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Mid-Term Review of the Water and Development Partnership Programme – phase 3 (WDPP3)

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Executive summary

This report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Water and Development Partnership Programme – Phase 3 (WDPP3), commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The Mid-Term Review (MTR) applies a theory -based and contribution-oriented approach, examining the plausibility and strength of WDPP3's contribution pathways rather than attributing impact directly.

The methodology combined a qualitative, participatory and multi-level design. Field missions were conducted in four countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan and Egypt), complemented by desk analysis covering thirteen countries across Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. In total, 216 key informants from all foreseen stakeholders' groups were consulted across levels of engagement with WDPP3. The MTR draws on an analytical sample of projects across themes and regions, with detailed illustrations and case studies provided in Appendix 5.

Relevance: WDPP3 demonstrates strong strategic alignment with Dutch water policy frameworks and SDG 6 priorities. The programme's focus and choices in how to engage in thematic topics on water governance, climate resilience, inclusion and knowledge diplomacy is consistent with Dutch international water ambitions. At country level, projects respond to clear and locally identified water-related challenges, particularly in climate-stressed and institutionally evolving contexts. Field evidence confirms that when the projects explicitly engaged with local governance dynamics, equity considerations and practical decision-making mechanisms, their relevance was higher. However, while project design is generally well aligned to local priorities, systematic articulation with embassy portfolios and national reform agendas varies. Thus, whilst the relevance of the programme is robust in terms of design and intent, at an operational level the ability of the programme to align and position itself within country level priorities was uneven.

Coherence: WDPP3 demonstrates strong conceptual coherence. Projects align with programme objectives and the Theory of Change, integrating research, education, advocacy and institutional strengthening components. Coherence across the internal elements of the programme is strongest within the thematic clusters and knowledge networks. However, the programme does not operate through formal country coordinators, and systematic cross-project coordination at national level remains limited. This does not reflect design weakness, but rather is a result of a decentralised architecture that prioritises flexibility and partnership autonomy. Coherence is therefore strong at the level of programme logic, whilst coherence at implementation level is weaker. Cumulative national uptake depends on more deliberate and to some extent ad-hoc articulation through existing coordination mechanisms.

Effectiveness: WDPP3 consistently delivers on planned activities and outputs across regions and themes. Evidence from field visits and interviews confirms tangible short-term relational, conceptual and capacity-oriented outcomes[1], including strengthened dialogue spaces,

[1] Relational outcomes is used in the interpretation of the WDPP3's Theory of Change and reporting templates where projects report under relational, conceptual, capacity and strategic pathways. The Theory of Change explicitly distinguishes between relational, conceptual, capacity-oriented and strategic (instrumental) outcomes, as part of its structured contribution logic. Relational outcomes refer to strengthened trust, dialogue platforms and reduced fragmentation between academic, civil society and

improved technical skills, and enhanced legitimacy of Southern actors. These outcomes create preconditions for institutional embedding. The strongest and most consistent contributions occur in the transition from activities to outputs, and from outputs to relational and cognitive outcomes. However, institutional embedding and durable policy uptake are uneven and context-dependent. Programme-level aggregation of outcome evidence remains moderate. While meaningful change is observable at project level, structured upward consolidation into cumulative systemic influence is not yet fully consistent.

Efficiency: WDPP3 operates with a governance and management structure that is proportionate to its scope and ambition. The hybrid funding model fosters adaptive management and contextual responsiveness while maintaining portfolio oversight. No major or structural inefficiencies were identified. Coordination costs reflect the partnership-based and facilitative nature of the model, particularly in fragile and politically complex environments. Efficiency gains are most likely to emerge not from cost reduction, but from strengthened cross-project articulation and portfolio-level synthesis.

Institutional Arrangements: Institutional arrangements are robust and functional. Governance structures are clear, fiduciary oversight is strong, and the partnership-based implementation model reinforces Southern leadership and inclusiveness. The decentralised model enhances ownership and contextual sensitivity. However, evidence of the cumulative achievement of outcomes across projects and countries remains variable. Strengthening systematic evidence aggregation would reinforce programme-level coherence and strategic positioning.

Sustainability: Sustainability prospects were strongest where projects are embedded within local institutions, universities, authorities and community structures. Co-production of knowledge strengthened ownership and relational continuity. Financial sustainability beyond the current funding cycle however was uneven. While institutional relationships and capacities are likely to persist, structured financing pathways were not systematically secured. Whilst WDPP3 is sustainability-oriented in design there are weaknesses that were not fully overcome at the governance level and in financial sustainability of the achievements.

Lessons Learned

Across contexts and thematic areas, six cross-cutting lessons emerge:

1. WDPP3's architecture reliably translates inputs into diversified and high-quality outputs.
2. Southern-led and inclusive co-production strengthens relational and behavioural outcomes.
3. Institutional embedding does not occur automatically; it requires early coordination with governance and financing actors.
4. Flexibility enhances contextual responsiveness but requires structured synthesis to generate cumulative influence.

government actors. Relational outcomes" strengthen institutional coordination and create preconditions for institutional embedding.

5. Climate resilience, social inclusion, gender equity and environmental sustainability are substantively embedded but requires a more systematic aggregation of data at portfolio level.
6. Strong design-level coherence translates into systemic impact only when supported by structured policy mechanisms and institutional anchoring.

Illustrative examples of these dynamics are presented in Appendix 5.

Recommendations

The MTR does not call for structural redesign. Instead, the conclusions and lessons learnt point to the management and adjustment of trade-offs for the second half of implementation through the following:

1. Strengthen structured portfolio-level synthesis to enhance strategic clarity and demonstrate Theory of Change contribution pathways.
2. Anchor and coordinate projects with governance and financing actors earlier during project design.
3. Promote light country-level coordination where multiple projects operate, using existing mechanisms rather than new structures.
4. Consolidate and communicate WDPP3's Southern-led knowledge co-production model as a strategic asset within Dutch and global water diplomacy.
5. Enhance structured documentation of contribution pathways to increase visibility of cumulative influence.

Overall Assessment

WDPP3 represents a coherent, strategically relevant and institutionally robust knowledge partnership model within Dutch international water cooperation. Its distinctive strength lies in Southern-led, inclusive knowledge co-production and relational capacity strengthening across a diverse multi-actor network of academic, public, civil society and practitioner partners, with explicit attention to gender inclusion and the engagement of early-career professionals and youth. The second half of implementation offers an opportunity to consolidate these strengths by enhancing institutional coordination across actors, anchoring projects with sustainable institutions and aggregating evidence on achievements of outcomes so that distributed project-level excellence translates more clearly into cumulative systemic influence.

Abbreviations

CA	Contribution Analysis
CEQ	Cluster Evaluation Question
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (Netherlands MFA)
EQ	Evaluation Question
HoA	Horn of Africa
IHE Delft	IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
IGG	Inclusive Green Growth Department (MFA)
LMICs	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIWA	Netherlands International Water Ambition
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PI	Principal Investigator
RBA	River Basins and Deltas (thematic cluster)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPC	Sounding Board / Programme Committee (depending on usage in document)
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDPP3	Water and Development Partnership Programme – Phase 3
WfF	Water for Food (thematic cluster)
WUR	Wageningen University & Research (when cited)

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1. Introduction

This Final Report presents the findings, conclusions, lessons learnt and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Water and Development Partnership Programme – Phase 3 (WDPP3). The MTR was commissioned by the Inclusive Green Growth Department (IGG) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA) and implemented by IHE Delft. The MTR covered the period **August 2021 – 1 December 2025** and examined the programme's progress across multiple thematic areas, regions and implementation modalities.

1.1 Dutch MFA Policy Framework for Water

The WDPP3 is anchored in the Dutch government's strategic priorities for international cooperation, where water is identified as a domain of **comparative advantage**, **global relevance**, and **high strategic value**. Dutch development cooperation in the water sector is guided by the broader **Water Policy and Results Framework**, which defines the overarching objective of contributing to water security and water safety for people and ecosystems.

Within this framework, three interrelated result areas are distinguished:

1. WASH (SDG 6.1–6.2),
2. water management/IWRM (SDG 6.4–6.6), and
3. strengthening the enabling environment through six key enablers defined in the Dutch Water Results Framework: (1) knowledge development and research, (2) regulatory frameworks and quality control, (3) capacity building and technology transfer, (4) empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations, (5) market development and mobilizing additional financial means, and (6) policy development and diplomatic outreach.

In this context, WDPP3 is primarily positioned within **Result Area 3 – Enabling Environment**, while contributing indirectly to the other result areas through knowledge generation, partnerships and learning.

Dutch water policy requires all programmes to integrate five cross-cutting priorities: **gender and social inclusion, climate adaptation and climate mitigation, digitalisation, biodiversity, and locally-led development**. These priorities are operationalised through programme design, monitoring and learning processes, and are reflected in the evolving focus of WDPP3.

It is important to acknowledge that several key policy documents and strategic orientations of the Dutch MFA, including updates to the Water Results Framework and related policy letters, were introduced **after the start of WDPP Phase 3**. As such, WDPP3 was initially designed under earlier policy priorities. Over time, the programme has sought to **adjust its strategic orientation and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework** in response to changing policy directions and emerging priorities.

Within the broader water policy, the **WASH Strategy (2016–2030)** functions as a sub-strategy of the Dutch Water Strategy, emphasising a shift from first-time access to sustainable service delivery, stronger links with basin management and climate adaptation, and partnership-based approaches involving local institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector. These strategic directions remain relevant for several WDPP3 focus regions, particularly in contexts affected by population growth, urbanisation, environmental degradation and water-related fragility. This reflects the Dutch MFA's "Diamond approach", which promotes collaboration

between government, knowledge institutions, civil society and the private sector as a foundation for sustainable and locally anchored development outcomes.

The Trade and Development Strategy *"Do What We Do Best"* (2022) further confirms water as one of the thematic areas where Dutch expertise can contribute to diplomacy, stability, climate action and sustainable development, with a strong geographic focus on Africa, the Middle East and fragile, climate-stressed contexts. WDPP3 operates within this broader and evolving policy landscape, which provides the reference framework for this Mid-Term Review.

Finally, the appraisal document (BEMO) approving WDPP3 (2021–2027) describes the programme as a vehicle to *"enable IHE Delft to support and catalyse meaningful and lasting transformations to socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable water management practices by strengthening capacities in low- and middle-income countries through joint research, education and knowledge sharing on water."* The BEMO highlights a strong geographic focus on the **Middle East, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel**, reflecting priority regions for Dutch international cooperation in the water sector. It also sets expectations related to the integration of cross-cutting themes such as **climate adaptation and resilience, gender and social inclusion, as well as broader objectives related to sustainability and institutional strengthening**, and the programme's contribution to relevant MFA results frameworks.[2]

Taken together, these policy frameworks articulate the strategic rationale for WDPP3 and offer a clear reference for assessing the programme's relevance, alignment and expected contribution to Dutch international cooperation goals.

1.2 WDPP3 Overview

The Water and Development Partnership Programme – Phase 3 (**WDPP3**) is a multi-year, multi-country initiative supporting over **80 collaborative projects implemented by more than 320 organisations across 49 countries**, making it one of the most extensive academic–practice water partnership networks funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.[3]

Building on previous programme phases, WDPP3 combines **research, education, capacity development, action learning, joint reflection, and policy engagement** to support water-related transformations that are inclusive, sustainable, equitable and climate-resilient. The programme promotes a critical, reflective and interdisciplinary lens to address the persistent socio-ecological challenges surrounding water.[4]

WDPP3 operates through three interconnected thematic clusters—**Water and Health, Water for Food, and River Basins and Deltas**—addressing public health, equity and access; water productivity and climate-smart agriculture; and basin governance, ecosystem restoration and transboundary dynamics. These themes cut across technical, social, institutional and environmental dimensions, reflecting a transdisciplinary and problem-driven approach. Geographically, the programme aligns with Dutch MFA priorities, focusing primarily on the **Horn of Africa, the Middle East and the Sahel**, while also supporting projects in other low- and middle-income countries with longstanding IHE Delft partnerships. Its implementation approach

[2] MFA. BEMO WDPP3 – MINBUZA-2021.802852 / 4000004908.
[3] IHE Delft. (2024). *Annual Plan 2024*.
[4] IHE Delft. (2022). Programme Document WDPP3 2021–2027.

centres on inclusive multi-actor partnerships, thematic and regional learning networks, locally grounded co-creation, gender-sensitive and intergenerational participation, and innovation pilots including citizen science, with the overarching aim of **strengthening institutions, enriching knowledge and advancing socially just and ecologically sustainable water management**.

1.3 Operating Environment

WDPP3 operates in **regions marked by high socio-ecological complexity**, where water challenges intersect with climate vulnerability, inequality, institutional fragility and demographic pressures. In the **Horn of Africa, Middle East and Sahel**, intensifying droughts, floods and water scarcity affect agriculture, livelihoods and migration patterns, while access to water and decision-making remains uneven, disproportionately impacting women, youth, pastoralists and informal settlements. **Fragmented governance, limited enforcement capacity** and, in some contexts, political instability and conflict—shaped by longer-term geopolitical legacies—further constrain sustainable water management. Rapid population growth, urbanisation and displacement add pressure to already stressed systems, reinforcing the importance of equitable governance for stability. In response, WDPP3 prioritises actionable, context-sensitive knowledge, institutional and community capacity strengthening, inclusive governance, cross-country and South–South learning, and climate-resilient, socially just water solutions, positioning itself as a catalyst for systemic change in environments where conventional project approaches have often struggled to deliver lasting impact.

1.4 Programme Functioning and Governance

WDPP3 operates as a **multi-country umbrella programme coordinated by IHE Delft** under a structured governance system designed to ensure strategic oversight, operational coherence and cross-project learning. IHE Delft is responsible for overall coordination, financial management, monitoring, reporting and alignment with MFA requirements, while facilitating thematic and regional learning processes. Strategic direction is provided by the **Programme Committee**, which approves calls and annual plans, selects projects, monitors risks and oversees learning networks; it includes IHE Delft and regional partner representatives. An independent **Sounding Board** composed of regional and thematic experts, contributes external reflection on risks, innovation and equity, strengthening programme relevance and legitimacy. The learning architecture combines **thematic clusters and selected regional networks** (currently active in the Sahel) to enable cross-project exchange and methodological development without overburdening partners. At project level, multi-actor consortia bring together academia, civil society, government and communities, with explicit attention to inclusion of women and early-career professionals. Through annual planning and reporting cycles, this governance model balances strategic coherence with flexibility across diverse socio-ecological contexts.

2. Review approach and methodology

2.1 Review scope

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted in direct response to the Terms of Reference (ToR), which mandate a qualitative, contribution-focused and strategically oriented evaluation designed to inform decision-making for the remainder of WDPP3 and potential follow-up phases. The MTR assessed programme performance across **relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, institutional arrangements and sustainability**, while placing particular emphasis on the plausibility of contribution pathways embedded in the WDPP3 Theory of Change.

In line with the ToR, the evaluation pursued a dual purpose. First, a **learning function**, aimed at identifying what is working, what is emerging, and where adjustments may strengthen programme delivery across thematic clusters and regions. Second, an **accountability function**, providing an independent, evidence-based assessment of programme performance against MFA policy priorities, the WDPP3 Theory of Change, and the expectations articulated in annual plans and programme strategies.

Given the programme's stage of implementation, the MTR focuses primarily on outputs, short-term outcomes and enabling conditions for sustainability. Long-term institutionalisation and system-level transformation are considered emerging and context-dependent, and therefore assessed in terms of design features and embedding prospects rather than final impact results. In this report, institutionalisation refers to the process whereby the desired changes have become permanent and integrated into the partners' organisations and operations in such a way that the partners can deliver the results in a sustainable way. The programme develops capacity to enable partners to institutionalise the change and continue to adapt and innovate. Institutionalisation has policy, social, technical, organisational and financial dimensions.

2.2 Overall Approach

Given WDPP3's complexity—multi-country implementation, diverse partnerships, regional learning networks and transformative ambitions—the MTR adopted a **Theory-Based Evaluation** approach. This approach examines how and why change is expected to occur, and tests the robustness of the underlying assumptions of the Theory of Change under real implementation conditions.

Contribution Analysis provided the core analytical framework. Rather than attempting attribution, the MTR assessed the plausibility and strength of WDPP3's contribution to observed outcomes by: i) examining explicit and implicit change pathways, ii) identifying enabling and constraining factors, iii) considering alternative explanations, iv) and triangulating diverse evidence sources. This approach is consistent with MFA's requirement for a qualitative evaluation without new quantitative surveys, and is particularly suited to programmes where change emerges from social learning, institutional adaptation and networked collaboration rather than linear cause–effect relations. The MTR combines formative and summative dimensions. **It assesses performance to date while also generating actionable insights to strengthen strategic steering, adaptive capacity and learning loops** during the remaining programme period. Debriefing sessions and validation dialogues with MFA and IHE Delft formed part of this adaptive evaluation design.

2.3 Data collection and analysis methods

The MTR relies on a triangulated qualitative evidence base complemented by documentary and survey data. Multiple sources were systematically reviewed and cross-validated. The MTR covered thirteen countries through desk analysis, with field missions conducted in four countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and Jordan). In total, 216 key informants (44% women, 56% men) were consulted through more than 35 semi-structured interviews and over 45 focus group discussions (FGDs), enabling multi-level triangulation across global, regional, national and community levels.

First, a comprehensive **desk review** was conducted, covering policy documents, programme documents, inception reports, annual reports, financial annexes, monitoring documentation, project proposals, progress reports and governance materials. This documentation provided structured insight into programme architecture, stated objectives, planned outputs and resource allocation. While such documents offer longitudinal and comparable data, they are primarily self-reported and tend to emphasise outputs over independently verified outcomes.

Second, the evaluation analysed materials available in the **WDPP3 repository**, including knowledge products, geo stories and impact narratives. These materials provided transparency regarding dissemination efforts and illustrated thematic diversity across projects. However, impact stories are curated for communication purposes and therefore illustrative rather than representative of portfolio-wide outcomes.

Third, anonymised responses from **end-of-project surveys** (13 completed subprojects; 37 respondents) and annual Diversity & Inclusion surveys were reviewed. These surveys provided structured reflections on perceived collaboration quality, learning effects and emerging impacts. Nevertheless, survey coverage is limited, as larger call-based projects remain ongoing, and responses reflect self-assessment rather than independently verified change. Survey findings are therefore treated as indicative evidence of emerging outcomes.

