



A practical tool to assess the climate resilience of WASH programming

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AUSTRALIA



WATER
WASH 2023
FUTURES

Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate



#WaWF23

Background

- As a sector we are working towards defining what climate resilient WASH means
- Need robust tools to assess climate resilience of our programs and WASH services
- Need to increasingly consider the integrated nature of WASH with other sectors that are also impacted by climate change
- Shifting away from traditional service delivery models to more integrated systems strengthening approaches
- Increasing focus on climate change by governments and donors
- Climate financing considerations

How does climate change affect WASH?

CORE WASH IMPACTS

Rising global temperatures -> water sources dry up
Unpredictable rain patterns -> reduced water source reliability
Floods -> contaminated water
Storm surges and cyclones -> damaged WASH infrastructure
Sea level rise -> increased groundwater salinity

Effective climate resilient WASH can help reduce the indirect impacts of all these issues and more...



Health problems



Ecosystem degradation



Competing water demands



Food insecurity



Conflicts for water resources



Increased social inequality

SUBSEQUENT INDIRECT IMPACTS

Vulnerabilities exacerbate WASH related climate change impacts

- Gender and social inequality -> low access to WASH services, no safety net and limited inclusion in decision making
- Poor governance structures and limited multi-sectoral coordination -> no integrated approaches for water resource management and limited data sharing to inform planning
- Poor long term planning -> competing demands for water between sectors are often not considered – WASH is often deprioritised
- Existing environmental issues, unsustainable community practices and pollution -> exacerbate climate and WASH challenges



There is a strong need to understand what and where the vulnerabilities are and prioritise those areas

Characteristics of climate resilient WASH services

- Adaptive and respond to long term climatic impacts
- Robust and able to bounce back from short term climate impacts
- Integrated and consider the entire ecosystem
- Inclusive to the needs of different groups
- Able to sustain themselves
- Can be built back better after a shock



Having access to reliable data that can inform adaptive planning is essential

Definition of climate resilient WASH

“Strong WASH systems, services, and behaviours that are ecosystem-aware and build community resilience, and can be appropriately restored or maintained to reduce vulnerabilities, despite slow onset or acute climate hazards”

