

WATER FORWARD

Ethiopia

Water Compact

WASH Partnership for Accountability,
Coordination, and Transformation





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MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY
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Ethiopia Water Sanitation and Hygiene - *Partnership for Accountability, Coordination and Transformation.* (WaSH PACT)



December 2025

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Ethiopia's WASH (Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene) Compact

Background

Ethiopia is thought to be among the few fastest growing Countries in Africa with potential opportunity for reaching the middle-income countries. On the same way, Ethiopia's commitment to universal WASH access is embedded in the One WASH National Programme (OWNP), which embodies a unique, government-led, multi-sectoral coordination mechanism. The programme brings together four key ministries — Water and Energy; Health; Education; and Finance — in a unified effort to deliver water, sanitation, and hygiene services across the country.

As the planet is in the time of Climate Change effects including global warming exacerbated by weather extremes of drought & flood, the issue of safe water supply and sanitation and hygiene services require a critical thinking of leaders for proper coordination of the different efforts by various actors. The extended challenges related to access for clean water (with quality & quantity), the High and unaffordable cost of investment, Rapid urbanisation and Resource competition across all the sectors in Ethiopia are the very critical challenges of the sector highly risking the delivery of the agreed national targets and global commitments of the SDGs.

WASH Presidential Compact & Road Map is the Head of States Initiative (HoSI) to expedite program delivery and further encourage for member states of the UN towards achieving SDG – 6. The Ethiopia WASH Compact is prepared through a coordinated effort between Ethiopia's WASH line ministries, IRC WASH, SWA Secretariat and WASH stakeholders at different level. The development process was guided by a team nominated to oversee and guide the process with stakeholders' engagement at different level including consultative workshops. The final version of the document was validated with a workshop organised by the Ministry, IRC WASH.

This WASH Compact together with other similar documents will serve as an advocacy tool for the next five years and beyond with the aim of ensuring the buy-in from the very high-level government officials, securing the required funding to the sector, in placing transparency and mutual accountability in the sector, creating opportunities for learning and sharing, building trust among the different stakeholders with transformative data processing and reporting culture in the sector.

Purpose:

The very purpose of this compact is to further strengthen commitments, coordinate efforts, absorb more resources into the sector, build up implementation capacity to impact on



livelihoods, enhance economic growth and social development and ultimately contribute to the well-being of fellow Ethiopian citizens.

Focus Areas for Ethiopia's WASH Compact

I. Financing and Resourcing:

- 1) The sector will secure the required budget (USD 37.618 billion) set at the OWNP CWA Phase III.
- 2) Endorsement and full-scale implementation of WASH Financing Strategy.
- 3) Full implementation of P4R (Payment for Results).
- 4) Private Sector engagement.

II. Mutual Accountability for WASH:

- 1) Account the sector through joint review and learning.

III. Knowledge Management:

- 1) The sector needs robust MIS for bold decision & move.
- 2) National WASH Inventory
- 3) Consistence and impact full Learning and sharing platforms

Theory of Change:

1. The government of Ethiopia will give the highest required priority than ever for the WASH sector.
2. The required funding for the sector will be secured.
3. The government will create the maximum enabling environment possible for the sector.
4. The private sector will be fully engaged with the maximum level including on service delivery models.
5. The required multifaceted comprehensive capacity will be in place at all levels.
6. There will be agreed mutual accountabilities at all levels for country wide achievements.
7. Ethiopia will be able to achieve the universal access to WASH services.



Preamble

The Government of **Ethiopia** reaffirms Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as a national development priority. This is confirmed within the national and regional constitutions and the Government of Ethiopia's Home-Grown Economic reform agenda. While noteworthy progress has been made over the past decades through initiatives such as the One WASH National Program (OWNP), the country continues to face a growing WASH crisis driven by rapid population growth, urbanization, climate variability, conflict, emerging priorities, limited private sector engagement and resource constraints. In Ethiopia despite the extensive efforts, approximately 60 million and 112 million people lack access to basic water supply and improved sanitation, respectively, and about 22 million people still practice open defecation. Inadequate WASH remains a major barrier to public health, human dignity, educational attainment, economic productivity, and environmental sustainability. Around 60 to 80 percent of communicable diseases are attributed to unsafe water supply and inadequate sanitation and hygiene.

Ethiopia recognizes the urgent need to pivot towards a more transformative, coordinated, and system-oriented approach, spearheaded by national leadership and implemented through strong partnerships with regional governments, development partners, the private sector, and communities. This WASH PACT represents a collective commitment to intervene at critical leverage points in the sector to create access to unserved communities through mobilizing and using resources more effectively, accelerate service delivery, and achieve equitable and sustainable WASH outcomes.