Fourth, extensive **semi-structured interviews** were conducted with project leaders, researchers, implementing partners, NGOs, community representatives, local authorities, Embassy staff, WDPP3 management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and programme committee members. Interviews provided in-depth insight into implementation dynamics, institutional embedding, partnership functioning and contextual constraints. While qualitative and perception-based, interviews are essential for assessing outcome pathways that are not visible in documentation alone.

Fifth, **focus group discussions (FGDs)** were organised at field level to capture collective experiences, inclusiveness dynamics and behavioural changes. FGDs enabled observation of interactional dynamics among community actors, though findings are not statistically generalisable beyond participating groups.

Sixth, **field visits and direct observation** were conducted in Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and Jordan, including engagement with universities, NGOs, WRUAs, farmer groups and local authorities. These visits strengthened triangulation between reported achievements and observed practices, and provided contextual understanding of institutional and socio-ecological environments. As with any case-based approach, findings are illustrative rather than automatically generalisable across the entire portfolio.

Finally, **debriefing workshops and post-field reflection sessions** with WDPP3 management, thematic leads, governance actors and Embassy representatives enabled validation and clarification of emerging findings. These dialogues supported institutional triangulation while maintaining evaluative independence.

2.4 Data analysis and synthesis

The analysis and synthesis of the collected evidence followed a structured, theory-informed approach aligned with the Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 4). Given the qualitative and contribution-focused nature of the MTR, **findings were assessed against the six evaluation criteria—relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, institutional arrangements and sustainability**—through sub-questions rather than predefined quantitative indicators.

All evidence was organised and coded according to these criteria. Documentary analysis provided insight into programme design, governance, financial structures and reported outputs. Interviews, focus group discussions and field observations were used to test and nuance documented claims. Survey responses and repository materials were treated as indicative evidence of perceived outcomes and learning dynamics. Debriefing sessions with MFA, IHE Delft and governance actors supported clarification and institutional triangulation while maintaining evaluative independence. Triangulation was applied systematically. Findings were considered robust where converging evidence emerged from multiple sources, while divergent perspectives were analysed to identify contextual variation.

Given the programme's stage of implementation, the synthesis focuses primarily on outputs, short-term outcomes and enabling conditions for sustainability. Rather than measuring long-term impact in attribution terms, the analysis assesses the plausibility of WDPP3's contribution to observed changes and the robustness of its Theory of Change under current implementation conditions. Case studies (Appendix V) provide in-depth illustrations of contribution pathways and institutional dynamics, supporting portfolio-level conclusions without claiming statistical representativeness. Draft findings were discussed in structured exchange sessions with programme management and MFA representatives, allowing contextual clarification while preserving evaluative independence. Case studies were shared with project coordinators for factual validation and feedback. **This approach is consistent with the programme's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) philosophy, which frames evaluation and dialogue as collaborative learning processes grounded in reflexivity and contextual interpretation of change**.

Revisiting the WDPP3 Theory of Change

The WDPP3 Theory of Change (ToC) articulates a coherent pathway linking partnership-based research, education and institutional strengthening to inclusive and sustainable water management outcomes. As illustrated in the programme framework, the logic progresses from collaborative inputs and learning-oriented activities to knowledge outputs, strengthened capacities, behavioural change, and ultimately to institutionalised and equitable water governance systems.

At Mid-Term Review stage, the purpose is not to revalidate the conceptual coherence of the ToC, which remains strong, but to assess the robustness of its underlying assumptions under real implementation conditions across diverse socio-political contexts. This section therefore stress-tests the key assumptions across three transition points: i) Inputs → Outputs, ii) Outputs →

Outcomes and iii) Outcomes → Impact. It also assesses the presence of adaptive feedback mechanisms within the programme.

Assumptions: where the ToC holds and where it is fragile

Inputs → Outputs: Evidence from field missions and desk reviews confirms that the initial stages of the ToC are functioning largely as intended. Southern–Northern and Southern-Southern collaboration models are operational, partnership-based implementation is active, and research outputs are technically robust and relevant. IHE Delft's convening role and established networks continue to provide a stable enabling structure. However, institutional capacity among project partners varies, particularly in politically and operationally fragile contexts characterized by security constraints, high staff turnover, limited administrative capacity and volatile funding environments. These conditions affect the pace and continuity of implementation, as well as the depth of institutional embedding of outputs, but do not fundamentally undermine the first step of the ToC. Overall, **the transition from activities to outputs is strong across the portfolio**.

Outputs → Outcomes: The most structurally sensitive segment of the ToC lies in the transition from knowledge outputs to observable outcomes. Across case studies, WDPP3 generates high-quality research products, participatory processes, and learning outputs. Cognitive and relational changes are visible, particularly in strengthened dialogue, shared understanding of water challenges, and improved technical capacities. However, systematic uptake beyond project teams remains uneven. The assumption that capacity development automatically translates into sustained changes in institutional practice is only partially confirmed. Policy engagement mechanisms create spaces for dialogue, but routinised institutional adoption is context-dependent and often gradual. **This transition is therefore assessed as moderate and uneven across themes and regions**. However, translating knowledge into routinised institutional practice is inherently a long-term process. Given the mid-term nature of this review, it is realistic that many outcome-level changes are still emergent rather than consolidated.

Outcomes → Impact: The most fragile assumption concerns the institutionalisation of learning into sustained practice. At this stage of programme implementation WDPP3 remains a work in progress and the assessment of long-term impact was not part of the scope of this MTR. While there is credible evidence of behavioural change at community and intermediary levels in several cases, evidence mainly relates to emerging outcomes rather than demonstrable long-term impact. Long-term continuation and wider uptake of improved practices beyond the immediate project participants - including embedding within organisational routines, formal institutional mandates, financing frameworks, or regulatory systems - remains limited at this stage. This reflects not only programme design factors, but also broader structural conditions that lie beyond the direct sphere of influence of WDPP3, including political cycles, fiscal constraints, regulatory environments and shifting governance priorities. Institutionalisation processes are multi-actor and system-dependent, and attribution to a single programme is therefore inherently limited. This is not unexpected at mid-term, given the time horizon of projects and the complexity of governance systems. However, it highlights that the potential transition from outcomes to longer-term transformative impact pathways depends on: i) deliberate institutional anchoring, ii) structured knowledge translation mechanisms, iii) alignment with existing governance ecosystems. **The ToC assumption that learning will naturally become institutionalised may**

therefore require more active facilitation and embedding strategies in the remaining programme period.

Adaptive capacity and early feedback mechanisms

WDPP3 does not operate with a formalised early warning system. However, its annual reporting cycle, thematic learning networks, Programme Committee oversight, and Sounding Board reflections function as adaptive feedback mechanisms. These structures provide space for reflection and adjustment. Adaptive management is visible at project level, particularly where community feedback and operational constraints are incorporated into implementation adjustments. However, the effectiveness of programme-level feedback varies across thematic clusters and regions. Learning exchange appears strongest where active facilitation and structured coordination are present, and more limited where exchange relies on voluntary engagement without dedicated moderation. **Strengthening the explicit tracking of key ToC assumptions within existing monitoring processes could enhance strategic steering without adding structural complexity.**

Overall, WDPP3 demonstrates a robust short-term knowledge and partnership logic. The programme is effective in generating inclusive collaboration, applied knowledge and strengthened capacities. The principal stress point lies not in output production, but in the structured translation of knowledge into institutionalised practice and financed implementation. **Where projects are embedded within existing local governance and community ecosystems, sustainability prospects are significantly stronger**. The remainder of this report interprets findings on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, institutional arrangements and sustainability through this ToC stress-test lens.

Beyond internal assumptions, the stress test also confirms the **relevance of several key drivers shaping WDPP3 performance**. Internally, the integrated programme design, IHE Delft's convening role and structured learning architecture function as enabling drivers that stabilise early stages of the Theory of Change. Externally, increasing climate stress and sustained demand from partner institutions for applied knowledge continue to underscore the relevance of WDPP3. At the same time, evolving Dutch MFA policy priorities and shifting funding landscapes have introduced elements of uncertainty, requiring adaptive positioning by the programme rather than providing a uniformly favourable environment. However, political volatility and uneven institutional maturity across regions act as moderating factors influencing the pace of institutionalisation. **Recognising these drivers clarifies that transformative outcomes depend not only on programme design, but also on external governance systems and political-economic conditions that are largely beyond the programme's direct control.**

3. Findings

This chapter presents the findings of the Mid-Term Review of WDPP3, structured around the **six evaluation criteria**. The analysis draws on triangulated evidence and serves both a **learning and an accountability** function. They assess programme performance to date while examining the plausibility and robustness of **WDPP3's contribution pathways** under real implementation conditions. Particular **attention is given to the assumptions embedded in the Theory of Change**, the transition from outputs to outcomes, and the programme's adaptive capacity across diverse regional contexts.

Given the programme's mid-term stage, **the analysis focuses primarily on outputs, short- and medium-term outcomes, and enabling conditions for institutional embedding and sustainability**. Long-term systemic transformation is therefore assessed in terms of trajectory and institutional anchoring rather than final impact attribution. The findings reflect both portfolio-wide patterns and contextual variation across thematic clusters and regions. Where relevant, **illustrative case studies** (Appendix V) deepen the analysis of specific contribution pathways and governance dynamics.

3.1 Relevance

WDPP3 is well aligned with Dutch water and SDG 6 priorities as well as with national policies in partner countries, although institutional coordination and programme visibility remain weaker aspects. (CEQ1)

The alignment with Dutch water and SDG 6 priorities is reflected in its thematic focus, partnership model and operational design. The programme's partnership model reflects the Dutch MFA's **"Diamond" approach**, which promotes collaboration between government institutions, knowledge organisations, civil society and the private sector as a foundation for sustainable water governance. However, its strategic relevance at country level could be strengthened where feasible and contextually appropriate through increased coordination and visibility, and systematic engagement with national and local government actors. This is exemplified by interviews with key informants, field observations and document analysis.

The third phase of the Water and Development Partnership Programme (WDPP3) demonstrates strong strategic relevance to the Dutch government's water and sanitation policies and priorities to contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). Overall, WDPP3 is well aligned with Dutch water and SDG 6 priorities as well as with national policies and priorities in partner countries. However, while its thematic and policy alignment is clear, its strategic relevance at country level could be further strengthened through increased coordination, visibility, and systematic engagement with national and local government actors.

At the policy level, WDPP3 aligns closely with the Netherlands' international water agenda as articulated in frameworks such as the Dutch International Climate Strategy, the Netherlands International Water Ambition (NIWA), and the long-standing "Water for Development" approach advanced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. These policy frameworks emphasize integrated water resources management, climate resilience, water security, sanitation access, and the water–food–climate nexus, all within the broader commitment to achieving SDG 6. WDPP3's thematic focus on water security, climate adaptation, inclusive water governance, and the strengthening of knowledge and institutional capacity directly reflects these

priorities and contributes to accelerating progress towards SDG6 targets, particularly in areas related to water governance, water quality management and institutional strengthening in climate-stressed contexts.

WDPP3 projects address clearly identified water challenges in partner countries, with particular relevance in climate-stressed and food-insecure contexts , thereby contributing to accelerating progress towards water- and sanitation-related SDG targets. (EQ1)

Many WDPP3 supported projects are situated in regions facing increasing hydrological variability, groundwater depletion, flooding, and water quality degradation—risks that are intensified by climate change and demographic pressures. By combining research, applied innovation, and capacity development, WDPP3 supports context-specific responses to these challenges. This contributes in particular to SDG6 targets related to water quality improvement (6.3), integrated water resources management (6.5), and participatory water governance (6.b). This strengthens its relevance not only to Dutch global water ambitions but also to national water strategies in partner countries, where governments are seeking practical, evidence-based solutions to pressing water management issues.

The programme's thematic focus is strongly aligned, to a significant extent, with Dutch policy frameworks including "Water for Development" (2012), the Netherlands International Water Ambition (NIWA, 2019), "Do What We Do Best" (2022), the 2025 Policy Letter on Development Aid, while operational alignment at country level could be strengthened through in-country coordination and visibility. (EQ2)

WDPP3 is highly relevant to Dutch water and sanitation priorities under SDG 6 and broadly consistent with partner country policies. Its thematic focus, knowledge-based approach, and attention to climate resilience and inclusive governance reflect core Dutch policy commitments, including the emphasis on integrated water resources management, strengthening Dutch comparative advantage in water expertise, climate-resilient development, and long-term institutional partnerships. The programme's design—centred on research, education and capacity strengthening—aligns particularly well with the Dutch government's strategy of knowledge-based cooperation and international water diplomacy. However, to maximize its strategic relevance at country level, the programme would benefit from strengthened coordination mechanisms, more systematic policy engagement, and enhanced visibility within national water governance systems. By reinforcing these interfaces, WDPP3 can move from being a well-aligned programme in principle to becoming a more influential actor in shaping sustainable water and sanitation outcomes in practice.

The Theory of Change provides a coherent narrative linking research, education and practice, and to a considerable extent has guided the programme's strategic orientation and project portfolio. However, its translation into policy-relevant pathways depends on deliberate interfaces with government actors. (EQ3)

The programme's Theory of Change provides a coherent narrative linking research, education, and practice. To a considerable extent, it has informed the overall programme design and the structuring of thematic clusters and partnerships. It assumes that generating context-sensitive knowledge, strengthening academic and professional capacities, and facilitating partnerships between Dutch and local institutions will contribute to improved water governance. This logic

aligns well with Dutch policy emphasis on knowledge diplomacy and long-term institutional development. The shared Theory of Change and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework have provided a common reference point for programme-level planning and reporting. However, the degree to which the Theory of Change systematically guides project-level decision-making and the selection of activities, outputs and products varies across projects.

However, the translation of this Theory of Change into concrete policy influence depends on deliberate and sustained interfaces with government actors when contextually relevant. Where such interfaces exist, research outputs have greater potential to inform formal planning, budgeting, and regulatory processes rather than remaining primarily within academic or project-level spheres.

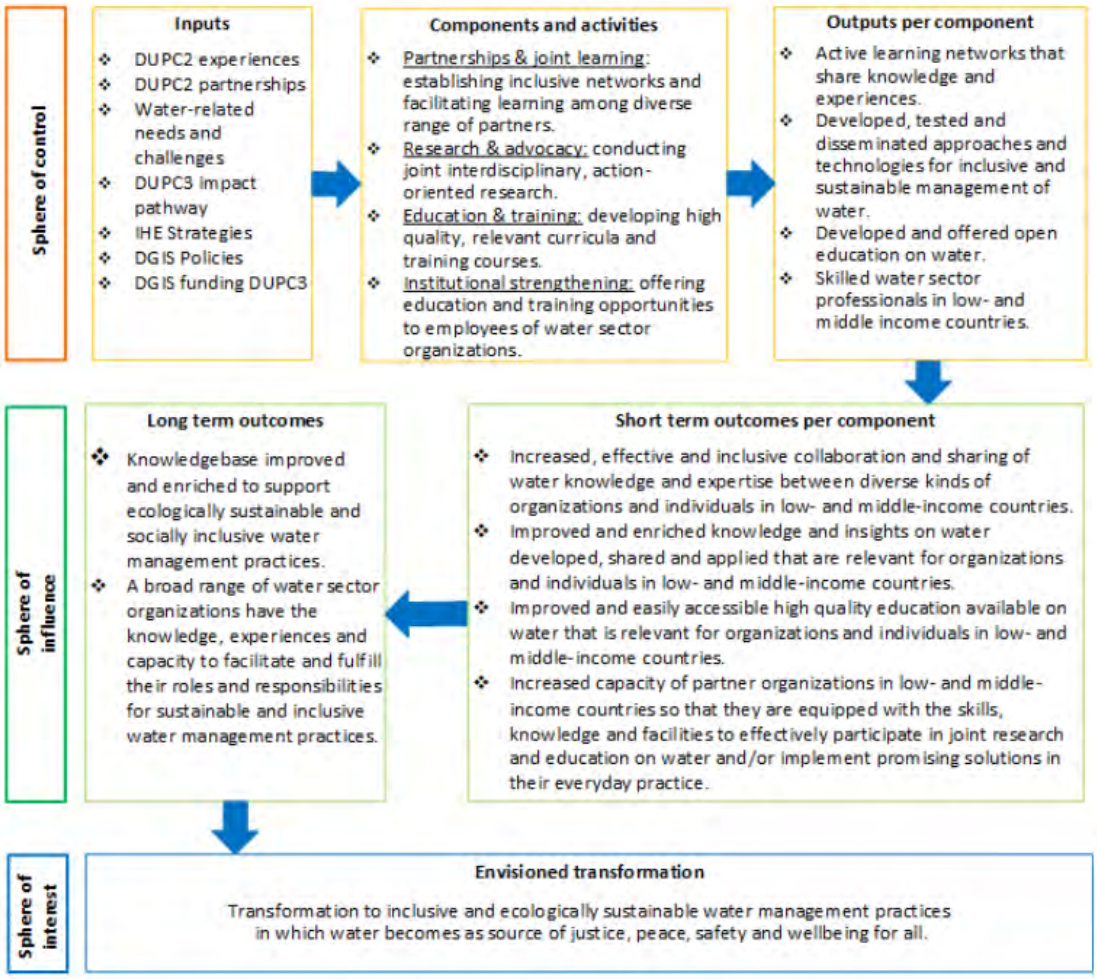


Figure 1: Schematic summary of Theory of Change of the Water and Development Partnership Programme Phase 3.

The analysis below examines the strength of key assumptions and drivers underpinning the Theory of Change, distinguishing between internal programme factors and external contextual conditions. The assumptions and drivers are partly derived from the WDPP3 Theory of Change and programme documentation, and partly reconstructed by the evaluation team to make explicit the causal pathways linking inputs, outputs and outcomes. The traffic-light coding reflects the evaluation team's assessment of the extent to which these assumptions are currently supported by evidence from document review, interviews and field observations. Green

indicates that available evidence broadly supports the assumption or driver; yellow indicates partial, mixed or still emerging evidence; and red indicates that the assumption appears fragile or currently weakly supported. Given that WDPP3 is still under implementation and that this review is a MTR, assumptions related to the transition from outcomes to longer-term impact should be interpreted with caution, as impact pathways cannot yet be fully assessed at this stage.

