



Photo: Shari Kessler

Annually, the world's population suffers about 4 billion episodes of water-related diarrhea, causing widespread debilitation and reduced productivity throughout the developing world. An estimated 2.5 million people die from such diseases each year, primarily children under five. Much of this death and disease could be averted if water supply and sanitation services were adequate.

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THE USAID WATER TEAM SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Every ecosystem, society, and individual on Earth depends on water, and this indispensable resource is essential to virtually every sector in which USAID works. The quantity and quality of water available directly affect food security, health and hygiene, ecosystem integrity and biological diversity, transportation, regional and global climate, energy supplies, and industry. Poor water management and water shortages can lead to disease, malnutrition, reduced economic growth, social instability, disaster vulnerability, and conflict.

Coastal resources are likewise of critical importance in meeting development goals including food security and protein needs, economic growth and industrial development, human health, and biodiversity conservation. These vital ecosystems are under increasing pressure from a broad range of human

activities, including inadequate land use planning and management, land-based pollution, climate change, and poorly managed and overexploited fisheries and other living resources.



Photo: Meg Findley

An Integrated Approach

In recognition of the critical and crosscutting role of freshwater and coastal systems in sustainable development, USAID has adopted a holistic and integrated resources management approach. The internationally accepted paradigm of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**, embracing integrated coastal management approaches, promotes several core management principles:

- A **landscape-scale perspective** at the basin or watershed scale spanning from 'ridge-to-reef', addressing surface and groundwater, land and water, freshwater and coastal interactions, and water quality and quantity;
- An **intersectoral approach** to decision-making, considering the domestic, agricultural, industrial, and ecosystem uses of water and coastal resources, and balancing economic and social needs of people with ecological values and sustainability;
- An emphasis on **governance** at all scales including participatory and equitable decision-making and management; improved policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks; transparent and sustainable financing options; and a full partnership between public and private sector actors;
- The application of **sound science** and management of information for decision-making;
- The adoption of **best practices** in all technical subsectors including water supply (supply optimization, demand management, and pollution prevention), sustainable aquaculture and fisheries management, efficient irrigation systems and increased water productivity, and freshwater flows for ecosystem health and environmental services.

USAID Water Team Field Support Programs

The Water Team provides a wide range of programs that USAID missions, regional bureaus, and Washington-based offices can tap into for timely technical expertise on water and coastal resources related development projects:

Broad Water Sector Technical Support

The **Integrated Water and Coastal Resources Management Indefinite Quantity Contract II (Water IQC II)** is a contract that can accept up to \$2 billion in task orders to several large consortia of institutions with extensive technical expertise in all aspects of integrated water and coastal, aquatic and fisheries management.

The **Integrated Management of Coastal and Freshwater Systems (IMCAFS) Leader With Associates Agreement (LWA)** provides access to university expertise and academic innovation coupled with non-profit humanitarian and conservation-oriented nongovernmental organizations. There are two separate Leader Awards, one focused on integrated coastal management (SUCCESS), and the other on IWRM/freshwater management (GLOWS).

Millions of women and girls in the developing world spend as much as eight hours a day hauling water. These long collection times leave women with less time for education and productive labor, less control over income, and less time for child care.



Photo: Shari Kessler

Applied Research and Training

Continuing access to specialized research and training in support of development programs is provided through U.S. universities under the **Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program (Aquaculture CRSP)** and International Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutions such as the **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** and **WorldFish Center**.

Specialized U.S. Government Technical Support

Access to specialized U.S. Government technical expertise is available through ongoing agreements with the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, the **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**, and the **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)**.

Sharing an International Commitment

The USAID Water Team is working with other U.S. Government agencies and the international community to accelerate and expand international efforts to achieve both United Nations Millennium Declaration Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation resolutions related to water, sanitation, IWRM, and coastal/fisheries issues:

“Halve, by the year 2015 ... the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water.” (Millennium Declaration)

“Halve, by the year 2015 ... the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.” (Johannesburg Plan)

“Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries ... ” (Johannesburg Plan)

“Maintain or restore depleted fish stocks ... on an urgent basis and where possible by no later than 2015 ... and promote integrated coastal management at the national level.” (Johannesburg Plan)

The USAID Water Team

USAID’s Water Team was formed to serve as a key technical resource for the Agency as it develops and applies models of integrated water and coastal resources management that work in the real-world context in which the Agency operates. The full-time core Water Team is housed in the Natural Resources Management Office of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT), and focuses on three main areas of support:

Technical and Managerial Support:

including assistance in the field with the development of strategies and activities for missions and regions.

Global Partnership and Leadership:

including strategic collaboration with international institutions, donors, and the private sector in the water and coastal sectors, and representation of the Agency in international fora and intergovernmental working groups.

Knowledge Management and Outreach:

including the development, analysis, and exchange of information about the Agency’s water and coastal activities as well as state of the art practices in the sector.



Photo: USAID