Identifying key areas to consider in a framework

- Common challenges we see across our regional context

Lack of multi-sectoral coordination

Limited financing for WASH

Institutional arrangements

Limited catchment understanding and data

Lack of integrated ecosystem-based approaches

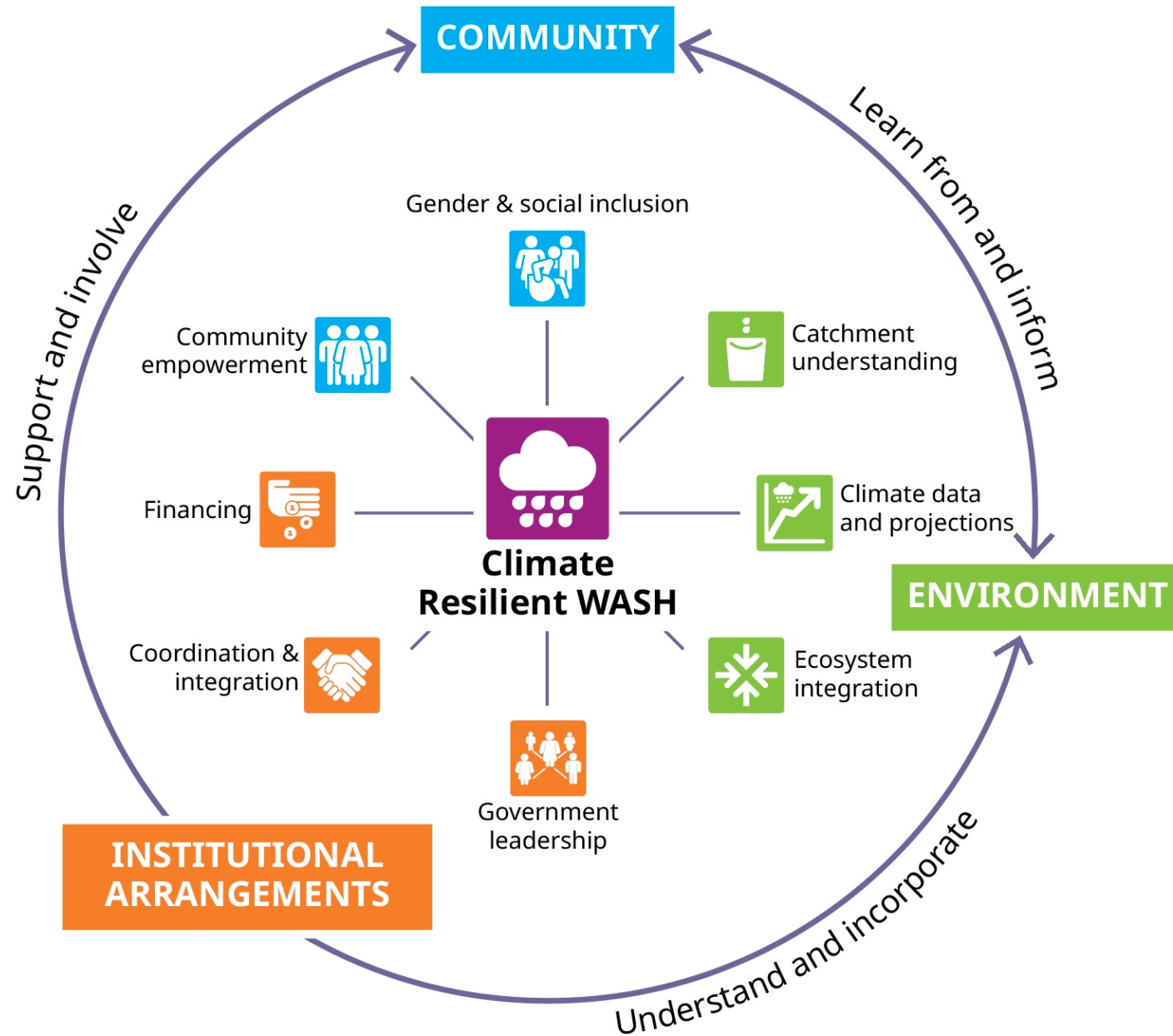
Environmental considerations

Gender and social inequality

Unsustainable environmental practices

Social and community issues

A framework to address climate resilient WASH

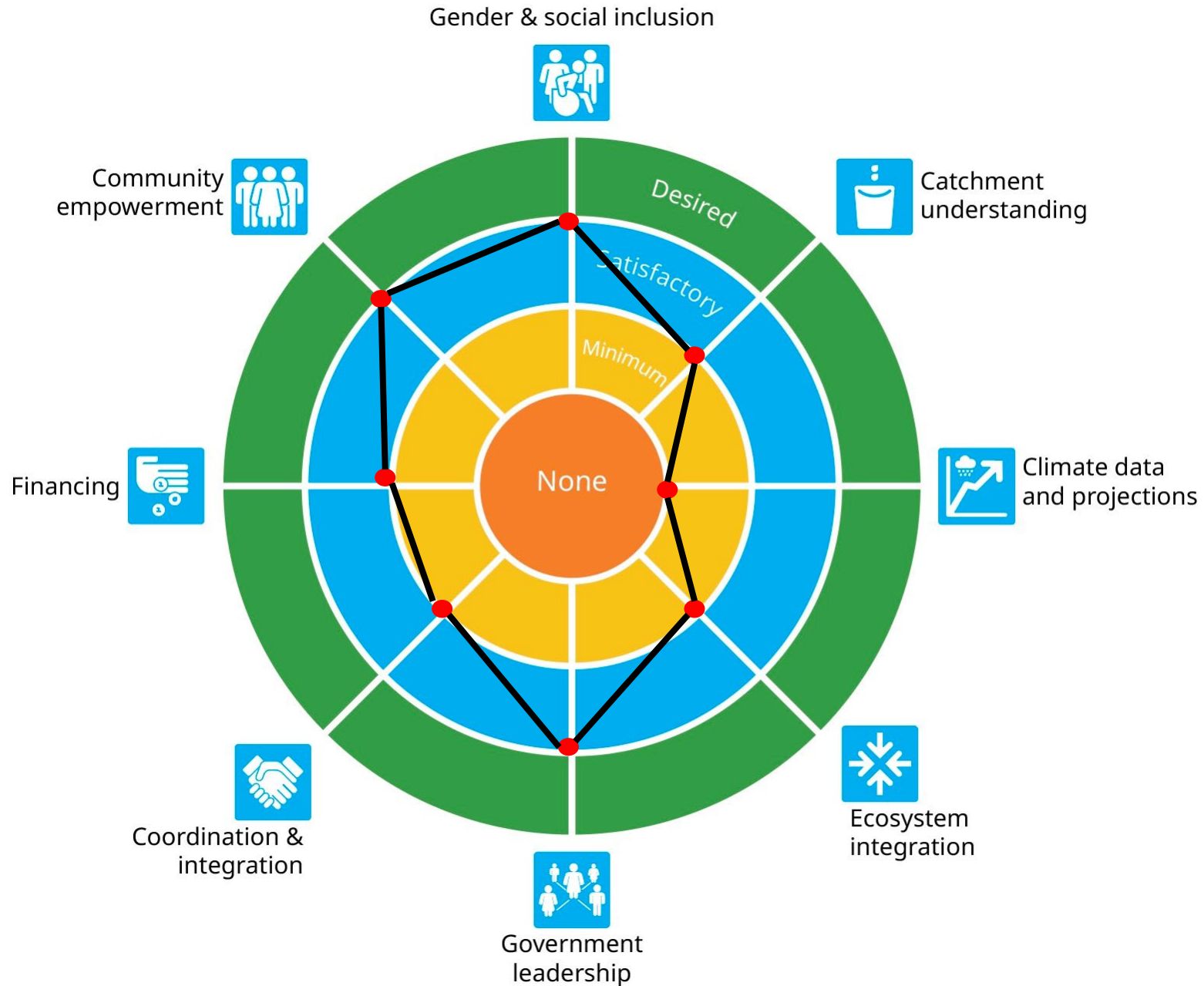




A tool to address climate resilient WASH



A tool to assess the climate resilience of WASH projects



Prompting questions - Community

Category	Question
Gender and social inclusion	To what extent are gender and social inclusion principles, as well as data (or collection of data) on the effect of climate change on women, people with disabilities, elderly and other marginalised groups included in the project design and activities?
Community empowerment	To what extent is the community being empowered to take ownership of their WASH and water resource needs through capacity building and behaviour change efforts in the project design?

Prompting questions - Environment

Category	Question
Catchment understanding	To what extent is building an understanding of the catchment included in the project design, including available water sources, demand, supply, infrastructure, and patterns in water levels throughout the year including extreme weather events?
Climate data & projections	To what extent are long term climate projections rainfall, temperature and sea level rise available in the region and considered in the project design?
Ecosystem integration	To what extent are environmental protection and ecosystem-based approaches integrated in the project e.g. consideration of carbon footprints, greenhouse gas reduction, pollution and waste management and incorporation of nature-based solutions?

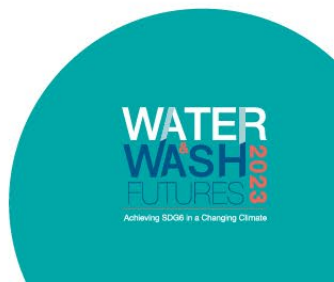
Prompting questions – Institutional arrangements

Category	Question
Government leadership	To what extent are relevant government authorities being empowered to take ownership of climate resilient WASH planning within the project design?
Coordination & integration	To what extent is strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration and consideration of competing demands across multiple water use sectors incorporated within the project design?
Financing	To what extent does the project design focus on understanding existing and mapping future financing needs for climate resilient WASH?