Table 1: Assessment of Key Assumptions and Drivers Underpinning the WDPP3 Theory of Change

Category	Dimension / Assumption / Driver	Assessment
Key Assumptions – Inputs → Outputs	Institutional capacity of project partners	🟡
	Southern–Northern collaboration and shared leadership	🟢
	Availability of financial and human resources	🟡
	Relevance and accessibility of research outputs	🟢
Key Assumptions – Outputs → Outcomes	Uptake of research and knowledge products beyond project teams	🟡
	Capacity development leading to changes in skills and practices	🟡
	Policy engagement creating spaces for dialogue and influence	🟡
	Synergies between programme components	🟢
Key Assumptions – Outcomes → Impact	Institutionalisation of learning into sustained practice	🟡[5]
	Enabling political, social and environmental conditions	
	Programme-level learning feeding back into implementation	
Key Drivers – Internal	Integrated WDPP3 programme design	🟢

[5] 🟡 Institutionalisation of learning into sustained practice *(too early to assess fully)*

Category	Dimension / Assumption / Driver	Assessment
	Partnership-based implementation and Southern leadership	🟢
	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system and shared ToC	🟡
	IHE Delft's convening role and networks	🟢
Key Drivers – External	Climate change and increasing water stress	🟢
	Dutch MFA evolving policy priorities	🟢
	Global and regional agendas (SDG 6, climate)	🟢
	Demand from partner institutions for applied knowledge	🟢

Field evidence shows that relevance increases where projects explicitly engage equity, climate risk and local governance dynamics, and where findings are communicated in formats usable by authorities and communities. (EQ4)

Field evidence suggests that WDPP3's relevance increases significantly where projects explicitly engage with equity, climate risk, and local governance dynamics. This reflects a gradual adaptation of project emphases in line with evolving Dutch policy priorities and the increasing focus on climate resilience and inclusion. Projects that incorporate gender inclusion, pro-poor targeting, and participatory approaches tend to resonate more strongly with both Dutch policy commitments and national development frameworks. Similarly, interventions that directly address climate risk management—through scenario planning, climate-resilient infrastructure design, or adaptive water allocation mechanisms—are particularly well aligned with the Netherlands' international climate-water agenda. Relevance is further enhanced when findings are translated into formats usable by authorities and communities, such as policy briefs, technical guidelines, training modules, or decision-support tools. These adjustments have largely occurred through incremental shifts in thematic emphasis, calls for proposals and dialogue with implementing partners, including in response to evolving MFA priorities. However, adaptation has been more visible at the level of framing and project refinement than through major structural changes in programme design.

Despite this strong thematic alignment, operational alignment at country level could be strengthened. In several contexts, WDPP3 activities operate parallel to, rather than fully embedded within, existing coordination platforms led by national governments or development partners. Greater visibility of WDPP3 within in-country donor coordination groups, water sector working groups, and embassy-led programming could increase strategic coherence. Stronger collaboration with Dutch embassies and alignment with bilateral water portfolios would further

enhance policy relevance, strengthen the programme's responsiveness to future policy adjustments, and increase its leverage opportunities for scaling successful innovations. In practice, the depth of such collaboration will depend less on staffing levels than on the strategic priorities of individual embassies and their openness to creating spaces for dialogue and collaboration at country level.

3.2 Coherence (internal and external)

WDPP3 demonstrates a strong degree of conceptual coherence across projects and substantial external alignment with partner institutions and Dutch water policies, though operational synergies vary by country and project maturity. (CEQ 2)

WDPP3 exhibits strong conceptual coherence with its objectives and Theory of Change, and substantial alignment with partner government priorities. However, operational coherence across projects varies, largely due to the limited systematic use of existing country-level coordination mechanisms for implementation and results uptake. Strengthening interfaces within existing governance and Embassy structures, and enhancing alignment with portfolios and national reform processes, would enable WDPP3 to move from conceptual coherence toward more synergistic programme implementation. Overall, coherence is strong at the design level and moderate at the level of coordinated implementation and policy uptake.

Projects broadly align with WDPP3 objectives and Theory of Change pathways. (EQ5)

WDPP3 demonstrates a high degree of conceptual coherence across its portfolio. Projects are broadly aligned with the programme's stated objectives and its Theory of Change (ToC), and they generally respond to the development priorities of partner governments. To a significant extent, the programme's design and project portfolio reflect the intended pathways of the ToC, linking research, education and applied practice. However, while strategic intent and thematic alignment are clear, operational synergies across projects vary by country and by project maturity. In particular, the limited systematic use of existing country-level coordination mechanisms on the implementer side limits the programme's ability to fully realise cross-project complementarity, synergy, and alignment with Embassy portfolios and national reform agendas.

At the conceptual level, coherence with WDPP3 objectives is evident. The programme aims to strengthen water security, climate resilience, inclusive governance, and institutional capacity through integrated pathways linking research, education, and practice. Most projects reflect this logic: they generate applied knowledge, embed capacity development within universities and training institutes, and pilot practical solutions in collaboration with local actors. This alignment demonstrates fidelity to the ToC, which assumes that combining scientific insight, local institutional strengthening, and multi-stakeholder engagement will lead to more sustainable water management outcomes.

Furthermore, projects tend to align with partner government priorities, particularly in areas such as integrated water resources management, climate adaptation, food security, and improved water service delivery. Many interventions are designed in response to nationally identified challenges, such as groundwater depletion, flood risk, irrigation inefficiency, or urban sanitation gaps. Where projects are embedded within existing policy frameworks or reform processes, coherence with national strategies is particularly strong. This is most evident in contexts where

local government agencies, basin authorities, or national ministries are formally involved as partners, ensuring that activities contribute to ongoing sectoral priorities. At the same time, in some contexts projects deliberately work primarily with civil society organisations, research institutions or local communities rather than directly with government actors, particularly where politically sensitive issues or marginalised groups are involved. In such cases, this approach reflects a conscious strategic choice within the programme to support bottom-up learning processes and foster progressive change in environments where direct government engagement may be limited or less conducive.

However, there is no systematic country-level coordination mechanism across projects. (EQ6) While individual projects align with WDPP3's overarching objectives, there is no systematic country-level coordination mechanism across projects. As a result, complementarities—such as connecting capacity development initiatives with policy reform processes—are not always fully leveraged. Synergies often depend on informal relationships or the initiative of individual project leaders rather than structured programme design. The focus of WDPP3 is on thematic interaction and learning, between projects in the same programme pillar. At that level, there are platforms and exchange opportunities between projects under the same theme. However, more systematic utilisation of in-country, cross-pillar and cross-country coordination fora could enhance coherence and structure the full operationalisation of programme-wide coherence, and application of project results without creating additional institutional layers.

Lack of a designated country coordinator on the implementer side limits coherence, across-project synergies and alignment with national reform agendas. (EQ7)

Without a focal point responsible for mapping the portfolio, facilitating cross-project learning, and liaising with government counterparts, opportunities for integration may remain underutilised. This does not necessarily imply the creation of new roles, but rather clearer definition of responsibilities within existing structures and partnerships. This affects not only horizontal coherence between projects, but also vertical alignment with the broader Dutch water programme and development cooperation strategies. Stronger coordination through existing Embassy channels and sectoral platforms could enhance alignment with priorities, national reform agendas, and other donor-supported initiatives in the water sector. In particular, stronger interfaces could improve the translation and uptake of knowledge products within national policy processes.

Coherence is strongest in projects embedded in local institutional and territorial ecosystems. (EQ8) Where interventions are closely integrated with universities, research institutes, local governments, and community-based organisations, there is greater alignment between programme activities and local development trajectories. Such embeddedness enhances ownership, ensures contextual relevance, and creates clearer pathways from research outputs to policy or practice. In these cases, WDPP3 operates not as a standalone initiative, but as part of a broader network of actors pursuing shared water governance and resilience objectives. This embeddedness significantly strengthens both internal and external coherence, as activities reinforce existing institutional ecosystems rather than operating in parallel.

Regarding complementarity with partner organisations and the wider Dutch water programme, WDPP3 shows important initiatives. Collaboration with local academic institutions and water

authorities supports mutual capacity development and long-term institutional partnerships. Moreover, thematic overlap with Dutch-funded water initiatives—such as infrastructure investments, governance reform programmes, or climate adaptation strategies—creates potential for reinforcing impacts. Yet this complementarity is not always systematically structured. Greater strategic dialogue between WDPP3 implementers and other Dutch-funded programmes could enhance coherence and ensure that knowledge generation activities directly inform operational and policy interventions supported by the Netherlands. External coherence with the broader Dutch water portfolio is therefore present but not yet fully institutionalised.

Overall, WDPP3 demonstrates strong strategic coherence at design level and substantial external alignment, while coherence in coordinated implementation and results uptake remains moderate and dependent on the effective use of existing country-level interfaces.

3.3 Effectiveness

WDPP3 is effectively delivering its planned activities and outputs at scale, generating credible short-term relational, conceptual and capacity outcomes across themes, and demonstrating adaptive capacity in response to changing contexts; the main effectiveness challenge lies in consolidating and evidencing institutional embedding pathways at portfolio level rather than in implementation performance. (CEQ3)

At mid-term, WDPP3 demonstrates strong delivery performance across its four operational components, with consistent implementation across more than 80 projects and a substantial body of research outputs, trainings, partnerships and learning exchanges. Monitoring arrangements are structured and functional, enabling systematic tracking of activities and outputs while supporting reflective practice. The programmatic funding model enhances adaptive management, allowing re-sequencing and targeted adjustments in response to contextual shifts, including political volatility and institutional delays. Across the 15-project sample, evidence shows meaningful short-term outcomes aligned with thematic objectives in Water & Health, Water & Food and River Basins & Deltas. Relational platforms have strengthened, applied research has informed policy discussions, and professional capacities have increased within partner institutions. Early instrumental outcomes, such as policy uptake and adoption of strategies, are emerging in selected cases but remain uneven and context-dependent. Overall, WDPP3 performs strongly in delivery and adaptive implementation; its transformative potential depends on reinforcing portfolio-level synthesis and institutional anchoring.

WDPP3 has a structured and functional monitoring framework that supports systematic activity tracking and adaptive management; however, portfolio-wide aggregation of outcome-level evidence and explicit tracking of key Theory of Change (ToC) assumptions remain limited. (EQ9)

WDPP3 operates with a coherent monitoring architecture embedded in programme design. It includes: annual planning and reporting cycles aligned with the ToC; standardised project templates linking outputs, short-term outcomes and contribution pathways; oversight by the Programme Committee; structured learning networks; and a public repository hosting over 700 outputs.

Annual Plans and Reports track portfolio progress and thematic priorities, while biannual project reporting ensures regular monitoring. The framework clearly links activities to outputs and

intended outcomes, reflecting the programme's contribution logic. Overall, monitoring arrangements are structured and aligned with programme objectives.

Evidence from the 15-project sample, field missions (Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan and Egypt), interviews and surveys confirm that monitoring mechanisms are operational and actively used. Projects report consistently on outputs and reflect on emerging outcomes. Case studies show context-driven adjustments, including adapted stakeholder engagement, re-sequencing due to institutional delays and alignment with evolving policy discussions.

Learning networks and programme-wide seminars function as adaptive spaces for exchange. Interviews indicate that these inform implementation adjustments, and survey responses suggest reporting is perceived as supportive of learning rather than compliance-driven.

The repository and curated impact stories complement formal reporting by capturing qualitative evidence of change, including equity and ecological sustainability dimensions.

From a ToC perspective, monitoring is strongest at the Inputs → Outputs stage, where delivery is systematically tracked. Outcome-level evidence exists but is not consistently aggregated at portfolio level. Institutional uptake and practice change are documented yet dispersed. Light-touch consolidation of outcome pathways within existing reporting cycles would enhance visibility of contribution without increasing reporting burden.

Table 2: Monitoring framework: Design vs Practice vs Improvement opportunity

Element	Design Intention	Observed Practice (MTR)	Improvement Opportunity
Annual reporting	Structured ToC-aligned reporting	Consistently implemented	—
Project outcome tracking	Projects reflect on short-term outcomes	Implemented at project level	Portfolio aggregation
Learning networks	Facilitate exchange and reflection	Operational across themes	Systematic synthesis
Impact stories	Capture diverse impact pathways	Strategically curated	Broader outcome consolidation
ToC assumption tracking	Implicit in narrative reporting	Not systematic	Explicit tracking of institutional embedding

WDPP3 is effectively delivering its planned activities and outputs across the four programme components, and these outputs demonstrate credible contribution to thematic objectives in Water & Health, Water & Food, and River Basins & Deltas; outcome depth varies depending on contextual embedding and institutional maturity. (EQ10)

WDPP3 operates through four components—i) Partnerships and joint learning; ii) Research and advocacy; iii) Education and training; iv) Institutional strengthening—which together form its delivery architecture and operationalise thematic objectives.

At mid-term, implementation is substantial and well documented across more than 80 active projects, 700+ publicly accessible outputs and 40+ cross-project learning events. In 2024 alone, over 600 professionals participated in programme-level exchanges. The 15-project sample

confirms consistent delivery of research, stakeholder engagement, training, applied pilots and network-building activities.

Case studies illustrate how these components translate into practice and reinforce the Theory of Change. *Water Mobility (Mali/Algeria)* demonstrates how Partnerships and joint learning strengthen relational platforms and cross-border dialogue (Inputs → Outputs → relational outcomes). *NileWell* exemplifies Research and advocacy by linking science, journalism and policy debate in transboundary water governance (conceptual influence). *RS-4C* reflects Education and training through field-based capacity strengthening that enhances local water resilience planning (capacity-oriented outcomes). *A4Store (Zimbabwe)* illustrates Institutional strengthening, where collaboration with a public financial institution supported a pilot investment mechanism (emerging instrumental effects).

Delivery is strong at the Inputs → Outputs stage of the Theory of Change, with consistent production of knowledge products, trainings and partnership activities. Across thematic areas, short-term outcomes include improved technical understanding, strengthened stakeholder platforms and enhanced professional capacities. Evidence of policy uptake and structural embedding is visible in selected cases but remains uneven and context-dependent.

Overall, WDPP3 delivers at scale and generates credible short-term outcomes across themes. The main effectiveness challenge lies not in activity delivery but in consolidating institutional embedding pathways and aggregating outcomes at portfolio level. External partners perceive WDPP3 as distinct within the Dutch water landscape, valuing its locally rooted and Southern-led collaboration model, which strengthens relational legitimacy and supports more inclusive water governance pathways.

The programmatic funding model substantially enhances flexibility, portfolio coherence and adaptive management across WDPP3, supporting effectiveness in planning and implementation; however, flexibility alone does not automatically accelerate institutionalisation and requires stronger country-level coordination to maximise systemic impact. (EQ11)

The programmatic approach operates through competitive calls, regulated top-ups, budget-neutral extensions and portfolio-level steering by the Secretariat and Programme Committee. Rather than financing isolated projects, WDPP3 manages a coherent portfolio that allows adjustments in response to contextual shifts, implementation delays and emerging opportunities. Structured reporting ensures that adaptations and budget reallocations remain transparent and justified. Interviews with programme management, MFA representatives and field missions confirm that this flexibility has enabled concrete adaptation. Examples include post-COVID re-sequencing of activities, extensions to complete stakeholder processes, and targeted top-ups to consolidate promising initiatives. Projects in Jordan, Egypt, Kenya and Ethiopia adjusted engagement strategies, timelines and alignment with evolving policy debates, maintaining relevance under changing institutional conditions.

At portfolio level, the model reduces fragmentation compared to project-based funding and allows strategic steering across themes and regions. MFA representatives recognise its added value for coherence and adaptive oversight. Learning networks further strengthen effectiveness by integrating partner feedback into planning cycles.

From a Theory of Change perspective, programmatic funding reinforces the Inputs → Outputs and Outputs → Outcomes transitions by creating space for learning and adjustment. However, flexibility does not automatically translate into faster institutional embedding. Where multiple projects operate within the same country or thematic cluster, stronger coordination and aggregation mechanisms are needed to leverage programmatic advantages toward systemic uptake. Overall, the funding model is a clear enabler of adaptive capacity; its full transformative potential depends on translating portfolio coherence into structured institutional anchoring.

WDPP3 is generating consistent short-term relational, conceptual and capacity-oriented outcomes across the portfolio; early instrumental outcomes are emerging in selected contexts but remain uneven and highly context-dependent. (EQ12)

Across the 15-project analytical sample, relational outcomes are the most visible and robust. In *RS4C (Kenya/Ethiopia)* and *A4Store*, dialogue platforms between researchers, WRUAs and basin authorities have strengthened shared problem framing and trust. *WaterPIP-KAN* extended utility–knowledge partnerships beyond project deliverables. In *URaHA (Yemen)*, despite fragility, a national network of nine universities and six utilities was established through joint trainings and coordination mechanisms. These outcomes reduce fragmentation and create preconditions for institutional uptake, though they remain vulnerable to turnover and political instability.

Conceptual outcomes are equally strong. *NileWell* reshaped transboundary water narratives by linking scientists and journalists. *Water Mobility* and *ABC Dry Basin* introduced integrated framings of water–food–energy trade-offs and climate adaptation into policy discussions. *URaHA* advanced applied research through MSc and PhD trajectories addressing social, technical and gender dimensions. These projects contribute to more integrated and equity-sensitive water governance, although programme-level synthesis remains limited.

Capacity outcomes are tangible and recurrent. *BEWOP* and *WaterPIP-KAN* strengthened utility-to-utility learning and operational practices. *RS4C* enhanced analytical capacities combining remote sensing and community knowledge, while *URaHA* delivered training-of-trainers reaching 36 experts and supported six officially signed strategies. However, capacity gains in fragile contexts remain exposed to financial and institutional instability.

Early instrumental outcomes are emerging but uneven. In Kenya (*A4Store*), tools such as cost–benefit analysis are recognised as important but not yet embedded in formal financing frameworks. In Zimbabwe, collaboration with a public financial institution has enabled a pilot investment mechanism, representing a more concrete step toward financial anchoring, though sustainability depends on continued commitment. Common benefits include strengthened local ownership, Southern leadership and transdisciplinary collaboration. Common challenges relate to political volatility, limited follow-on financing and the long-time horizon required for institutionalisation. From a Theory of Change perspective, further progress will depend on facilitating translation from knowledge to uptake through cross-project synthesis, stronger coordination with institutional anchors (e.g. basin authorities and regulators), and structured engagement with financing actors to bridge strategy and implementation.

