

What it Is and How to Participate

What A4C is and is not

A4C is a collaborative response of WaterAid, IRC, Water For People, Aguaconsult and Osprey Foundation (and others) to the challenge of the SDGs, and specifically SDG 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3

It is a response to some persistent weaknesses of existing approaches to aid – and national investments - in the WASH sector. A4C is our approach, supportive to other efforts such as the Sanitation and Water for All partnerships, to working in the WASH sector and to framing the delivery of aid; it aims to:

- ▶ Achieve universal access to sustained services – for everyone, everywhere, forever – at the fastest pace consistent with effective and fully sustainable service delivery;
- ▶ Take a systems approach to WASH, going beyond the provision of infrastructure only, and supporting national systems and the enabling environment for service delivery at all levels;
- ▶ Support government at all levels to be the leader and driver of this vision.

A4C is not a new organization, and is not intended to supplant existing national platforms or coordination groups. Rather, it is a partnership and mechanism for demonstrating and modelling in practice the collaborative behaviours advocated by the SWA.

A4C will build up from district and country experience.

We believe that driving from the district up is key to building a strong foundation for success, and provides a basis for advocating based on real evidence and experience.

A4C is a network not a legal entity; A4C is an approach to working in the sector and acts as a network of like-minded organisations. Its aim is to build and share collective understanding, not to usurp existing brands.

A4C will not look the same in each country, but it will share some common characteristics. National collaborations will look different, especially in relation to the role played by the government and the existing WASH coordination and network bodies. In some countries governance is so weak and fragmented that it is difficult to see collaboration, as described, being able to work effectively, so it is recognized that this is not a solution that is currently applicable in every context.

At the international level, A4C will create a 'virtual hub', to provide a repository of learning and technical support, and to help advocate as a group.

A4C in different countries

Through collaborative action in specific countries, we will promote harmonized district level work in support of national level systems change. At the district level, the aim is to support practical and replicable demonstrations of success for sustained universal service delivery in terms of operations, funding, governance, etc. Collaboration in-country will demonstrate the SWA collaborative behaviors in practice and align the actions of the partners in support of national (and local) governments. The partners will provide support for the development of national (government) systems and sector strengthening, through

development and provision of effective knowledge, practice, tools and capacity building to support their use nationally. A4C will stimulate horizontal learning in-country and to use country experience to inform others globally through story-telling and other methods.

Initial suggestions for a set of core country indicators of systems change include:

- ▶ Credible strategies in place, and concerted action at national level, driven-by/involving national government, to build capacity for universal sustained service delivery.
- ▶ District investment and revenue plans in place, which detail needs and seek to describe how funding will be made available from a combination of user fees, private sector investment, ODA and government funding to ensure universal, sustained service delivery.
- ▶ Increases in funding for long-term support to service delivery as evidenced through district (or equivalent) year on year budgeting and financial reporting.
- ▶ District capacity built - institutional and financial so that services can be sustained.
- ▶ District service levels are adequate, as measured at household level.
- ▶ National sector investment plan.

Minimum commitment in order to participate in A4C

- ▶ As an organization, to agree with and advocate the core principles of sustainable service delivery and a systems approach in WASH.
- ▶ As an organization, wanting to participate is driven by a desire to work collaboratively and in order to achieve the SDGs concretely.
- ▶ As an organization, to currently be:
 - Working in at least one district in at least one country with the goal of achieving permanent universal access to WASH services within that district; and/or,
 - Providing funding, technical assistance, systems support, or market-based services clearly in support of that goal.
- ▶ As an organization, to see its role on the ground as contributing to a permanent system of sustained WASH service delivery in collaboration with other players and under government leadership.
- ▶ Agreement to participate in national level experience sharing around this district practice, sharing results, success and challenges.
- ▶ With other partners, agree to support with national level advocacy and capacity building some of the 'upstream' changes necessary to realize universal access.
- ▶ Agreement to provide monitoring data on a core set of common indicators at country level.

7 February 2016

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