia's Water Supply Association (PERPAMSI) employees and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH).

## Conferences

The WASH conference series deals with the challenges of creating equitable, universal access to WASH, while improving health outcomes and ensuring that these outcomes and services are sustained. The conferences bring together practitioners and professionals from governments, donors and NGOs as well as students and academics from around the world.

## Publications

In collaboration with other industry-leading organisations, IWC has published a number of documents, ranging from WASH conference reports to case studies, highlighting the successes and challenges experienced by WASH practitioners world-wide.

To download these free publications, please visit [www.watercentre.org/resources/publications](http://www.watercentre.org/resources/publications)

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