WDPP3 integrates ecological sustainability, climate resilience and equity considerations into its strategic framing, learning architecture and project selection logic; however, the

depth and consistency of operationalisation and cross-portfolio aggregation vary across projects. (EQ13)

At programme level, sustainability, climate responsiveness and equity are embedded in the Theory of Change, thematic accents and learning architecture. Dedicated seminars (e.g. gender, water and development) and thematic exchanges on sustainability and equity signal deliberate prioritisation. Impact story selection criteria reference equity, ecological sustainability and transformative potential, reinforcing alignment with Dutch policy priorities and the programme's emphasis on inclusive knowledge co-production.

Across the 15-project analytical sample, ecological sustainability is explicitly integrated in most cases, particularly under River Basins & Deltas and climate-sensitive contexts. *RS4C*, *ABC Dry Basin* and *Water Mobility* incorporate ecosystem-based approaches and water–food–energy trade-offs, while *URaHA (Yemen)* links rainwater harvesting to groundwater recharge, urban agriculture and water-for-health objectives. In several Sahel and MENA contexts, climate adaptation is directly connected to water allocation and service resilience. Ecological considerations are therefore strongly embedded at conceptual and research-design level.

Gender and broader inclusion dimensions are present but less consistently operationalised. Some projects—particularly in Kenya and selected MENA cases—integrate gender-responsive research questions or track female participation in training and scholarships (e.g. *URaHA*). *NileWell* promotes inclusive discourse by amplifying underrepresented voices in water journalism. Youth and early-career engagement is also visible across projects. However, depth varies: in some cases, inclusion shapes design; in others it remains primarily narrative or participation-based.

The programme's strength lies in framing and knowledge production: sustainability and equity shape problem definition, research outputs and policy dialogue. However, two structural limitations persist. First, while the programme tracks several quantitative indicators related to gender and inclusivity — such as participation of women and partners from low- and middle-income countries, women-led projects, and perceptions of inclusive collaboration — these indicators primarily capture participation and process dimensions rather than aggregated outcome-level changes across the portfolio. Second, for ecological sustainability and climate resilience, programme-level monitoring relies largely on project selection criteria and qualitative reporting rather than a shared set of indicators enabling systematic aggregation of results across projects This qualitative reporting approach aligns with the MEL policy guidance of the Ministry; however, it also means that programme-level visibility of aggregated outcome-level contributions across the portfolio remains limited.

Overall, WDPP3 shows clear commitment and growing practice in cross-cutting dimensions. Consolidation will depend less on redefining commitments and more on strengthening systematic tracking and comparability to enhance visibility of outcome-level contributions.

3.4 Efficiency

WDPP3 demonstrates moderate-to-strong portfolio-level efficiency, combining programmatic flexibility with structured financial oversight and proportionate resource allocation. (CE4)

Evidence indicates that WDPP3 balances flexibility, governance discipline and adaptive management in a manner consistent with programmatic funding logic, while maintaining attention to value for money.

WDPP3 demonstrates moderate-to-strong efficiency at portfolio level, with proportional resource use relative to programme scope and complexity. Outputs and early outcomes are broadly proportionate to resources invested, particularly in partnership-based and locally embedded projects. The programme operates across 80+ projects, engaging more than 300 partner organisations in multiple regions, while maintaining a structured governance and monitoring architecture. Within this context, management and coordination costs remain proportionate to portfolio scale and geographic spread.

Financial data show that, out of a total €46 million programme budget, €39.6 million (86%) has already been committed and €22.4 million (49%) audited to date. Transfers to sub-project partners amount to €11.7 million. Programme management and coordination costs are proportionate to the scope of oversight and compliance required for a multi-country initiative of this scale. The average charged rate of €90.65 per hour and approximately 89,800 hours of programme staff time reflect lean staffing relative to portfolio complexity.

Transaction costs are inherent to WDPP3's inclusive and multi-actor model. Their implications are examined in detail below.

Outputs and short-term outcomes are broadly proportionate to financial and human resources invested, particularly under a knowledge-production and systems-strengthening logic. (EQ14)

WDPP3 delivers outputs and short-term outcomes broadly proportionate to the resources invested. Efficiency is strongest where projects are locally embedded, benefit from long-standing partnerships, and operate within functioning institutional ecosystems. In contexts with higher fragility or weaker coordination mechanisms, transaction costs are higher, but these reflect structural operating conditions rather than inefficiency in programme management.

A central efficiency question is whether the outputs and early short-term outcomes generated by WDPP3 are proportionate to the level of financial and human resources invested. Evidence from annual reports (2021–2024), the project portfolio overview, repository data, field visits and survey responses suggest that, overall, outputs and emerging outcomes are broadly commensurate with programme scale and budget.

The portfolio currently comprises over 80 projects across large-, medium- and small-scale funding windows, engaging more than 300 partner organisations. In addition to direct project outputs, the programme has facilitated over 40 learning seminars and maintains a repository hosting more than 700 outputs, with thousands of active users. These figures indicate sustained production and dissemination of knowledge products across thematic clusters. Approximately €11 million in additional co-financing has been mobilised, suggesting that programme resources are also leveraging complementary investment.

Importantly, WDPP3's outputs are predominantly knowledge-intensive rather than infrastructure-based. They include applied research, policy briefs, MSc and PhD supervision, capacity strengthening activities, stakeholder platforms, governance tools, and methodological innovations. Efficiency must therefore be assessed against a knowledge-production and

systems-strengthening logic, rather than infrastructure delivery metrics typically applied to capital-intensive programmes. The programme's value lies in generating applied knowledge, building institutional capacity and facilitating multi-actor collaboration—outcomes that require coordination effort but are not directly measurable in physical assets.

Field visits in Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan and Egypt illustrate this proportionality. In Jordan and Egypt, projects such as SafeAgroMENA and ABCdry basin demonstrated that relatively modest budgets generated structured stakeholder engagement, technical outputs and cross-institutional dialogue. While institutional embedding into formal planning frameworks remains gradual, observed coordination mechanisms and ministry engagement indicate efficient use of resources in politically complex environments.

Survey responses from completed and small-scale projects further support this finding. Respondents report that outputs were largely delivered as planned, partnerships functioned effectively, and early outcomes—such as improved collaboration, enhanced local knowledge and strengthened institutional linkages—were achieved relative to project scope. While attribution to long-term systemic change remains premature at mid-term, there is no evidence of systematic mismatch between effort and delivery.

Debriefing discussions in February confirmed the presence of strong institutional arrangements and adaptive management practices at programme level, while also highlighting the need for more systematic documentation of early outcomes. This suggests that efficiency is not primarily constrained by delivery gaps, but by the visibility and consolidation of outcome evidence.

WDPP3 demonstrates sound cost-efficiency and value-for-money discipline through proportionate management costs, aligned staffing structures and active financial control mechanisms. (EQ15)

WDPP3 demonstrates sound cost-efficiency and value-for-money discipline. Management costs are proportionate to portfolio complexity; staffing and hourly rates are aligned with sector standards; financial controls are clearly articulated and applied; and transaction costs reflect the structural requirements of inclusive and transformative programming rather than avoidable inefficiency.

Beyond the proportionality of outputs to resources, efficiency must also be assessed in terms of cost discipline, management overhead, and value-for-money safeguards. The analysis draws on financial overviews, management guidelines, governance documents and debriefing discussions.

Management costs remain proportionate to oversight complexity and reflect strengthened coordination compared to earlier programme phases.

WDPP3 operates with a structured but comparatively lean programme management architecture relative to its geographic reach and portfolio size. Financial data indicate that approximately 23% of the total grant is recorded as income retained by IHE for programme coordination and management functions, with an additional 6% covering out-of-pocket institutional costs. This allocation includes programme coordination, governance bodies, monitoring, learning networks and compliance functions. These figures must be interpreted in light of the programme's multi-country scope, competitive calls management, learning network

facilitation, repository maintenance, monitoring, financial compliance, audit processes and governance oversight.

When compared conceptually with earlier programme phases, where limited management capacity was identified as a constraint, WDPP3 appears to operate with strengthened and more structured management arrangements. Rather than indicating administrative inflation, current allocations reflect a programmatic model that integrates portfolio steering, adaptive management and cross-project learning.

The balance between direct transfers to sub-project partners and programme-level coordination indicates proportionate management costs without excessive administrative layering. Moreover, the deliberate allocation of resources to Southern and non-academic partners enhances systemic efficiency by narrowing the gap between research, community engagement and institutional dialogue, distinguishing WDPP3 from more transaction-heavy partnership models.

Staffing levels, hourly rates and financial control mechanisms indicate disciplined cost management without operational inflation.

Available financial data show an average charged rate of approximately €90 per hour and a total recorded staffing effort of nearly 90,000 hours over the programme period to date. These figures are consistent with standard academic and technical salary scales and do not indicate inflated staffing structures. The implied staffing intensity is moderate relative to the scale of operations.

Field observations in Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan and Egypt corroborate this picture: project teams operate with modest logistical arrangements, rely significantly on local partners, and demonstrate pragmatic cost awareness. The use of local consultants and territorially embedded organisations reduces reliance on externally mobilised expertise and contributes to cost containment. In Jordan and Egypt, engagement with water authorities and basin-level institutions further illustrates that coordination and technical outputs were achieved without excessive operational overhead, even in politically and institutionally complex environments.

Formal financial controls further reinforce value-for-money discipline. Clear guidelines govern top-up funding allocations, budget-neutral extensions, reporting obligations and audit compliance. Extensions are subject to strict eligibility criteria and limited in duration, while additional funding requests require performance-based justification. These mechanisms demonstrate active oversight rather than passive budget execution. There is evidence that programme management maintains systematic attention to procurement procedures, reporting compliance and travel cost controls, contributing to financial accountability without introducing disproportionate bureaucratic burden.

Higher facilitation and coordination costs reflect the structural requirements of inclusive, partnership-based transformation rather than inefficiency.

A defining characteristic of WDPP3 is its emphasis on multi-actor collaboration, inclusive participation and transdisciplinary engagement. Such approaches inherently generate coordination and facilitation costs. Stakeholder dialogue, joint reflection, learning network activation and cross-regional exchange require sustained interaction and time investment.

In fragile or politically complex contexts, these transaction costs increase further due to conflict sensitivity, institutional fragmentation and trust-building requirements. However, these costs

are intrinsic to partnership-based transformation models and should not be interpreted as inefficiency per se. On the contrary, they represent deliberate investment in institutional embedding and social legitimacy.

The critical efficiency question is therefore not whether transaction costs exist, but whether they are producing proportional relational and institutional gains. Evidence from field visits and interviews suggests that, where facilitation is strategically targeted and locally anchored, coordination investments yield tangible improvements in collaboration quality and adaptive capacity.

WDPP3 leverages reputational and network capital effectively, while direct financial co-investment remains context-dependent and uneven across countries. (EQ16)

WDPP3 leverages reputational capital, institutional networks and intellectual resources more consistently than direct financial co-investment. While opportunities for more systematic leveraging exist—particularly in relation to national financing mechanisms and larger donor platforms—the programme demonstrates credible additionality through partnership multiplication, alumni trajectories and alignment with broader water governance ecosystems.

Efficiency in a programmatic partnership model is also reflected in the ability to mobilise additional financial and non-financial resources beyond the core grant. Financially, WDPP3 has mobilised approximately €11 million in co-financing contributions, reflecting additional investment from partner organisations and complementary funding streams. Co-funding mechanisms are embedded in several calls and funding windows, encouraging joint ownership and shared responsibility.

Beyond direct financial co-investment, WDPP3 leverages significant reputational and network capital. The involvement of over 300 partner organisations enhances access to complementary funding sources and policy platforms. Alumni networks—particularly MSc and PhD graduates associated with the programme—function as long-term multipliers, extending the programme's reach into national institutions and sector agencies.

Connections with broader sector initiatives, including water operator partnerships and international capacity-strengthening platforms referenced during MFA discussions (e.g. EUWOP/BEWOP-type initiatives), further position WDPP3 within a wider ecosystem of water governance support. While WDPP3 does not operate as an infrastructure-financing instrument, it contributes upstream knowledge, capacity and institutional strengthening that can feed into larger financing streams and national investment programmes.

Embedding within national strategies varies by country. In some contexts, projects are closely aligned with district or basin-level planning instruments, enhancing the likelihood of follow-up funding and institutional uptake. In others, alignment remains more relational. This unevenness reflects contextual governance conditions rather than programme design weakness.

The programmatic funding model enhances adaptive efficiency and portfolio coherence, while shifting coordination complexity to programme management level. (EQ15

The programmatic funding model enhances adaptive efficiency and portfolio coherence. While it entails management complexity, it offers structural advantages for multi-country, knowledge-intensive and partnership-driven initiatives such as WDPP3.

As highlighted during interviews, programmatic funding provides greater flexibility, reduces rigid administrative segmentation, and enables portfolio-level steering rather than fragmented project management. Under a traditional project-based model, administrative requirements are often replicated across individual grants, increasing transaction costs and limiting cross-project learning. Fragmentation risks are higher, attribution logic dominates over contribution logic, and funding streams are less adaptable to emerging contextual shifts.

In contrast, WDPP3's programmatic design allows for internal reallocation mechanisms, phased calls, top-up funding windows and budget-neutral extensions within a coherent governance framework. This enhances adaptive capacity and responsiveness without requiring repeated renegotiation at donor level.

The programmatic approach aligns closely with the Theory of Change and contribution logic underpinning WDPP3. While flexibility increases coordination workload at management level, it strengthens portfolio steering and cross-project learning, contributing to overall adaptive efficiency.

Table 3: Financial and Operational Efficiency Overview (WDPP3)
source: financial overview table, projects' overview, annual plan

Item	**Available data (consolidated)**
Total Programme Budget (Phase 3)	€46,000,000 (2021–2029)
Total Commitments (to date)	€39,636,317 (86% of total budget)
Received Cash Flow MFA	€30,383,751 (66% of total grant)
Total Audited Claims	€22,443,894 (49% of total grant)
Transferred to Sub-project Partners	€11,683,601 (25% of total grant; 38% of received CF)
Income retained by IHE (programme management & coordination)	€10,760,293 (23% of total grant)
Time coverage IHE (staff costs equivalent)	€8,141,356 (18% of total grant)
Out-of-pocket IHE costs	€2,618,937 (6% of total grant)
Interest generated	€4,521
Use of base fund (IHE contribution)	€1,374,246 (3% of total budget)
Average charged rate (IHE)	€90.65/hour
Total hours charged	89,811 hours
Number of projects (portfolio overview)	82–88 projects (Excel overview)
Partner organisations engaged	335+ organisations
Co-financing leveraged	~€11 million additional funding

Item	Available data (consolidated)
Top-up funding regulation	€10,000–€100,000; 90% spend requirement
Budget-neutral extensions	Max 1-year; 15% remaining budget rule
Learning & dissemination outputs	700+ repository outputs; 46 seminars

3.5 Institutional arrangements

WDPP3's institutional arrangements are appropriate and largely effective in ensuring programme management, accountability and stakeholder engagement. Compared to earlier phases (DUPC2), the programme demonstrates strengthened governance capacity, clearer role differentiation, increased Southern leadership and a more structured learning architecture. The main structural vulnerability lies not in programme management design, but in the systematic translation of knowledge outputs into institutionalised and financed practice. (CEQ5)

WDPP3 operates under a programmatic governance model coordinated by IHE Delft, supported by a Programme Committee, a Sounding Board, structured annual planning cycles, and thematic and regional learning networks. These arrangements provide a coherent framework for portfolio steering, fiduciary oversight, adaptive learning and stakeholder engagement across diverse contexts.

Table 4: Evolution from DUPC2 to WDPP3

Dimension	DUPC2 (previous phase)	WDPP3 (current phase)	Observed Evolution
Management capacity	Limited coordination capacity noted in evaluation	Structured Secretariat + Programme Committee + Sounding Board	Strengthened oversight & clearer role differentiation
Southern leadership	Present but less explicit	Explicit inclusion of Southern partners and leaders in governance and calls	Increased inclusiveness & ownership
Learning architecture	Cross-project learning less structured	Thematic clusters + regional learning networks	More intentional and facilitated learning
Accountability focus	Output-heavy reporting	Annual planning, adaptive reflection, governance dialogue	Stronger feedback loops
Institutional embedding	Often project-level	Explicit emphasis on ecosystem alignment	Still uneven across contexts

This evolution reflects deliberate programme adjustments and institutional maturation.

WDPP3 is broadly effective in engaging and collaborating with key stakeholders across thematic areas and regions through a diversified hybrid institutional model; however, the depth of institutional uptake and structured upward influence varies across contexts and remains facilitation-dependent. (EQ17)

The programme engages stakeholders through complementary pathways. Competitive calls account for more than 80 projects across large-, medium- and small-scale windows, involving over 300 partner organisations across Africa and the Middle East. Consortia systematically include universities, civil society organisations, local authorities, utilities and community representatives, ensuring diversified participation beyond academia.

In parallel, strategically embedded collaborations and network-based initiatives (e.g. BEWOP, IGRAC, WaterNet, SIDS-LN) provide thematic anchoring—particularly within Water & Health and River Basins & Deltas—and link WDPP3 to established sectoral platforms. This hybrid architecture strengthens engagement beyond individual projects and supports continuity across funding cycles.

Annual Plans and Reports document sustained collaboration with ministries, basin organisations, WRUAs, farmer groups and utilities. Cross-project seminars and the public repository further extend stakeholder visibility and knowledge circulation beyond individual projects.

Field missions confirm active engagement of non-academic actors. Institutional embedding is strongest where projects align with existing governance mechanisms (e.g. WRUAs in Kenya, basin authorities in Egypt, utility partnerships under BEWOP). In politically complex contexts, engagement remains primarily relational rather than formally institutionalised, reflecting contextual constraints rather than weaknesses in programme design.