Vision

The vision of WASH in Ethiopia is to **achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all, by 2030**, in alignment with national development plans, the Water Sector Transformation Program, and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

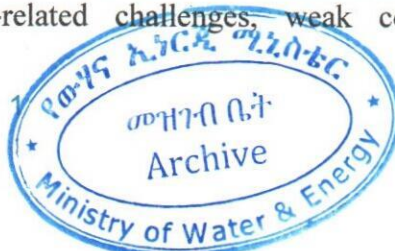
Commitment

The Ethiopia WASH PACT is a statement of the Government's commitment to:

- i. Scaling up access to WASH
- ii. Implement Systems Change in the WASH sector
- iii. Indicate proposed financing

2. Scaling up access to WASH

Scale up access to WASH services, particularly for underserved rural, pastoralist, peri-urban, and informal settlement populations. The federal, regional, and local governments, working programmatically with substantial support from development partners, NGOs, and domestic resources, are expanding access to WASH for unserved communities and improving service quality. The government has set service standards for quality, quantity, and distance in line with the SDGs. However, rapid population growth, climate-related challenges, weak coordination, limited



institutional capacity, and constrained sector financing remain critical constraints. In consultation with stakeholders, the government has set a 2030 target of universal, climate-resilient, and safely managed water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services for all Ethiopians. This vision is structured around five strategic pillars: (a) expand coverage equitably (rural and urban); (b) ensure service sustainability (O&M and financing); (c) build climate resilience; (d) strengthen governance, capacity, and monitoring; and (e) mobilize innovative financing and private sector participation. The government remains committed to achieving equitable and sustainable access. *Aligned with national sector plans, OWNP phase III strategy and action plan and SDG 6-time horizons the following national WaSH targets are presented.*

Sub-Sector	National Baseline (2024/25)	2030 Target	Status (Approved/Proposed)	Remarks
Basic drinking water (national)	~70%	100%	Approved (Sector Plans)	Priority to rural and low-income urban areas, peri-urban areas
Safely managed drinking water	~20%	60%	Proposed	Includes water quality and reliability improvements
Basic sanitation (household)	~25%	70%	Approved	Expansion of household latrines and sewerage in urban areas
Safely managed sanitation	~10%	50%	Proposed	Focus on fecal sludge management and treatment
Basic hygiene (handwashing with soap)	~22%	80%	Approved	Behavior change communication intensified
WASH in schools	~35% with basic services	100%	Approved	Includes MHM-friendly facilities
WASH in health care facilities	~65% with basic services	100%	Approved	Includes water supply, sanitation, waste management
Rural water supply functionality	~80% functional	95%	Approved	Focus on O&M and spare parts supply

3. Systems Change in the WASH Sector

Implement systems change in the WASH sector by strengthening institutions, governance and accountability mechanisms, financing systems, and human capacity. Achieving the required service standards and targets will depend on robust operational systems, appropriate institutional arrangements, and a well-qualified workforce. Efforts will focus on driving system change to ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness, and to meaningfully engage the private sector. Ethiopia commits to the following system-strengthening actions:

- Strengthening sector governance, coordination, and accountability at federal, regional, and woreda levels. This includes promoting lending based on commercial principles through the



reestablishment of the Water Development Fund, establishment of the Urban water Utilities regulatory institution, establishment of rural regulation frameworks, subsidies for HH sanitation and other vital institutional restructurings.

- Expanding the use of integrated planning and monitoring systems, including strengthened WASH Management Information Systems (MIS).
- Building professional and community-based capacity for operation and maintenance of WASH services. Through use of Ethiopian Water Technology institute as a key capacity driver in the water Sector
- Promoting private sector engagement in infrastructure construction, water and sanitation service provision operations (including fecal sludge management), and supply chains.
- Improving climate resilience of WASH infrastructure through robust designs and utilizing solar-powered systems and drought-resilient technologies.

Table 2: Ethiopia – Systems Change Pillars (WASH PACT)

No	Systems Change Pillar	Proposed Action and Outcome Targeted	Target Year	Remarks (Status / Other Notes)
1	National WASH platforms and national or subnational WASH plans / pipeline	Strengthen and institutionalize national and regional WASH coordination platforms; develop and regularly update national, regional and woreda-level WASH investment plans and project pipelines to guide financing and implementation.	2026	In-process; aligned with One WASH National Program Phase III and Water Sector Transformation Program.
2	Governance Reforms – Strengthening Policies, Institutions and Regulation	Review and operationalize revised national Water policies; strengthen regulatory functions for urban and rural water utilities/operators and services; clarify institutional roles across water, health, education and finance sectors.	2026/27	In-process; ongoing policy revisions and institutional reforms underway.
3	Improving Service Provision Performance	Improve service provision of WSS services through professionalized operation and maintenance, asset management systems, performance benchmarking of utilities, and service level monitoring.	2028	In-process; utility performance improvement and rural O&M models being piloted.
4	Financing and Promoting Private Sector Participation	Increase domestic budget allocations for WASH; develop sector specific operational guideline/manual; promote public–private partnerships (PPPs) for urban water supply, fecal sludge management and sanitation	2027-2028	Proposed; National PPP frameworks exists (MoF).



