WSSCC’s programmes and areas of work

1. Global Sanitation Fund

The Global Sanitation Fund is a pooled global fund established by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and funded by its donors to provide funding to national programmes in up to 35 countries that are most in need of improved sanitation and hygiene. For each country, WSSCC facilitates the development of country programme proposals through a consultative process of over 6-9 months involving government and non-governmental organisations, as well as representatives of external support agencies. It then appoints an Executing Agency (EA) to administer grant funding and execute the country programmes. Each EA makes sub-grants to non-governmental organisations, private sector and local governments to implement the country programmes using methods of community-based total sanitation and sanitation marketing. The programmes are designed for scale, achieving total sanitation coverage in entire districts and reaching an average of 900,000 people per country. For more information, see – Global Sanitation Annual Progress Report, 2013 (http://www.wsscc.org/resources/resource-publications/global-sanitation-fund-progress-report-2013) and Global Sanitation Fund Progress Report 2014 Update.

2. Equity and non-discrimination programme:

This programme has a multi-regional approach to policy advocacy, policy implementation and monitoring on the issues of equity, including initiatives to promote menstrual hygiene management and disability. At the heart of this programme is the partnership with various UN agencies and the national government.

The India chapter: In India, the council works in partnership with the Government of India to modify and strengthen the country’s national sanitation and hygiene policy to address the issues of menstrual hygiene and disability and other aspects of equity. It also involves supporting training of trainers of officials at government training centres in 14 States to ensure effective monitoring of the guidelines. The work extends to the “Clean India” (Swachh Bharat) initiative of Prime Minister Modi.

The West Africa chapter: WSSCC applies a similar approach to policy reform and monitoring in West Africa through its partnership with UN Women with a focus on Senegal, Niger, Benin, and Togo. Joint programming with UN Women are intentionally confined to West Africa so that UN

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1 This document has been provided by WSSCC and has only been formatted by 3ie for the purpose of including this information in the FAQ.
Women can apply similar programming in other sub-regions of the world while WSSCC can use finite resources to establish partnership agreements with other institutions.

The East Africa chapter: work in East Africa may involve collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO) with a specific focus on the workplace equity, gender and sanitation issues. It is expected that this partnership will focus on issues of sanitation and hygiene in the formal and informal sectors in line with the 2016 theme "Water and Jobs."

An additional crosscutting activity of the Gender, Equity and Menstrual Hygiene programme will be inter-regional exchanges to strengthen national systems of monitoring.

3. **Technical and advocacy support to the Regional ministerial-level sanitation conferences**

Regional, ministerial-level sanitation conferences occurring in Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Latin America encourage cross-regional dialogue and spur political action to improve sanitation for hundreds of millions of people. Ministers and other decision makers convene at regional sanitation conferences to make commitments to provide sanitation services for those living without them.

WSSCC’s plays an important leadership role to shape the agenda of regional conferences and commitments to ensure the civil society and voices of people and marginalised groups occupy the center-stage of these conferences and commitments.

4. **Post-2015 technical support for advocacy**

In the post-2015 international development target-setting discussions, WSSCC has worked with various partners to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene are prioritised as one of 17 goals proposed by the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals of Member States. WSSCC played a key technical role as a part of the Equity and Non-Disrimination (END) working group ([http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/equity-and-non-discrimination/](http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/equity-and-non-discrimination/)). It was also appointed to lead the cross-sector Advocacy and Communications Working Group responsible for communicating the targets and indicators that have been agreed by the WASH sector as a result of an extensive consultative process ([http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/advocacy-and-communications/](http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/advocacy-and-communications/)).

5. **Communications support for the UN Deputy Secretary General's (DSG’s) Call to Action on Sanitation**

Although there are important gains against poverty and disease, the sanitation target remains off-track. As a response, the DSG has launched a Call to Action on Sanitation, in particular, a call for ending open defecation. WSSCC is a key partner and coordinator for this United Nations global communications campaign on ending open defecation. The two fold objectives of this campaign are: (1) to support ongoing efforts in which ending open defecation and improving sanitation become prioritized in the post-2015 period; and (2) to enhance visibility and increase the dialogue about open defecation at different levels.

6. **Strategic Support to Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)**

WSSCC has been a key player in the Sanitation and Water for All since its inception. Currently, WSSCC’s involvement in SWA is threefold. First, the WSSCC Executive Director is a member of the SWA Steering Committee, and actively contributes to the strategic direction of the
partnership. Second, the communications function of the SWA Secretariat is outsourced to WSSCC. Third, at national level, WSSCC works with its country partners to ensure that their participation in SWA, particularly the High-Level Commitments Dialogue, is harmonized with national processes, and builds on lessons learned from GSF.