A core element of engagement is the programme's multi-layered learning architecture, including programme-level sessions, thematic networks and regional exchanges. These spaces enable horizontal exchange across projects; however, the systematic aggregation of learning into programme steering and upward policy influence remains partly informal and facilitation-dependent.

Overall, WDPP3's institutional arrangements create structural conditions for bridging bottom-up experimentation with potential top-down influence, but consolidation of this feedback loop remains an area for further strengthening within the programme's Theory of Change.

WDPP3 made deliberate and structurally embedded efforts to involve non-academic partners through mandatory multi-actor consortia, governance mechanisms and learning platforms, and these efforts have been largely successful in broadening participation and strengthening context-embedded collaboration. (EQ18)

Competitive calls require multi-actor consortia and explicitly promote collaboration with NGOs, local authorities, utilities, practitioner networks and community-based organisations. This design feature incentivises non-academic participation as a structural requirement rather than an optional add-on. Across the portfolio of more than 80 projects, non-academic actors contribute to implementation, facilitation, applied knowledge translation and stakeholder coordination. Field missions confirm active engagement of WRUAs, farmer organisations, utilities, basin committees and women-led community groups, often as co-designers and operational partners rather than passive beneficiaries.

Southern institutions frequently act as lead or co-lead organisations, reflecting a shift from a predominantly academic knowledge-transfer model toward a more distributed partnership logic aligned with the programme's Theory of Change. Governance arrangements reinforce inclusion.

The Sounding Board incorporates regional and non-academic expertise, and thematic learning networks provide spaces for practitioner–researcher exchange beyond individual projects. External stakeholders interviewed during the MTR also highlighted that this model creates institutional space for inclusive and plural knowledge approaches, strengthening credibility among civil society and locally embedded actors.

The depth of influence, however, varies. While participation in co-design and implementation is substantial, institutional constraints sometimes limit non-academic actors' impact on formal policy and financing frameworks. Compared to DUPC2, WDPP3 demonstrates stronger structural incentives for inclusive participation and more explicit emphasis on Southern leadership, even though academic institutions remain central to coordination and fiduciary oversight.

WDPP3's organisational structure and staffing profile are appropriate and effective for managing a complex, multi-country and knowledge-intensive programme, supporting relevance, effectiveness and efficiency; no major restructuring is required, but forward-looking strengthening should focus on portfolio-level synthesis and facilitation rather than structural expansion. (EQ19)

The programme operates through a multi-layered governance architecture comprising the IHE Delft Secretariat (coordination, fiduciary oversight and portfolio management), the Programme Committee (strategic steering and risk oversight), the Sounding Board (external advisory reflection) and thematic and regional learning networks. Roles are differentiated and complementary, with interviews confirming clarity of mandates and constructive interaction.

Compared to DUPC2, WDPP3 demonstrates strengthened governance arrangements, clearer role differentiation and more formalised oversight, reflecting institutional maturation rather than administrative expansion. From a Theory of Change perspective, the structure enables coordinated calls and portfolio management (Inputs → Outputs), supports cross-project learning and adaptive adjustment (Outputs → Outcomes), and creates space for programme-level reflection through Committee and Sounding Board dialogue.

Staffing remains lean relative to portfolio scale (80+ projects), and no evidence of excessive administrative layering was found (see Efficiency chapter). Governance bodies provide strategic and advisory functions without duplicating operational responsibilities. Going forward, strengthening should prioritise functional adjustments: i) enhanced portfolio-level synthesis and knowledge consolidation; ii) more intensive facilitation within learning networks to support cross-project uptake; and iii) clearer tracking of key Theory of Change assumptions within existing monitoring processes.

Overall, the main improvement opportunity concerns aggregation and translation of learning rather than changes to governance architecture or staffing volume.

WDPP3 demonstrates strong fiduciary and procedural accountability to the Dutch MFA and its governance bodies through structured reporting, financial controls and oversight mechanisms, with Monitoring & Evaluation embedded in annual planning and portfolio review cycles; however, outcome-level accountability and advisory feedback loops could be made more explicit. (EQ20)

The programme is primarily accountable to the Dutch MFA (DGIS/IGG) through annual plans and reports, financial compliance procedures and structured dialogue. These instruments provide transparency on resource use, thematic alignment and portfolio performance.

At governance level, accountability is reinforced by the Programme Committee, which oversees calls, annual plans, risks and learning processes, and by the Sounding Board, which provides independent thematic and regional reflection. While written advice from the Sounding Board is consistently delivered and strategic dialogue occurs, no systematic mechanism documents how recommendations are followed up. A light annual response summary could strengthen mutual accountability without adding structural complexity.

M&E is embedded through annual planning cycles, portfolio monitoring, project-level reporting and structured learning sessions. These mechanisms support operational accountability and adaptive management, with governance meetings functioning as iterative feedback spaces.

From a Theory of Change perspective, accountability is strongest at the Inputs → Outputs stage, where delivery and financial performance are systematically tracked. Monitoring of the Outputs → Outcomes transition—particularly institutional uptake and policy embedding—is less consistently consolidated at programme level. Making these assumptions more explicitly tracked within existing reporting processes would strengthen outcome-level accountability and clarify contribution pathways.

Table 5: Advisory Feedback Loop – Design vs Practice

Element	Design (ToR / Policy)	Observed Practice (MTR)	Improvement Opportunity
Written advice from Sounding Board	Twice per year	Implemented	—
Strategic dialogue with management	Foreseen	Occurs	—
Documented response to advice	Not specified	Informal	Light annual response summary
Tracking of advisory uptake	Not specified	Not systematic	Integrate into annual reporting cycle

Overall, WDPP3's accountability framework is robust at fiduciary and procedural levels; the main improvement opportunity lies in consolidating outcome tracking and advisory feedback rather than expanding formal control mechanisms.

Interaction between WDPP3 and IGG is structured, regular and constructive, effectively supporting fiduciary oversight and strategic dialogue; further improvement should focus on systematic aggregation of portfolio-wide evidence to strengthen Theory of Change validation and policy reflection. (EQ21)

Interaction is characterised by annual reporting cycles, structured debriefings and ongoing strategic exchanges. These mechanisms provide space not only for compliance review but also for discussion of assumptions, uptake pathways and sustainability prospects. The programmatic funding model is perceived as enabling adaptive steering compared to fragmented project-based approaches. IGG representatives emphasised the need for clearer programme-

level synthesis, particularly regarding: i) structural patterns of what works across contexts; ii) where key Theory of Change assumptions hold or remain fragile; and iii) how bottom-up evidence informs higher-level policy positioning.

From a Theory of Change perspective, interaction functions effectively at the delivery level. However, demonstrating the plausibility of Outputs → Outcomes and Outcomes → Impact transitions requires more systematic consolidation of portfolio learning. While learning networks generate rich evidence, translation into concise, policy-relevant synthesis products remains facilitation-dependent. Embassy representatives expressed openness to scaling and communicating promising approaches, especially where multiple projects operate within the same country or thematic cluster. This suggests scope for strengthening coordination between experimentation and policy spaces without increasing reporting burdens. Overall, interaction is stable and functional; enhancing structured synthesis of portfolio evidence would improve strategic clarity and mutual learning during the remaining implementation period.

WDPP3's institutional innovation lies primarily in its structured learning architecture and partnership-based model, which generate value through cross-project exchange, transdisciplinary collaboration and Southern leadership rather than isolated technical breakthroughs. (EQ22)

Innovation is expressed through thematic learning networks, regional exchange spaces, inclusive multi-actor consortia and deliberate emphasis on Southern co-design and leadership. Transdisciplinary research approaches link science, policy and practice, while alumni trajectories extend influence beyond individual project cycles. Annual reports confirm programme-wide sessions, thematic exchanges and more than 40 cross-project seminars. The public repository (700+ outputs) enhances knowledge circulation beyond individual teams. Case studies illustrate peer exchange, methodological adaptation and refinement of governance and participatory tools.

From a Theory of Change perspective, these arrangements reinforce the Inputs → Outputs and Outputs → Outcomes transitions by strengthening cognitive shifts, relational capital and adaptive capacity across projects. However, the translation of learning spaces into programme-level steering and external influence depends on active facilitation and synthesis. Where coordination is structured, cross-project learning contributes to alignment and adaptation; where participation relies mainly on voluntary engagement, learning remains episodic. Compared to earlier phases, WDPP3 shows greater intentionality in building cross-project communities and regional coherence. The main improvement opportunity lies in more consistently synthesising lessons from thematic and regional exchanges to support programme-level positioning and policy dialogue. Overall, WDPP3's transformative potential depends on how effectively cross-project insights are translated into coherent programme narratives and influence pathways.

3.6 Sustainability

WDPP3 programming is strongly geared towards ensuring sustainability in its design and institutional approach, particularly through local ownership, capacity development and long-term partnerships; however, long-term financial continuity beyond the current funding cycle remains moderately secured and context-dependent. (CEQ6)

WDPP3 programming demonstrates a clear intention to promote sustainability, particularly through its emphasis on institutional capacity development, knowledge co-production, and long-term partnerships. To a considerable extent, sustainability is embedded in the programme's design logic and Theory of Change. Overall, sustainability prospects are strongest where local ownership and institutional anchoring are actively promoted. However, while many projects show promising pathways toward sustained impact, financial sustainability beyond the WDPP3 funding cycle remains uncertain in several cases. Both project-level sustainability and programme-level sustainability depend on the degree to which interventions are embedded in durable institutional contexts and supported by viable resource strategies.

Sustainability of Projects (EQ 23 & 24)

At project level, sustainability is strongest where learning processes and capacities are embedded within local institutions. Projects that collaborate closely with universities, training institutes, government agencies, and community organisations tend to demonstrate stronger long-term prospects. By integrating training modules into university curricula, supporting applied research within national institutions, or strengthening the operational capacities of local authorities, these projects move beyond one-off technical interventions and instead build enduring institutional capital. In such cases, evidence suggests that the changes achieved with WDPP support have a high likelihood of being sustained.

Local ownership is reinforced through co-production of knowledge and shared leadership arrangements. Local ownership is a key determinant of sustainability. In many WDPP3 interventions, knowledge is co-produced with local stakeholders rather than externally delivered. Joint research design, participatory data collection, and shared interpretation of findings contribute to stronger stakeholder commitment and uptake. Where leadership roles are shared between Dutch and local partners—and where local actors progressively assume responsibility for implementation and coordination—the likelihood of continuity increases. Evidence from interviews and field observations confirms that co-production and shared governance arrangements enhance long-term ownership and accountability.

Projects that embed learning within local institutions and community structures show stronger sustainability potential. Sustainability is further enhanced when projects engage community structures and local governance systems. Interventions that align with municipal planning processes, basin-level water management arrangements, or decentralised service delivery systems are more likely to be maintained and scaled. Conversely, projects that remain primarily research-driven without formal integration into policy frameworks or institutional mandates may struggle to sustain momentum once external funding ends.

Financial sustainability beyond WDPP3 remains uncertain for several interventions. While capacity development and institutional embedding support continuity, several interventions rely heavily on WDPP3 resources for operational activities, technical expertise, or implementation. In contexts where public sector budgets are constrained or where external donor funding is unpredictable, scaling or maintaining interventions may prove challenging. Few projects appear to have fully developed exit strategies that secure domestic funding streams or alternative financing mechanisms. As a result, financial sustainability at project level can be assessed as moderate and context-dependent.

The most promising sustainability pathways emerge where universities, authorities and locally embedded NGOs work together. In such triangular partnerships, universities generate and institutionalise knowledge, public authorities provide policy mandate and integration into governance systems, and NGOs maintain grassroots engagement and social accountability. This combination strengthens both technical robustness and social legitimacy, enhancing the durability of results.

Sustainability of the Programme (EQ 23, 24 & 25)

At programme level, WDPP3's sustainability rests on its partnership model and knowledge-oriented approach. By fostering long-term institutional linkages between Dutch knowledge institutions and partner-country universities and agencies, the programme builds networks that may persist beyond individual projects. These relationships contribute to ongoing exchange, joint research, and capacity development, thereby extending impact beyond the lifespan of specific projects. This relational capital constitutes one of the programme's strongest sustainability assets.

The programme's Theory of Change, which links research, education, and practice, is inherently sustainability-oriented. By investing in higher education and professional training, WDPP3 contributes to the formation of a new generation of water professionals equipped to address climate risks, governance challenges, and service delivery issues. Such systemic capacity strengthening creates multiplier effects that outlast project cycles.

However, programme sustainability also depends on strategic positioning within broader national and Dutch-supported water agendas. Where WDPP3 is closely aligned with national reform processes and other donor initiatives, its outcomes are more likely to be institutionalised and built upon. In the absence of strong coordination and visibility, valuable knowledge and innovations risk remaining fragmented or insufficiently integrated into long-term sector strategies.

The continuation of institutional partnerships and thematic engagement beyond WDPP3 depends on future funding frameworks and policy priorities. Without follow-on mechanisms or structured pathways for scaling successful pilots, the programme's cumulative impact could reduce over time. Strengthening exit strategies, exploring diversified funding opportunities, and deepening institutional anchoring would enhance sustainability at both project and programme levels. In this respect, financial sustainability at programme level can be considered uncertain but improvable through proactive strategic positioning and diversified funding engagement.

Sustainability prospects are strongest where projects are anchored in local universities, public authorities, and community-based organisations working in partnership. However, financial continuity and systematic integration into long-term policy and budget frameworks remain areas of vulnerability. Strengthening institutional anchoring, developing clearer exit and financing strategies, and enhancing programme-level coordination would further consolidate WDPP3's sustainability trajectory and ensure that its contributions endure beyond the current funding phase.

4. Conclusions

This chapter presents the conclusions that emerge from the findings and responses to the evaluation questions and judgment criteria.

Relevance

WDPP3 demonstrates strong strategic relevance to Dutch water and sanitation policies and to the achievement of SDG 6. The programme is closely aligned with Dutch policy frameworks, including the Netherlands International Water Ambition and recent policy letters, and its thematic focus on water security, climate resilience, inclusive governance and knowledge diplomacy reflects core policy priorities. At country level, projects address clearly identified water challenges and respond to national strategies, particularly in climate-stressed and institutionally evolving contexts.

However, while thematic and policy alignment is evident, operational embedding within national coordination structures and Embassy portfolios varies across contexts. In several cases, alignment is stronger at the level of project design than in systematic country-level visibility and policy interface. As a result, WDPP3's relevance is conceptually strong and substantively justified, but its strategic influence at country level could be further enhanced when contextually relevant, through more structured engagement with national policy processes and existing coordination mechanisms.

Coherence

WDPP3 demonstrates strong conceptual coherence across its portfolio and substantial external alignment with partner institutions and Dutch water policy objectives. Projects are broadly consistent with the programme's Theory of Change, linking research, education and applied practice, and they respond to nationally identified water governance and resilience challenges. Internal coherence is particularly visible within thematic pillars, where structured learning exchanges and shared conceptual frameworks support alignment.

However, operational coherence across projects varies depending on country context and project maturity. Cross-project complementarities and linkages with Embassy portfolios and broader Dutch-funded initiatives are not always systematically leveraged. Coherence is therefore strongest at design level and within thematic clusters, while coordinated implementation and programme-wide uptake remain more dependent on effective use of existing country-level interfaces when contextually relevant. Overall, WDPP3 exhibits strong strategic coherence, with moderate scope for strengthening cross-project and country-level integration.

Effectiveness

WDPP3 demonstrates consistent delivery of planned activities and outputs across thematic areas and countries. The programme generates tangible relational, conceptual and capacity-oriented outcomes, notably by strengthening professional networks, supporting early-career researchers and producing applied, context-sensitive knowledge. In several cases, early signs of institutional uptake and policy relevance are observable, indicating credible contribution pathways beyond outputs.

However, systematic aggregation of outcome-level evidence at programme level remains uneven. While projects document meaningful field-level change, structured consolidation and upward translation of this evidence to regional, national and global levels is not yet fully

consistent. As a result, contributions to structural change are most clearly evidenced at project level. A distinctive strength lies in WDPP3's bottom-up and Southern-led co-production model, which enhances legitimacy and local ownership. Overall, effectiveness is strong in delivery and short-term outcomes; demonstrating cumulative and sustained institutional impact will depend increasingly on more systematic synthesis and strengthening of cross-project learning.

Efficiency 🟢

WDPP3 operates with a governance and management structure proportionate to its scope and programmatic ambition. The flexible funding model allows adaptation to diverse contexts and supports locally embedded initiatives while maintaining overall coherence. No structural inefficiencies were identified in the use of financial or human resources.

The principal efficiency consideration relates to coordination across countries and regions. While platforms, learning events and thematic exchanges are in place, their use for systematic cross-project alignment and structured synthesis of portfolio evidence varies. Where exchange mechanisms are actively utilised, complementarities and learning effects are clearly visible; where interaction is more limited, potential synergies remain underexploited. In this sense, strengthening the linkage between knowledge generation and portfolio-level synthesis could further enhance the efficiency with which programme-level value is realised.

Overall, the programme demonstrates a sound balance between resources invested and results achieved, with additional efficiency gains attainable through more consistent cross-project coordination.

Institutional arrangements 🟢

Institutional arrangements at central level demonstrate a robust and well-functioning governance structure. Governance from Delft is structured, transparent and supported by formal planning and reporting mechanisms, regular monitoring and spaces for reflection and joint learning. Roles between IHE Delft, the Programme Management Team and implementing partners are clearly defined, and accountability structures are operational. The programme architecture supports both technical autonomy and strategic alignment.

At regional and national levels, the intensity and structure of interaction between projects varies depending on country context, operational opportunities and partnership dynamics. Platforms and thematic networks are in place; however, their capacity to consistently channel field-based evidence upward—towards regional dialogue, national engagement and global positioning—differs across themes and regions. Evidence circulates widely, yet its systematic consolidation into coherent strategic narratives is not uniform across the portfolio. This reflects the inherent complexity of a decentralised and partnership-driven model rather than weaknesses in governance design.

Overall, WDPP3's institutional architecture is robust. Greater consistency in cross-project coordination and in the structured capture and upward flow of strategic evidence would reinforce the strategic coherence already established at central level.

Sustainability 🟡

WDPP3 programming is strongly geared towards sustainability in its institutional design and partnership model. The programme prioritises local ownership, capacity development, knowledge co-production and long-term institutional collaboration, creating durable foundations for continued engagement beyond individual project cycles. Sustainability

prospects are strongest where projects are embedded within universities, public authorities and locally rooted organisations, enabling the continuation and wider uptake of practices and learning generated through the programme and reinforcing professional networks.