No	Systems Change Pillar	Proposed Action and Outcome Targeted	Target Year	Remarks (Status / Other Notes)
		marketing.		
5	Climate-Resilient WSS Infrastructure (including Water Resources Management, Disaster Preparedness, etc.)	Mainstream climate risk assessments into WASH planning; expand solar-powered water systems; strengthen drought and flood preparedness and integrated water resources management.	2026	In-process; climate-resilient WASH guidelines under development.
6	Digitalization and Capacity Development	Expand digital WASH Management Information Systems (MIS); strengthen human resource capacity through training, certification and knowledge management at all levels.	2026-2027	in-process

4. Mobilize and increase sustainable financing from domestic and external sources to close the WASH funding gap and improve resource-use efficiency. The Ethiopia WASH Financing Strategy highlights that current sector funding is insufficient and calls for mobilizing nontraditional sources. It proposes four intervention areas: (i) maximize the value of existing public funding; (ii) mobilize additional resources for the sector; (iii) increase repayable domestic financing; and (iv) promote innovation and underexplored approaches. Priority actions include revisiting tariff structures, mobilizing private capital, and deploying innovative financing mechanisms. The government is committed to undertake the necessary systems change processes towards attracting and obtaining the funding from the range of sources to fully realize the vision for WASH in Ethiopia. The following table presents estimated required financing towards this goal.”

The following table presents proposed Financing¹.

Financing Source	Estimated Share (2025–2030)	US\$ Million	Status	Remarks
Government of Ethiopia (national & regional budgets)	45%	16,899	Proposed	Gradual annual budget increases planned
Development partners and donors	35%	13,143	Proposed	Multi-donor pooled and bilateral support
Tariff collection	15%	5,633	Proposed	
Climate finance and blended finance		-	Proposed	Targeting climate-resilient WASH systems
Private sector including MFIs	0.2%	75	Proposed	For urban water supply and sanitation services
Community contributions	5%	1,878	Proposed	Cash and in-kind contributions

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (Governance and Accountability)

¹ OWN Phase III strategy action plan document is used as a reference, June 2025



- High-level political leadership through an inter-ministerial WASH PACT Steering Committee will take the leadership. The national WaSH steering Committee leading the WaSH activities will be responsible to regularly monitor the WaSH PACT.
- Annual joint sector reviews with development partners.
- Sector /public reporting of progress through national dashboards and scorecards.

The country will establish and strengthen national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) arrangements to systematically track the implementation and results of the PACT. This will include the use of standardized indicators, routine data collection systems, and periodic performance reviews at national and sub-national levels.

A monitoring table will be used to track progress against planned actions, outputs, and outcomes. The tables presented in the previous sections of this document may be adapted for this purpose to ensure consistency and ease of reporting.

Annual progress reports will be prepared and shared with key national stakeholders to promote transparency, accountability, and learning. These reports will support evidence-based decision-making and enable timely corrective actions where needed.

Sample Monitoring Table

No .	Planned Action	Indicator	Baseline (2025)	Target 2030	Annual Target	Annual Achievement	Status	Remarks
A	Scaling Up Access to WASH							
1	Improve rural and urban water supply service delivery	Access to Basic drinking water (national)						
		Access to Safely managed drinking water (national)						
		Rural water supply functionality						
		Access to basic WASH services in schools						
		Access to basic WASH services in health care facilities						
2	Improved rural and urban sanitation services	Access to Basic drinking water (national)						
		Access to Safely managed drinking water (national)						
		Basic hygiene (handwashing with soap)						
B	Implementing systems change							
1	Establish national WASH	National WaSH Platform established and functional						



No .	Planned Action	Indicator	Baseline (2025)	Target 2030	Annual Target	Annual Achievement	Status	Remarks
	coordination platform							
2	Strengthen WASH sector policies and regulations	Water Sector policy updated and approved						
		Urban water supply regulatory framework approved and established						
		Rural regulatory framework established						
		Water Development Fund reinstated to a semi autonomous status and used as a financing pillar for urban WSS						
		Sanitation subsidy policy developed and approved						
3	Strengthening WaSH MIS	WASH Management Information Systems (MIS);						

6. Conclusion

Through this WASH PACT, Ethiopia reaffirms its strong commitment to transforming the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector and ensuring that no community or individual is left behind. The country expresses its determination to accelerate progress toward national development priorities and the achievement of SDG 6 by strengthening leadership at all levels, deepening multisectoral partnerships, and mobilizing sustainable and predictable financing.

This commitment reflects Ethiopia's vision to build resilient, equitable, and high-quality WASH services that support public health, economic growth, environmental protection, and improved quality of life for all citizens. The WASH PACT serves as a unifying framework that guides government institutions, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to work collectively toward lasting impact and sector-wide transformation.