Definitions for each rating

Category	Question	None	Minimum	Satisfactory	Desired
Climate data and projections	To what extent are long term climate projections rainfall, temperature and sea level rise available in the region and considered in the project design?	No attempt has been made to engage with relevant authorities to source data on climate change and rainfall	There has been an attempt made to engage with relevant authorities to source available climate data to understand local climate and rainfall characteristics that apply to the area	Basic climate data plus basic catchment-level water resources data is available and utilised in the project to inform activities, and contextualise long term project outcomes and recommendations	Climate change data plus projections are available in the region and have been used in the project to inform longer term WASH planning in the project outcomes.
Catchment understanding	To what extent is building an understanding of the catchment included in the project design, including available water sources, demand, supply, infrastructure, and patterns in water levels throughout the year including extreme weather events?	No attempt has been made to understand catchment characteristics, water sources/infrastructure and demand and supply for the project area	An attempt has been made to contact relevant authorities for information on water resources relevant to the project. This includes water supply and wastewater discharge information, relevant infrastructure, water quality information, and annual water availability patterns. Community level water source mapping has also been undertaken.	Catchment information including water source location, water quality, water supply and wastewater discharge information, and annual water availability patterns are available and used alongside local community knowledge to inform project activities and outcomes.	Climate projection data is available and applied to catchment water information and considered in long-term project outcomes and recommendations.
Ecosystem integration	To what extent are environmental protection and ecosystem-based approaches integrated in the project e.g. consideration of carbon footprints, greenhouse gas reduction, pollution and waste management and incorporation of nature-based solutions?	There has been no attempt made to understand the local natural environmental conditions, existing community practices, or assess the potential environmental impacts of project activities.	There is some level of understanding among implementation partners of the local natural environment, its condition and practices that harm environment, including any traditional knowledge. An Environmental Screening process has been undertaken for the project activities to ensure no harm is done to the environment.	Capacity building efforts have been integrated into the program design to build an awareness among all stakeholders around relevant natural resource and environmental considerations with respect to the project design and activities.	A comprehensive environmental assessment has been undertaken including exploring mitigation approaches such as low carbon technologies, waste management and nature based solutions
Government leadership	To what extent are relevant government authorities being empowered to take ownership of climate resilient WASH planning within the project design?	There is no engagement with government representatives from climate, WRM disaster or environmental departments for climate resilient WASH planning activities within the project design.	A workshop is held at the start of the project with government representatives from climate, WRM, disaster or environmental departments around climate resilient WASH planning	Ongoing capacity building efforts around climate resilient WASH planning and financing for government representatives from climate, WRM, disaster and environmental departments have been integrated within the project design.	Government representatives from climate, WRM, disaster and/or environmental departments incorporate climate resilient WASH planning considerations into existing urban planning models and policies
Coordination & integration	To what extent is strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration and consideration of competing demands across multiple water use sectors incorporated within the project design?	There has been no attempt to understand the interactions and water use needs between different sectors that may impact the project including between local, sub-national and national level.	An inception workshop is held with government representatives from climate, WRM, disaster, environmental and other water use sectors to inform stakeholders around project design and objectives	Technical representatives from climate, WRM, disaster management, environmental and other relevant water use sectors are consulted on an ongoing basis throughout the project	Technical representatives from climate, WRM, disaster management, environmental and other relevant water use sectors are involved in all project activities and decision making including field visits.
Financing	To what extent does the project design focus on understanding existing and mapping future financing needs for climate resilient WASH?	There has been no financing allocated for a context-specific climate assessment within the project design or understanding current and future financing needs for climate resilient WASH	A context specific climate change assessment is incorporated into the project design to understand the impacts of climate change on the project area	A context specific climate change assessment has been incorporated into the project design plus the development of estimates of current financing needs and gaps for climate resilient WASH. These are incorporated into capacity building efforts with relevant authorities.	In addition to a context specific climate change assessment and understanding current financing needs and gaps for climate resilient WASH, future financing needs have also been mapped out and incorporated into capacity building efforts with relevant authorities.
Community empowerment	To what extent is the community demonstrating agency to take ownership of their WASH and water resource needs through capacity building and behaviour change efforts in the project design?	There has been no attempt to understand the community's traditional knowledge including women and girls around climate change impacts and WRM.	A contextual assessment has been incorporated into the project design to understand and include marginalised groups' perspectives around climate change, WRM and WASH into project outcomes.	In addition to a contextual assessment, community capacity building efforts have also been integrated into the program design to build awareness among the community around climate change and its impacts on WRM.	Community accountability mechanisms have been set up to hold authorities accountable to drive climate action within and outside the project
Gender & social inclusion	To what extent are gender and social inclusion principles, as well as data (or collection of data) on the effect of climate change on women, people with disabilities, elderly and other marginalised groups included in the project design and activities?	There is no representation or partnership with gender and disability groups in leadership and decision making. No contextual data analysis has been conducted on gender and power issues related to climate impacts and no targets have been set around gender and social inclusion in climate resilient WASH planning.	There has been consultation with rights groups and women in the community. Some contextual data analysis has been conducted on gender and power issues related to climate impacts and some targets have been set around gender and social inclusion.	There is at least one GEDSI partner involved from an implementation perspective. Specific climate-specific GEDSI targets have been identified so that marginalised people are reached and participate at a community level. The implementation of targets and indicators are being monitored.	Women and people with disabilities are being prioritised and are leading partners in the program. There is evidence to demonstrate that women and people with disabilities have benefited from the program. Local authorities are championing GEDSI and driving climate action within and outside the program.

- Constantly evolving as we continue to learn and build expertise in the sector
- Can be tailored to suit different country contexts



Applicability considerations

- This tool can help identify where the gaps are for sector actors
- Helps to see projects holistically and increase general awareness around important areas to consider
- Can be applied at the baseline and end line of a project

- Not every project needs to score “desired” for all categories
- There may be one project that addresses one area more than others
- Useful to apply at programmatic level - individual projects can then fit into each of the different categories
- Important to also associate ratings with a justification to promote accurate monitoring.

THANK YOU!

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