However, financial sustainability beyond the current funding cycle remains uneven and context-dependent. While institutional anchoring supports continuity of knowledge and relationships, structured pathways for long-term financing and scaling are not yet fully secured across the portfolio. Programme-level sustainability will therefore depend on strengthened strategic positioning within national reform processes where such engagement is feasible and aligned with the programme's partnership approach. Overall, WDPP3 is strongly sustainability-oriented in design; ensuring enduring financial continuity and cumulative institutional uptake represents the next strategic frontier.

5. Lessons learned

The lessons presented below are derived from cross-case pattern analysis across the 15-project sample and reflect recurring dynamics observed along the Theory of Change transitions (Activities → Outputs → Outcomes → Institutional Embedding). They synthesise evidence from case studies (Appendix 5), field missions, interviews and surveys, and were shared with project teams for factual validation and reflection.

Beyond technical delivery, the analysis highlights the programme's distinctive contribution in fostering bottom-up knowledge co-production, Southern leadership and inclusive research practices. These elements represent not only normative commitments but observable drivers of relational, cognitive and behavioural change across contexts. The case studies — including those validated with project coordinators — illustrate both the strengths and the structural conditions required for translating these approaches into durable institutional outcomes.

The following lessons aim to inform the strategic evolution of WDPP3 by consolidating what has demonstrably worked, identifying enabling conditions, and clarifying pathways for scaling impact within the programme's Theory of Change logic.

Lesson 1 – The Inputs → Outputs transition is structurally robust and reinforced by the programme's collaborative learning architecture.

WDPP3's hybrid architecture—combining competitive calls with embedded institutional partnerships, thematic networks and structured reporting cycles—effectively translates financial and coordination inputs into diversified outputs across contexts. Across the analytical sample, projects consistently delivered applied research, stakeholder platforms, training trajectories and co-produced knowledge products. RS4C operationalised remote sensing with community validation; NileWell produced multilingual science–journalism outputs at basin scale; WaterPIP-KAN and URaHA combined academic research with structured utility engagement; BEWOP consolidated methodological guidance and global Communities of Practice.

The programme's governance, monitoring and joint learning mechanisms—aligned with its MEL philosophy—provide sufficient structure to sustain delivery even in fragile or politically sensitive environments.

Learning: The design assumptions underpinning the Inputs → Outputs transition hold strongly. The strategic challenge is no longer output generation, but the cumulative and strategic use of the knowledge produced.

Lesson 2 – The Outputs → Outcomes transition is strengthened where knowledge production is inclusive, Southern-led and co-produced.

Across the analytical sample, relational and conceptual outcomes are most visible where projects foreground local co-design, plural knowledge systems and inclusive collaboration. RS4C (Kenya) demonstrates behavioural shifts through WRUA and youth engagement; Water Mirrors shows how epistemic humility and South–South exchange can transform historically extractive research relations; NileWell's journalist–scientist platform amplifies underrepresented voices in transboundary governance; Water Mobility creates safe dialogue spaces in politically constrained contexts; URaHA built a national university–utility network under extreme fragility.

These approaches reflect the programme's commitment to diversity, inclusion and pluralised knowledge production. They are resource-intensive and often slower than top-down delivery models, yet they generate stronger legitimacy, ownership and contextual relevance.

Learning: Democratised and locally rooted knowledge production is not only a normative commitment; it is a structural condition for relational and cognitive change within the Theory of Change. However, such approaches require time, facilitation investment and explicit recognition at programme level.

Lesson 3 – Institutional embedding (Outcomes → Impact) depends on deliberate coordination with governance, regulatory and financing anchors.

While short-term relational and capacity outcomes are robust across the sample, durable institutionalisation depends on alignment with decision-making authority and fiscal mechanisms. A4Store Zimbabwe illustrates how engagement with a public Agricultural Development Bank creates a more tangible pathway toward financial embedding. In Kenya, technically sound flood mitigation options remain prospective without cost–benefit integration and formal uptake. BEWOP shows that professionalised peer learning strengthens sector coherence, yet measurable service improvements depend on regulatory and financing frameworks beyond its direct mandate. In Water Mirrors and RS4C, institutional anchoring remains emerging where formal planning systems have not yet absorbed project outputs.

Learning: The Outcomes → Impact transition does not occur automatically through knowledge generation alone. Evidence from the sample suggests that where institutional or financing coordination exists, it often builds on pre-existing relationships or individual linkages rather than systematically embedded design features. Strengthening explicit and early coordination with governance and financing anchors within project design enhances the likelihood that knowledge outputs translate into durable institutional uptake.

Lesson 4 – Programmatic flexibility enhances resilience of the ToC but requires structured country-level coordination to generate cumulative effects.

The programmatic funding model—through regulated top-ups, budget-neutral extensions and portfolio steering—enabled adaptive responses to contextual volatility (e.g. post-COVID re-

sequencing, stakeholder delays, security constraints). Projects across Kenya, Ethiopia, Jordan and Egypt adjusted engagement strategies and timelines while maintaining thematic relevance. This flexibility strengthens both the Inputs → Outputs and Outputs → Outcomes transitions.

However, where multiple projects operate within the same country or thematic cluster, the degree of structured coordination influences whether portfolio-level coherence translates into systemic influence.

Learning: Flexibility is a core strength of WDPP3's architecture. Its transformative leverage increases when accompanied by deliberate country-level aggregation and strategic positioning of accumulated evidence.

Lesson 5 – Ecological sustainability, climate resilience and inclusion shape problem framing; systematic aggregation would enhance portfolio-level visibility.

Across the sample, ecological sustainability and climate resilience are substantively embedded in research framing and dialogue processes (RS4C, ABC Dry Basin, Water Mobility, URaHA). Inclusion and plural knowledge are operationalised in various forms: community co-authorship and epistemic justice (Water Mirrors), amplification of marginalised voices (NileWell), gender-sensitive training participation (URaHA, WaterPIP-KAN), and Global South utilities as co-producers (BEWOP).

These cross-cutting dimensions influence how problems are defined and how actors engage. However, portfolio-level aggregation remains largely qualitative and dispersed across case narratives.

Learning: Cross-cutting dimensions are structurally embedded within the Theory of Change and shape knowledge production across contexts. The next consolidation step lies not in redefining commitments, but in enhancing comparability and visibility of these contributions at programme level.

Lesson 6 – Strategic country-level aggregation enhances cumulative policy influence and sustainability.

Across the analytical sample, projects generate credible and context-sensitive knowledge, relational capital and early institutional signals. However, the degree to which these contributions translate into cumulative national influence depends on structured coordination at country level. Where projects operate in parallel without systematic aggregation of evidence, visibility within national reform processes and donor coordination platforms remains variable.

Learning: Conceptual coherence at programme level does not automatically translate into systemic country-level positioning. Strategic aggregation of project results within existing national coordination mechanisms—without creating additional governance layers—enhances relevance, sustainability and long-term institutional uptake.

6. Recommendations

The recommendations below build on previous evaluation cycles and confirm earlier observations regarding the importance of structured portfolio steering, institutional coordination and cross-project learning. Since DUPC2, WDPP3 has strengthened governance clarity, learning networks and Southern-led partnership models. The present recommendations therefore do not call for structural redesign, but for consolidation and strategic deepening during the second half of implementation. They translate lessons from the 15-project analytical sample, debriefings with MFA, programme governance actors and project teams into forward-looking orientation aligned with the Theory of Change and current MFA policy priorities.

Recommendation 1: Strengthen structured portfolio-level synthesis to enhance strategic clarity and demonstrate Theory of Change contribution pathways. (ToC: Inputs → Outputs → Portfolio leverage)

WDPP3 demonstrates strong delivery. The second half of implementation offers an opportunity to consolidate cross-project evidence into structured thematic and regional synthesis products that clarify what works structurally across contexts and how this supports the ToC.

Operationalisation moments: i) Thematic learning networks producing short cross-project synthesis notes; ii) Annual reporting cycle including a portfolio-level reflection section ("structural patterns and contribution pathways"); iii) Strategic use of repository impact stories to curate thematic evidence packages for MFA and embassy dialogue; iv) Programme-wide seminars incorporating synthesis sessions rather than solely project presentations.

Evidence basis: Interviews in Delft and MFA debriefings highlighted need for stronger aggregation; Policy Guide foresees joint learning and MEL reflection; repository and learning networks already operational.

Recommendation 2: Promote and incentivise earlier and more explicit interaction with governance and financing anchors within project design and portfolio steering. Level: Project design and steering. (ToC: Outputs → Outcomes → Impact transition)

Institutional embedding rarely occurs automatically through knowledge generation alone. Where coordination with regulatory or financial actors has been intentional (e.g. Zimbabwe), institutional uptake is more tangible.

Operationalisation moments: i) Call guidelines encouraging identification of relevant governance and financing counterparts; ii) Mid-term reporting reflection on institutional anchoring pathways; iii) Learning sessions focused on regulatory and financing coordination; iv) Exchange between projects demonstrating stronger embedding pathways; v) Reflection on potential domestic or blended financing pathways where relevant to enhance post-WDPP continuity.

Evidence basis: A4Store Zimbabwe (public financial institution engagement); project sample cases where uptake remained prospective; interviews indicating reliance on pre-existing relationships.

Recommendation 3: Enhance country-level coordination where multiple projects operate to strengthen cumulative systemic effect and enhance strategic relevance and visibility within national water governance dialogue, including Dutch water diplomacy engagement where relevant. (ToC: Portfolio coherence supporting Outcomes → Impact)

Where WDPP3 projects cluster geographically, structured light and context-sensitive coordination — potentially introduced on a pilot basis — can enhance narrative coherence and institutional visibility.

Operationalisation moments: i) Where relevant, annual virtual exchange sessions among projects operating within the same country; ii) Concise country-level evidence notes synthesising contribution pathways for dialogue with embassies and national counterparts; iii) Regional learning networks dedicating sessions to country advocacy; iv) Structured coordination during embassy field visits presenting cumulative evidence.

Evidence basis: Embassy discussions; MFA emphasis on country-level coordination; observed variation in cross-project interaction intensity.

Recommendation 4: Consolidate and strategically communicate WDPP3's bottom-up and Southern-led co-production model as a distinctive contribution within the Dutch water landscape and to global water governance and diplomacy. Level: Strategic positioning and diplomacy interface. (ToC: Strengthening Outputs → Outcomes through inclusive and plural knowledge architecture)

WDPP3's plural and inclusive knowledge architecture aligns with Dutch priorities on localisation, equity and climate resilience. The second half of the programme offers an opportunity to position this model more strategically.

Operationalisation moments: i) Leveraging existing communication channels and global water forums to present synthesised bottom-up evidence; ii) Ensuring programme-level events foreground Southern-led and co-produced cases; iii) Facilitating engagement with embassy platforms to share curated portfolio insights; iv) Developing short narrative briefs translating experimentation into policy-relevant framing; v) Encouraging visibility of reflexive and inclusive practices within reporting and repository outputs.

Evidence basis: Policy Guide (diversity, plural knowledge, collaborative storytelling); Water Mirrors, NileWell, RS4C, URaHA case evidence; stakeholder feedback valuing open reflection spaces.

Recommendation 5: Integrate light aggregation of outcome-level contribution pathways and cross-cutting dimensions within existing reporting and learning structures. (ToC: Strengthening visibility across all ToC transitions). Level: Monitoring and visibility consolidation.

Ecological sustainability, inclusion and institutional uptake are substantively embedded but not systematically aggregated. Strengthened qualitative aggregation would enhance clarity of contribution without increasing reporting burden.

Operationalisation moments: i) Annual reporting incorporating structured reflection on institutional uptake, policy engagement, financing and cross-cutting dimensions aligned with ToC pathways; ii) Thematic networks compiling short outcome pathway syntheses; iii) Repository metadata tagging aligned with ToC pathways; iv) Periodic qualitative portfolio overview integrated into Programme Committee discussions.

Evidence basis: Policy Guide Section 1 and MEL section; interviews referencing uneven aggregation; observed qualitative but dispersed reporting across projects.

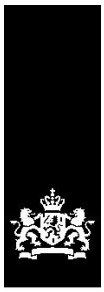
Table 6: Summary of recommendations and their ToC alignment

Recommendation (ToC Reference)	**Lead Actor**	**Supporting Actor**	**Time Horizon**
1. Portfolio synthesis (Inputs → Outputs → Portfolio leverage)	IHE Secretariat	IGG	2026–2027
2. Institutional coordination (Outputs → Outcomes → Impact)	IHE + IGG	Projects	Next calls + ongoing
3. Context-sensitive country-level coordination (Portfolio → Outcomes → Impact)	IHE	Embassies + IGG	2026
4. Strategic positioning of bottom-up model (Outputs → Outcomes reinforcement)	IHE + IGG	Projects	Continuous
5. Cross-cutting aggregation (All ToC transitions)	IHE	Projects	Next reporting cycle

The strategic opportunity for the second half of implementation lies in enhancing synthesis, coordination where relevant, and visibility of contribution pathways so that the programme's bottom-up knowledge production more clearly translates into cumulative systemic influence.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Terms of reference



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Terms of Reference for the Mid Term Review of the Water and Development Partnership Programme (WDPP3)

Date	17 September 2025
Place	The Hague
Organisation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Reference	201865007.159.026
Contact person	Omar Elshaarawi (procurement advisor)

1. Introduction

Although considerable efforts have been made in the past decade, structural inequities and unsustainable practices are still prevalent in governing and managing water. Competition over natural resources, like water and land, and perverse economic incentives have increased the wealth gap, encouraged unsustainable exploitation of nature and increased pollution and the waste of natural resources. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate injustices and ecosystem degradation in the near future as the resilience of impoverished communities and ecosystems to deal with, and adapt, changes has been compromised while the consequences of climate change will become more evident in the coming decades.

To counter these tragic trends of further marginalization, degradation and exposure to risks, urgent and broad collective action is required. One of the key challenges is that knowledge on water is still largely fragmented, monodisciplinary-oriented and produced mainly by academia in the Global North without effective involvement of those affected by specific issues. This compromises the capacities of societies to address the water-related problems and hinders the implementation of promising sustainable solutions. This is particularly the case in low- and middle-income countries where water sector organizations have often very limited resources, including staff and budget, to cope with the various and multifaceted problems they face.

Launched in 2008, the Water and Development Partnership Programme (previously referred to as DUPC) has nurtured partnerships between scientists, practitioners, communities and policymakers in low- and middle-income countries with support from the Dutch Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. Based on positive evaluations of the previous phases, mid-2021 the third phase of the programme has started with a budget of 46 million Euro, which was planned to be completed end of 2027.[6]
Given the nature of the programme with a portfolio of sub projects, the programme has in January 2025 been extended till the end of 2029.
Phase 3 specifically focuses on adding a more critical, reflective, and interdisciplinary lens to addressing water-related challenges through catalysing transformations that are inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient and giving a leading role in research and education on water to organizations based in the low- and middle-income countries.

2. The Water and Development Partnership Programme in brief
Phase 3 of the Water and Development Partnership Programme aims to enrich the knowledge-base on inclusive and sustainable water management practices through collaborative research and to strengthen the capacity of a broad range of water sector organizations in low- and middle-income countries to ensure that they can fulfil their roles and responsibilities in leading the transformations they envision. Guided by the principles of inclusivity, joint learning, and shared leadership, the programme supports and bring together projects that combine research, education, capacity strengthening, and knowledge-sharing activities to solve water-related challenges *(see also Figure 1)*.
The programme envisions a future in which societies use, share and care for water in ways that contribute to the wider societal goals of justice, peace, safety, and well-being for all. To realize this vision, the programme invests in redressing historical inequities within the water sector. Therefore, the programme has set progressive targets to ensure space is created for marginalised and underrepresented groups, including women and people-of-colour, to actively participate in the projects supported by the programme.
The programme supports projects that actively contribute to equity and ecological sustainability in water management practices within the thematic areas water and health, water for food, and river basins and deltas. Geographically the programme focuses on the regions supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of their development cooperation agenda: the horn of Africa, the
Middle East and the Sahel. The programme also supports some projects in other countries, especially

in those countries in which Institute for Water Education (IHE) Delft has longstanding relations or the Ministry has a specific interest
Currently the programme has more than 80 collaborative projects ongoing in different stages of implementation, bringing together more than 320 organizations from 49 different countries working in the water sector, ranging from government agencies, universities to Non-Governmental Organizations
(NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and private sector companies. The teams funded by Phase 3 have produced more than 300+ outputs so far and several projects have already contributed to lasting impacts on the ground. The majority of these projects are led by partner organizations in low- and middle-income countries and more than half of these projects are led by women. Despite the highly difficult circumstances in several of the focus countries, the programme is making good progress in achieving its targets.