7. Partnerships with non-WASH actors to take the sanitation and hygiene agenda forward

WSSCC has worked with non-WASH actors (UN, academia as well as private sector players) to take the sanitation and hygiene agenda forward. Some of the examples include Accenture Development Partnership (ADP), Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget (SCA), ILO, UN Women. Much work remains to engage governments and various non-state actors, both within and outside of the WASH sector. These programmes will enhance country engagement, coordination, membership and partnerships; strengthen the role of non-state actors; revitalize and widen the community of practice; and integrate advocacy at global, national and regional levels.

8. Research, knowledge and normative agenda

WSSCC works to identify and fill sector gaps in research and knowledge, an approach that brings together advocacy, knowledge, learning and research to advance the action. As a collaborative Council, it acts as a neutral agency that aims to facilitate a process to bring together sector agencies and networks to apply an agreed set of guiding principles to their capacity building, knowledge management and networking activities, and an agreed approach to use similar systems for events scheduling, platforms and knowledge sharing.

9. Special Projects: Water for Sanitation and Hygiene (WAFSAH)

This programme includes special projects and the Global Forum on Sanitation and Hygiene that will inform future directions for WSSCC as it prepares for its next Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2017-2021). Among the special projects is the Water for Sanitation and Hygiene (WAFSAH) initiative applied in 2013-2014 in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The Council aims to extend this initiative’s innovative mechanism of small grant funding to promote low-cost, local material solutions for rainwater harvesting and shallow pump technology to additional villages in East Africa.

Enabling areas of work to strengthen the above programmes

1. Governance arrangements of WSSCC:

The WSSCC Steering Committee consists of elected representatives from the 3,000 WSSCC member professionals in government and NGO networks, partner agencies and donor governments in over 100 countries who make up the Council. The WSSCC Secretariat, working closely with the Geneva-based office of UNOPS, is responsible for ensuring accountability to the Steering Committee in its role as the donor source by seeking strategic direction from them, abiding by decisions taken by the Steering Committee, implementing effectively the work plan and budget approved by the Steering Committee and by maintaining financial transparency.
2. **Country Engagement mechanism and Membership:**

This programme is aimed at strengthening the coherence of WSSCC by bringing together members and partners in a strategic manner in order to better support the efforts by countries to achieve their respective national sanitation and hygiene targets. At the country level, this includes the development of strategic engagement plans by WSSCC National Coordinators, working in close collaboration with WASH Coalitions, government focal points, Parliamentarians, as well as the GSF mechanisms - the EAs and the Programme Coordination Mechanisms (PCM). The programme also aims to foster integration of the departments of the WSSCC Secretariat so that members and partners in specific countries can interface more readily with staff members in Geneva.

3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

A relatively new arrangement in WSSCC, the M&E portfolio aims to promote results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation by facilitating better organizational plans, producing better evidence to inform and improve WSSCC’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and transparency. Biennial work plans with clear indicators and milestones, monitoring tools, management information systems and independent evaluations are few examples demonstrating M&E Unit’s modus operandi.

In addition, it also has a mandate to make significant contributions towards strengthening the sector monitoring and evaluation culture by generating evidence on what and what does not work. In order to take this agenda forward, WSSCC has commissioned 3ie to carry out the Mid-Term Review of its MTSP as well as conduct three impact evaluations and three systematic reviews. While the MTSP MTR will review the performance, achievements, non-achievements of WSSCC against the MTSP, the impact evaluations and systematic reviews will generate evidence to fill the evidence gap in the sector.

4. **Knowledge management and learning systems:**

This area of work concerns the management of knowledge and learning systems, with emerging MIS, to harvest, document, disseminate and apply information/learning from WSSCC programmes. The programme aims to introduce a system for learning and knowledge management that will facilitate opportunities within the Secretariat and among NCs, GSF affiliates, members and partners for sharing experience and improving performance.

5. **Media and communications, including corporate Communications:**

Corporate communications contribute to WSSCC’s ability to deliver on the work plan through unique positioning of WSSCC within the broader WASH and development sectors. In addition, this activity supports programmatic work by ensuring that all articles, brochures, newsletters, briefing notes, research summaries, membership materials and campaigns, reports, training guides, etc., as well as electronic and web-based communications tools and products, adheres to an editorial calendar which reinforces WSSCC’s key messages.

To support its advocacy and position, WSSCC informs and facilitates dialogue and messaging with the media, members, partners, stakeholders and the public. A newly developed and implemented communications strategy emanating from the 2014 Strategic Communications Review will guide implementation of outreach tactics to media, partner organizations, the WASH
sector at large, current and potential donors, and others. It will have a global, regional and local focus.