[6] About the programme | IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

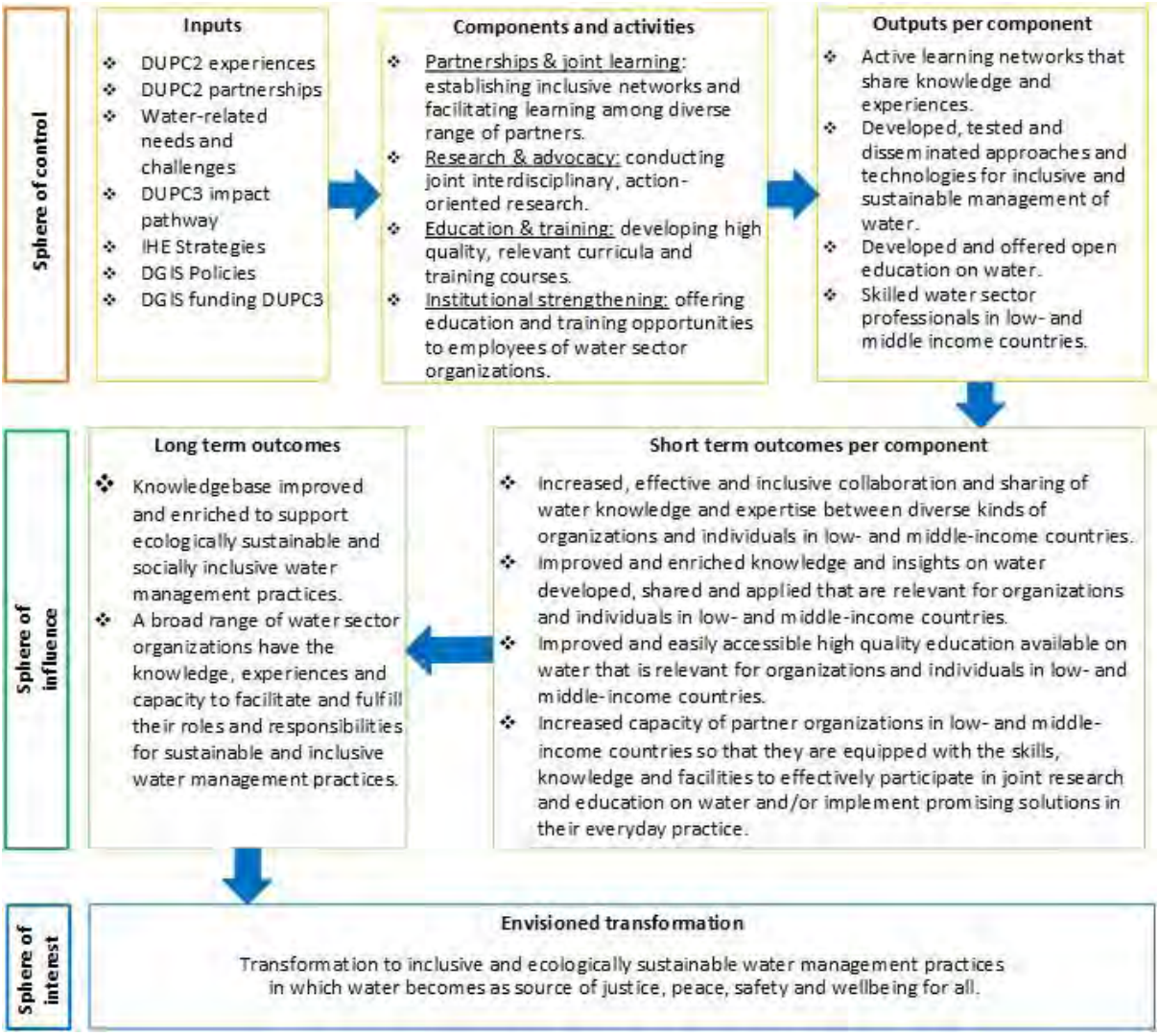


Figure 1: Schematic summary of Theory of Change of the Water and Development Partnership Programme Phase 3.

3. Objectives of the evaluation

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to provide the management team of the Water and Development Partnership Programme and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with an independent evaluation of performance of the programme for the period 1 August 2021 – 1 December 2025, in order to seek lessons from the existing programme as well as provide input towards a possible top-up funding of this phase and/or new phase. The information and recommendations generated are expected to:

1. Improve the relevance of the programme, particularly given the rapidly changing landscape of development cooperation;
2. Enhance achievement and sustainability of the results;
3. Optimize the use of resources;
4. Give ideas on possible priorities for a topping up or possible new phase of the programme.

4. Evaluation questions

The evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the programme, the overall institutional arrangements and the sustainability of the results. Each of these aspects of programme will be assessed as follows:

Relevance

- To what extent is the programme relevant to accelerating progress towards water and sanitation related SDG's?
- To what extent does the programme support the priorities of the Dutch government as written down in the policy letters "Water for development" (2012)", "Do what we do best (2022) ", the
"Netherlands International Water Ambition" (2019) and the "Policy letter Development Aid – Doing what's good for the Netherlands" published in February 2025.
- To what extend did the Theory of Change offer guidance for the programme to pursue its objectives and the selection of activities, outputs and products?
- To what extent has the programme been able to adjust its activities in the course of time to new challenges and policy priorities? Specifically, has the programme been able to address new challenges in the area of sustainable and equitable water management and respond to particular requests from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this respect?

Effectiveness

- To what extent does the programme have an appropriate monitoring framework that enables progress tracking, adaptative management and learning over time?
- To what extent do the activities and results achieve the intended objectives of the programme in the three thematic areas and the four programme components, as stated in the proposal and annual plans?
- To what extent does the programmatic funding facilitate flexibility and effectiveness in programme planning and management?
- What are the initial short-term outcomes (as defined in the theory of change) that are emerging from the activities so far? What are the benefits and challenges in achieving these outcomes? What could the programme do to further achieve these outcomes?
- How effective was the programme in taking into account of aspects of ecological sustainability, climate change, gender and inclusiveness?

Efficiency

- To what extent are the delivered outputs and initial short-term outcomes arising from activities in balance with the level of effort and resources spent?
- To what extent is there sufficient attention to operate the programme in a cost-efficient manner?
- What regulations does the programme with respect to maximum costs of the different budget items?

Institutional arrangements and management

- To what extent are the programme and its activities able to engage and work with key stakeholders in the area of work?
- What efforts did the programme make to involve non-academic partners in its programme and how successful were these efforts?
- How appropriate and effective is the organizational structure of the programme and staffing profile in realizing a relevant, effective and efficient programme and activities? What changes, if any, are needed to the organizational structure, and staffing profile going forward?
- Who is the programme accountable to and to what extent, and how is Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) built into programming and strategy to strengthen that accountability?
- How well does IGG interact with the programme and what are the recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of this interaction?
- Are there examples of innovative approaches (partnership collaboration, achieving societal impact, sustainability, communication and dissemination)? What are the results and how do projects learn from others?

Sustainability

- How sustainable is the programme and its activities? Identification of factors which may be constraints and those which may be beneficial to sustainability, organizational embedding, joint learning, staff capacity, ambition and financing.
- How does the programme enhance local ownership of program activities with the aim to increase sustainability on the long term?
- How can the financial sustainability of the programme be improved and what are recommendations for the remaining period and a possible next phase?

5. Methodology

The external evaluators are expected to use only qualitative methods, including:

- Desk review of relevant documents to be provided by the programme and the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Based on the desk review the external evaluators will draft an evaluation plan showing the information required to answer the evaluation questions, including and how this information will be collected;
- The following methods may be applied:
  - In-depth, semi-structured interviews with stakeholders. These should in any case include relevant staff from programme partners and DGIS. Other stakeholders, like external global and local partners and beneficiaries, may be identified as a part of the planning and implementation arrangements;
  - Participatory workshops and/or group interviews with stakeholders; o Questionnaire surveys;
  - Two field visits to focus countries (Kenya and Ethiopia; Egypt and Jordan) to interview project teams involved in a in different projects started-up before 1 January 2024. o Virtual interviews with project teams in at least two other focus countries were due to security risks, field visits are not possible (e.g. Palestine, Yemen, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sudan); o Extensive use of secondary data such as internal evaluations, reports, minutes, internet, etc.

6. Deliverables

The contractor is expected to produce at least the following four outputs in English:
An inception report will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 10 December 2025. This inception report will include at least the following components:

- Further details of the methodologies to be used;
- Criteria and indicators for each evaluation question;
- List of specific questions and concerns relating to the evaluation to which the programme management and/or DGIS will respond;
- A detailed program for the two field visits, interviews and consultation meetings;
- List of key documents and resource people for the evaluation. The division of tasks between the consultants.

A draft final report will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 2 February 2026. This draft final report will include at least the following components:

- An overall evaluation of performance, institutional arrangements and sustainability over the period August 2021 – 1 December 2025, including answers to the evaluation questions;
- Recommendations for strategic focus, approaches for impact and collaboration, growth, funding, staffing, M&E and institutional arrangements for both the remaining period as well as a possible new phase.

A presentation of the main findings and conclusions will be delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The exact date for this presentation will be agreed upon at a later stage. This presentation will include at least the following components:

- The main findings of the evaluation;
- Recommendations for the programme.

A final report will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 23 February 2026. This final report will include at least the following components:

- An overall evaluation of performance, institutional arrangements and sustainability over the period August 2021 – 1 December 2025, including answers to the evaluation questions;
- Recommendations for strategic focus, approaches for impact and collaboration, growth, funding, staffing, M&E and institutional arrangements for both the remaining period as well as a possible new phase.

The draft evaluation report will be discussed with the programme management and DGIS within 10 weeks of the start of the assignment. The final evaluation report will be completed 12 weeks after the start of the assignment.

7. Staffing and Resources

Staffing

The evaluation team must consist of two evaluators, with the following experience:

- One evaluator with at least 15 years of experience with international cooperation, especially in the field of water and environmental management;
- One evaluator with at least 15 years' experience with international cooperation, especially in the field of impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

Time input

The team of 2 evaluators will work for a period of 40 days, so in total 80 days maximum. The indicative time spending is as follows:

- 4 days desk study and preparation of the evaluation plan.
- 6 days interviews in The Netherlands, including selected stakeholders (e.g. via video- or teleconference).
- 18 days field visit.
- 4 days interviews in the Netherlands, including selected stakeholders (e.g. via video- or teleconference).
- 8 days reporting.

The proposed time expenditure may differ from the indicative time inputs shown above. The external evaluators will detail their time expenditure and methodology in the evaluation plan. However, the maximum number of days is limited to 80. Proposals that exceed this maximum number will receive a lower score.

***8.* Budget, payment conditions and logistics**

The assignment will be managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The financial proposal should be presented in EURO. Financial offers should include deduction of VAT and taxes and should follow the format as shown below.

Payment conditions will be as follows:

- 50% of the total amount will be paid upon submission and approval of the inception report;
- 50% of the total amount will be paid upon submission and approval of the final report.

All payments will be made via bank transfer. Requests for payments, including a formal invoice, should be submitted to EKN. All logistics in the field will be organized by the evaluation team including hiring car(s), makes their own appointments. The evaluators will schedule meetings with stakeholders who will be contacted.

9. Tendering process

The contractor will be selected using the "Framework Agreement Evaluations & Research 2024". The framework partners have the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest, before 30 September 2025, no later than 10:00 p.m. If more than four framework contractors express an interest, the candidates must submit a concept note within 10 working days. A maximum of four candidates will be selected to submit a full proposal. If four or fewer framework contractors express an interest, candidates do not need to submit a concept note, but can immediately start

preparing their full proposal. Maximal four framework contractors which are selected to submit a full proposal, must submit a full proposal within 15 working days, after receiving the request for submission of the Full proposal. The formats for a concept note and a full proposal are provided by MFA. After receiving the full proposals, MFA will select the contractor.

10. Contact person

The contact person for this evaluation is Omar Elshaarawi. You may communicate only with the Contact Person regarding this Tender Procedure. The communication is channelled through CTM. If you communicate about this Tender Procedure with other employees of the Contracting Authority, or through other channels to influence them, this may constitute a reason for us to exclude you from participating. The planning for the tendering process is mentioned below.

11. Planning

What	When
Invitation of Expression of Interest	17 September 2025
Submission of questions and reporting contradictions in TOR	23 September 2025
Publication of Note of Information	25 September 2025
Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest	30 September 2025, no later than 10.00 am
Invitation to submit Concept Note	1 October 2025
Deadline for submission of Concept Note (if more than 4 EoI's are received)	15 October 2025, no later than 10.00 am
Announcement of Concept Note Assessment	21 October 2025
Invitation to submit full proposal	22 October 2025
Deadline for submission of full proposals	12 November 2025, no later than 10.00 am
Appraisal full proposals (possibly with interview) and contracting	12 November 2025 – 26 November 2025
Start evaluation/kick-off meeting	1 December 2025
Submission of the inception report	10 December 2025
Submission of draft final report	2 February 2026
Presentation	5 February 2026 (or to be determined)
Submission of final report	23 February 2026

Central European Time (CET)

If we move directly to the Full Proposal phase, the timeline will be brought forward.

12, Questions and inconsistencies

Something in the Invitation to Tender might be unclear to you. You can find out what to do in this section.

Ask all your questions via CTM

Do you have any questions about the content or procedure of this Tender Procedure? Or do you wish to report inconsistencies, inaccuracies or objections? Do this via the Message function in CTM. For this purpose, complete Annex A – Format for Summary of Additional Information and Changes. We will not answer questions you ask in another way.

Submit all your questions and any inconsistencies by the date and time in the timetable

This ensures you will receive an answer to your question. If you are late in submitting your question, we will answer your question only if we think it is important information for all suppliers. In principle, if you do not report these inconsistencies, inaccuracies or objections in time, we will no longer amend the Invitation to Tender. You cannot derive any rights from inconsistencies, that

you have not identified or that you have identified but not reported to us in time. Of course, we do our best to avoid inconsistencies in the Tender Documents.
Make sure your questions and suggestions are anonymous in your question, do not use:
- company names;
- product names;
- other names related to your organisation.

We publish all questions and answers on CTM
You can read all the questions and answers in the Summary of Additional Information and Changes.
All suppliers receive the same information in this way. You will receive an e-mail via CTM when we publish the questions and answers. We will publish the Summary of Additional Information and Changes by the date scheduled in the timetable.

11. Assessment of your Tender

In this chapter you can read how we assess your Tender.
The concept note will be assessed as follows:

	Criteria	**Weighting factor**
1	**Evaluation team (max 500 words)** The Contracting Authority requires an explanation of how the proposed evaluation team meets the qualifications and criteria outlined in the ToR chapter 7. Additionally, the Contracting Authority requests the following: • CV of international team leader • CVs of other international team members • If the Candidate includes a consortium partner or subcontractor included in the Framework Agreement that is based in the country where the evaluation will take place, thus must be explicitly mentioned. In its assessment, the Contracting Authority scores the team's collective methodological and thematic expertise and experience.	50%
2	**Methodology (max 1,000 words)** The Contracting Authority asks the evaluation team to briefly analyse the understanding of the ToR and to present an initial research design, including a preliminary selection of research methods, data collection methods and data sources.	50%

The full proposal will be assessed as follows:
1. Team (40 points): the qualifications and experience of the team leader and the team as a whole. This is assessed on the basis of CV's.
2. Methodology (40 points): technical proposal. The tenderers are scored on their proposed methodology as outlined in the award criteria table
3. Plan (10 points);
4. Budget: financial proposal (10 points);

The criteria are listed below.

	Criteria	**Weighting factor**

1	**Evaluation team (max 600 words)** The Contracting Authority requires a clear explanation of how the proposed evaluation team fulfils the qualifications and criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) chapter 7. Additionally, the Contracting Authority requests the following: • Comprehensive CVs of all team members, including national researchers. • If the Candidate includes a consortium partner or subcontractor from the Framework Agreement based in the country where the evaluation will take place, this must be explicitly mentioned. In its assessment, the Contracting Authority will score the collective expertise of the team, focusing on their methodological, thematic, and contextual knowledge and experience.	40%
2	**Technical proposal (max 2.500 words)** The Contracting Authority requests that the evaluation team presents their understanding of the ToR and provides a detailed research design. This should include proposed research methods, data collection strategies, and data sources. Additionally, the proposal should outline an initial sampling strategy and case selection approach. The evaluation team should also transparently reflect on potential limitations and biases within the proposed research design. In its assessment, the Contracting Authority will score the proposal based on the robustness and feasibility of the research design, as well as its alignment with the objectives of the ToR. Special attention will be paid to the relevance and appropriateness of the proposed methods in answering the evaluation questions.	40%
3	**Planning** In its assessment, the Contracting Authority will evaluate the extent to which the proposed planning is realistic, feasible, and aligned with the required timeline specified in the ToR. Particular attention will be given to the coordination of tasks and the efficient use of team members' expertise at critical stages.	10%
4	**Budget** The Contracting Authority asks for a detailed budget, specifying the total price (both excluding and including VAT). This should include a breakdown of costs per team member (number of days, daily fees), as well as a detailed listing of all other expenses related to the evaluation (e.g., travel, materials, overhead costs). In its assessment, the Contracting Authority will take into account the overall cost: - 10 points for a total price of 95% of total price or less - 8 points for a total price between 95% and 97% of total price - 6 points for a total price between 97% and 99% of total price - 0 points for a total price above 99% of total price	10%

If your Tender meets all Requirements, we assess the content of your Tender

We assess the content of the Tender based on the Award Sub criteria and give it a score. An assessment committee assesses the content of your Tender.

The contracting authority reserves the right to organize interviews with the team leaders of one or more consortia that have submitted full proposals. The purpose of these interviews is to gain

a deeper understanding of the proposals, allowing for clarification of key elements of the evaluation team, proposed methodology, and the planning. No additional points will be granted for a possible interview, and the insights will be used in assessing the Full Proposal

12. Assessment of the quality

The quality of your Tender is assessed with a grade

You can score points for each Award Sub criterion. The maximum number of points that can be obtained and the relative weighting in the award model are indicated for each Award Sub criterion. This leads to total scores for the Tenders. The supplier with the highest total score is awarded the contract.

For the information provided by suppliers, the principle of the more SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Results-oriented, Time-bound) the better applies.

The grade expresses the substantive assessment

The assessment committee decides which grade to give your Tender. You will always be given an even-number grade between 0 and 10. The table below shows what each grade says about the quality of your Tender.

10	The Tenderer has given an excellent answer to the questions asked in this Award Sub criterion or this part of the Award Sub criterion.
8	The Tenderer has given a good answer to the questions asked in this Award Sub criterion or this part of the Award Sub criterion.
6	The Tenderer has given a satisfactory answer to the questions asked in this Award Sub criterion or this part of the Award Sub criterion.
4	The Tenderer has given an unsatisfactory answer to the question asked in this Award Sub criterion or this part of the Award Sub criterion.
2	The Tenderer has given a poor answer to the question asked in this Award Sub criterion or this part of the Award Sub criterion.
0	No score. The Tenderer does not address the Award Sub criterion, or part of the Award Sub criterion, or has skipped it.

After the members of the assessment committee have awarded specific points, the assessment committee meets for a consensus meeting that is supervised by the RIS purchasing advisor. During this consultation, the final score per Subaward Criterion will be determined for each Tenderer on the basis of consensus.

In the event of equal total scores, the contract will be awarded to the Tenderer with the highest total score for quality.

If the total quality scores are also equal, the contract will be awarded to the Tenderer with the highest score on the Sub-award Criterion with the highest weighting factor.

Appendix 2: Documents reviewed

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA–DGIS) Policy Documents

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands – DGIS. (2021). *BEMO: Water and Development Partnership Programme Phase 3 (MINBUZA-2021.802852 / 4000004908)*. The Hague, Netherlands.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. (2022). *Trade and Development Policy: Doing what the Netherlands does best*. The Hague.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands – DGIS. (2023). *International Climate Strategy*. The Hague, Netherlands.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands – DGIS. (2024). *Results Framework – Water 2024*. The Hague, Netherlands.
Government of the Netherlands. (2022). *Policy Letter on International Development*. The Hague, Netherlands.

WDPP3 Programme Documents (IHE Delft)

IHE Delft. (2022, February). *Programme Document: Water and Development Partnership Programme – Phase 3*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2022). *Annual Plan 2022*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2023). *Annual Plan 2023*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2024). *Annual Plan 2024*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2025). *Annual Plan 2025*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2026). *Annual Plan 2026*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2021). *Annual Report 2021*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2022). *Annual Report 2022*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2023). *Annual Report 2023*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft. (2024). *Annual Report 2024*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Secretariat. (2025). *WDPP Policy Guide (v20231003)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Secretariat. (2024). *WDPP Audits and Over-Expenditures – Internal Guidance*. Delft, Netherlands.

Operational Guidelines and Financial Policies

IHE Delft – WDPP Secretariat. (2025). *Co-Funding Facility Guidelines (Version 1.1)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Management Team. (2025, September). *Guidelines for Extending Projects on a Budget-Neutral Basis (v20250916)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Management Team. (2025, July). *Guidelines for Allocating Top-Up Funding to Ongoing Projects (v20250714)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Secretariat. (2025). *Guidelines for Project Audits, Over-Expenditures and Financial Compliance*. Delft, Netherlands.

Calls for Proposals (Large, Medium and Small-Scale Projects)

IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2021). *Call for Large-Scale Projects 2021*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2022). *Call for Large-Scale Projects 2022*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2022). *Call for Medium-Scale Projects 2022*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2022). *Call for Small-Scale Projects 2022 (English Version)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2022). *Call for Small-Scale Projects 2022 (French Version)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2023). *Internal Call: Water and Finance 2023*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2023). *Call for Medium-Scale Projects 2023*. Delft, Netherlands.

IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2024). *Call for Small-Scale Projects 2024*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2025). *Internal Call: Support to Regional MSc Programmes 2025*. Delft, Netherlands.

Governance and Organisational Documents

IHE Delft – WDPP Governance Committee. (2025). *Terms of Reference – Programme Committee*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Governance Committee. (2025). *Committee Member Profiles (October 2025)*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Sounding Board. (2025). *Terms of Reference – Sounding Board*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Sounding Board. (2025). *Sounding Board Member Profiles 2025*. Delft, Netherlands.

Financial and Portfolio Overview Documents

IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2025). *Programme Budget Overview*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2025). *Extra Reporting – Expenditure Summary*. Delft, Netherlands.
IHE Delft – WDPP Programme. (2025). *Project Portfolio Summary*. Delft, Netherlands.

Project-Level Documentation Reviewed

In addition to programme-level documents, detailed documentation from a purposive sample of large-, medium- and small-scale projects was reviewed to support case study development (Appendix V). Documentation included:

- Project proposals and approved budgets
- Inception reports
- Progress and narrative reports
- Financial statements and expenditure summaries
- Audit documentation and justifications (where applicable)
- Partner reporting materials
- Monitoring documentation submitted by project consortia

These documents were used to analyse implementation dynamics, institutional embedding, resource allocation and contribution pathways.

WDPP3 Repository and Knowledge Products

The WDPP3 online repository was systematically reviewed, including:

- Research reports and policy briefs
- Toolkits and methodological guides
- Geo stories and multimedia outputs
- Impact narratives and communication materials
- Thematic knowledge products across Water and Health, Water for Food, and River Basins and Deltas

Repository materials were analysed to assess dissemination practices, thematic diversity and illustrative outcome pathways, while recognising their communication-oriented nature.

Surveys and Monitoring Instruments

- End-of-project survey responses (13 completed subprojects; 37 respondents)
- Annual Diversity & Inclusion survey results
- Internal monitoring templates and reporting formats

Survey data provided indicative insights into collaboration quality, perceived learning effects and emerging outcomes.

Primary Data Generated for the MTR

Primary qualitative data were generated through:

- Semi-structured interviews with project leaders, researchers, implementing partners, NGOs, community representatives, local authorities, WDPP3 management, Programme Committee members and MFA representatives;
- Focus group discussions conducted during field visits;
- Field observations and institutional visits in Kenya and Ethiopia;
- Debriefing sessions and validation dialogues with IHE Delft and MFA.

These sources were essential for analysing outcome pathways, governance functioning and sustainability prospects beyond documented outputs.

Case Studies

Appendix V presents detailed case studies drawing on project-level documentation, interviews, focus group discussions and field observations. These case studies provide in-depth illustrations of contribution pathways, institutional dynamics and contextual variation, supporting the portfolio-level findings without claiming statistical representativeness.

Appendix 3: Key informants and Partners

1. MFA – Netherlands and Embassies

1. Aart Van der Horst (MFA NL – IGG/WA, MFA focal point)
2. Eva Schreuder (MFA NL – IGG, MFA focal point)
3. Maarten Gischler (MFA NL, MFA focal point)
4. Donia Tadako (Embassy of NL – Egypt, MFA focal point)
5. Hiasat Tasneem (Embassy of NL – Jordan, MFA focal point)
6. Mariska Lammers (Embassy of NL – Jordan, MFA focal point)
7. Jacob Waslander (MFA NL, Regional Water Expert)
8. Lisan Bijdevaate (Embassy of NL – Ethiopia, MFA focal point)
9. Rose Makenzi (Embassy of NL – Kenya, MFA focal point)

2. WDPP Management Team (IHE Delft)

10. Jeltsje Kemerink (IHE Delft, WDPP Coordinator)
11. Nadine Sander (IHE Delft, WDPP Policy Advisor – Joint Learning & Inclusiveness)
12. Fadime Uzun (IHE Delft, WDPP Project Liaison Officer)
13. Denise Vanzie (IHE Delft, WDPP Communication Advisor)

3. WDPP Committee

14. Yaovi Aymar Bossa (Abomey-Calavi University / HCS Consultant, Committee Member – Middle East region)
15. Hadi Jaafar (American University of Beirut, Committee Member – Horn of Africa region)
16. Amel Azab (NBCBN Egypt, Committee Member – Sahel region)
17. Lucy Gwen Gillis (IHE Delft, Committee Member)
18. Abebe Chukalla (IHE Delft, Committee Member)
19. Assela Pathirana (IHE Delft, Committee Member)
20. Claire Furlong (IHE Delft, Committee Member)

4. WDPP Sounding Board

21. Farhana Rashid (Bhumijo, Bangladesh)
22. Juliet Kiguli (Makerere University, Uganda)
23. Nadia Al-Mudaffar Fawzi (University of Basrah, Iraq)

5. IHE Colleagues Involved in Projects

24. Hadeel Hosney (IHE Delft, SafeAgroMENA Coordinator)
25. Claire Michailovsky (IHE Delft, RS4C Coordinator)
26. Amitangshu Acharya (IHE Delft, WaterPiP Coordinator)
27. Micha Werner (IHE Delft, ABCDryBasin Team Member)
28. Emanuele Fantini (IHE Delft, NileWell & Water Mobility Team Member)
29. Bota Sharipova (IHE Delft, CROWS Team Member)

6. IHE Higher Management

30. Graham Jewitt (IHE Delft, Vice-Rector)
31. Robert de Bruijn (IHE Delft, Financial Advisor)

7. Dutch & international Partners

32. Murtah Shannon (BothEnds)
33. Shahnoor Hasan (Deltares)
34. Marieke van Nood (Blue Deal / UvW)
35. Mireia Tutusaus (WaterWorX / VEI)
36. Ingrid Boas (Wageningen University)

37. Liliana Geerling (RVO)
38. Elisabeth Lichtevout (IGRAC)

8. Project 111363 – A4Store (Ethiopia / Niger)

38. Pieter van der Zaag (IHE Delft, Project Lead)
39. Eyasu Yazew Hagos (Mekelle University)
40. Solomon Habty (Mekelle University)
41. Tesfa-alem Gebreegziabher (Mekelle University)
42. Salifou Bachir (Abdou Moumouni University)

9. Project 111363 – A4Store (Kenya)

43. Fridah Kirimi (JKUAT)
44. Enock Bore (JKUAT)
45. Moline Chauruka (PhD Student)
46. Francis Karanja (Farmer – Kenya)
47. Peter Malila (Area Chief – Makueni)
48. Julius Mutungi (Farmer Leader – Makueni)
49. Daniel Mwambua (Farmer – Makueni)
50. Remingus Mwendwa (Farmer – Makueni)
51. Juliana Ntulula (Farmer – Makueni)
52. Lenah Mutua (Farmer – Makueni)
53. Stella Moris (Farmer – Makueni)
54. Florence (Farmer – Makueni)
55. Fridah Mbeke (Farmer – Makueni)
56. Christine Kinondiu (Farmer – Makueni)
57. Annah Mutua (Farmer – Makueni)
58. Eunice Kinyao (Farmer – Makueni)
59. Nathan Musyoka (Farmer – Makueni)
60. Stephen Kinyazi (Farmer – Makueni)
61. Emmanuel Musyoki (Farmer – Makueni)
62. Caleb Karai (Farmer – Makueni)
63. Andrew Kiminza (Farmer – Makueni)
64. Ann Musyoki (Farmer – Makueni)
65. Mercy Lebosi (Farmer – Makueni)

10. Project 111349 – WaterPIP-K&A Network

66. Mercy Mwaniki (JKUAT)
67. Bancy Mbura Mati (AIAP)
68. Kevin Mogochi (AIAP)
69. Irine Jeptum (AIAP)
70. Betty Nyaga (AIAP)
71. JohnBosco Mukundi (JKUAT)
72. Derrick Kamau (JKUAT)
73. Aisha Oundo (JKUAT)
74. Moffat Magondu (JKUAT)
75. Samuel Dagalo (Arba Minch University)
76. Birara Gebeyehu (Arba Minch University)
77. Fekerte Seyoum (Arba Minch University)
78. Eyob Dola (Fura Kebele)
79. Nocolas Tefera (Fura Kebele)
80. Milkias Sore (Fura Kebele)

81. Minalu Yosef (Fura Kebele)
82. Kaleb Kebede (Fura Kebele)
83. Gize Geda (Fura Kebele)
84. Solomon Sore (Fura Kebele)
85. Maleda Worku (Fura Kebele)
86. Tegbaru Asaye Osake (Fura Kebele)
87. Petros Fanta (Fura Kebele)
88. Addis Bersamo (Fura Kebele)
89. Mekonnen Addis (Fura Kebele)
90. Wagesho Wana (Fura Kebele)
91. Geleto Katelo (Fura Kebele)
92. Tekle Tesfaye (Fura Kebele)
93. Ereg Degu (Fura Kebele)

11. Project 111362 – RS-4C (Remote Sensing for Community-driven Applications)

94. Claire Michailovsky (IHE Delft, Lead Partner)
95. Violet Matiru (Millennium Community Development Initiatives – Kenya, Partner)
96. Prof. Thuita Thenya (Wangari Maathai Institute – Kenya, Partner)
97. Judith Nyunja (Wildlife Training and Research Institute – Kenya, Partner)
98. James Mutuku Ndeti (Agile Systems Ltd – Kenya, Director Web Development)
99. Wendy Syombua (Agile Systems Ltd – Kenya)
100. Loice N. Njenga (Karen Development – Kenya)
101. Julia M. Kiruri (Kenya)
102. Serah Kigumo (Kenya)
103. Eunice Wambui Mbugua (Kenya)
104. Esther Gathoni W. (Kenya)
105. Grace Wangari Mungai (Kenya)
106. Tabitha Mukuhi Gathuri (Kenya)
107. Rosemary Njeri Wanjiku (Kenya)
108. Florence Wanja (Kenya)
109. Eugene Ndwiga (Kenya)
110. John Theuri Gitau (Kenya)
111. Ruth Wairimu (Kenya)
112. Tabitha Njambi (Kenya)
113. Gladys Njambi W. (Kenya)
114. Peter Muchiri (Kenya)
115. Austin Mburu (Kenya)
116. Charles Karuga (Kenya)
117. Julia Waceke Maingi (Kenya)
118. Alois Chege Karanja (Kenya)
119. Stanley Kariuki (Kenya)
120. Eunice Wanjiku (Kenya)
121. Elizabeth Akiru (Thogoto Forest Family – Kenya)
122. Yurita Wairuri (Thogoto Forest Family – Kenya)
123. Jeremiah Thuo (C.F.A – Kenya)
124. John Juma (Kenya)
125. Pauline Kanegi (C.F.A – Kenya)
126. Philip Ngueta (C.F.A – Kenya)
127. Janet Njoroge (Onkaru WRUA – Kenya)
128. Ambrose Ndu'ngu (Thogoto Forest Association – Kenya)
129. Elijah M. Kyasi (Yatta WRUA – Kenya)

130. Justine Ntulala (Yatta WRUA – Kenya)
131. Kitinyo Gichanga (Friends of Ondire Wetland – Kenya)
132. Ruth Gituiria (Friends of Ondire Wetland – Kenya)
133. Kibicho Wa Miti (Friends of Ondire Wetland – Kenya)
134. Kamau Mbugua (Thogoto Forest Family Hub – Kenya)
135. Godfrey Kinyanjui (Thogoto Forest Family – Kenya)
136. Michael Mwangi (MCDI / CFA – Kenya)
137. Ezekiel Zadok (Thogoto Forest Family – Kenya)
138. Lydia Kalekye (Thogoto Forest Family – Kenya)
139. Eunice Kinyanjui (CFA Treasurer – Kenya)

12. Project 111362 – RS-4C (Ethiopia)

140. Dr. Goraw Goshu (Bahir Dar University, Researcher)
141. Dr. Abebe Mohammed (Wollo University, Researcher)
142. Lakachew Alemneh (Bahir Dar University, PhD Student)
143. Zerihun Chere (Wollo University, PhD Student)

13. Project 111290 – NileWell

144. Fredrick Mugira (InfoNile / Water Journalists Africa, Lead Partner)
145. Leonard Namukasa (InfoNile / Water Journalists Africa, Lead Partner)
146. Primrose Natukunda (InfoNile / Water Journalists Africa, Lead Partner)
147. Mekonnen Teshome (Science Journalist – Ethiopia)
148. Tewodross Kassa (Ethiopian Press Agency, Journalist)
149. Demise M. Tareke (Ethiopia Broadcasting Corporation, Editor-in-Chief)
150. Yohannes Zerihun Negussie (Ministry of Water & Energy / UNESCO Ecohydrology Centre)
151. Solomon Yimer (Freelance Journalist)
152. Fikadu Erenso (Gullele Botanical Garden / Addis Ababa University)

14. Project 111895 – Dji Mansa (Water Masters)

153. Hadi Touré Guindo (Afr'eau – Mali, Lead Partner)
154. Issa Boukary Maman (AJPEA Niger, Partner)
155. Adam Konateo (Mali, Partner)
156. Bouthiè Sow (SOMAGEP-SA – Mali, Partner)

15. Project 111898 – Water Mobility

157. Farah Hamamouche (Bureau d'Étude ECA – Algeria, Lead Partner)
158. Mirjam de Bruijn (Voice4Thought – Mali, Partner)
159. Modibo Cissé (Voice4Thought – Mali, Partner)

16. Project 111305 – Water Mirrors

160. Leonardo Alfonso Segura (IHE Delft, Lead Partner)
161. Patricia Pérez (Umbela Foundation – Mexico)
162. Luis Alejandro Camacho Botero (Universidad de los Andes – Colombia)

17. Project 112411 – BEWOP4

163. Klaas Schwartz (IHE Delft, Lead Partner)
164. Anke Verheij (VEI)
165. Franziska Volk (UN Habitat – Global WOP Alliance)
166. Ashmeet Kharbanba (UN Habitat)
167. Julie Marechal Perkins (UN Habitat)

18. Project 111457 – ABCDryBASIN (Jordan)

168. Prof. Sattam AlShogoor (Mutah University, Project Coordinator)
169. Dr. Wlla Obeidat (Mutah University, Sub-Contractor)
170. Prof. Khaled Hazaymeh (Jordanian Team Member)
171. Prof. Ammar Albalasmeh (Team Member)
172. Prof. Hamza Al Mahasneh (Sub-Contractor)
173. Prof. Ibrahim Oroud (Sub-Contractor)
174. Dr. Ahmad Al Shreideh (LGWG Representative)
175. Ms. Sondos Al Momani (Yarmouk University, Master Student)
176. Qamar Al Mimi (Mutah University, Master Student)
177. Dr. Mohammad Abo Gamar (Team Member)
178. Bader Al-Momani (Yarmouk University, Master Student)

19. Project 110792 – SafeAgroMENA (Egypt)

179. Alaa Idris (Nile University)
180. Hassan El Sabry (Nile University)
181. Asmaa Ahmed (Nile University)
182. Ahmed Saleh (Nile University)
183. Ayman Soliman (Nile University)
184. Ahmed Nasser (Nile University)
185. Khlood Ahmed (Nile University)
186. Marwa Saad (Nile University)
187. Heba Abdalla Hamed (Nile University)
188. Monera Yazeed (Nile University)
189. Asala (Nile University – Diploma Student)
190. Nourian Ahmed (Nile University – Diploma Student)
191. Mahmoud Elagammy (Nile University – Diploma Student)
192. Shaimaa Rashed (Nile University)
193. Eman Mohyeldein (BENAA)
194. Mohamed Shaban (National Research Center)
195. Mohsen Yousry (National Research Center)
196. Sherine El Agamy (National Research Center)
197. Ahmed El Hawary (National Research Center)
198. Mohamed Azeldein (Egyptian Engineering Consultant Office)
199. Yehia Imam (Cairo University / EECO)
200. Moaatsem Gamal (National Research Center)
201. Mohamed Gabballah (Organic Valley)
202. Ali Salim (Nile University)

20. ABCDryBASIN (Egypt – RAED & Partners)

203. Dr. Ghada Ahmaden Salaheldin (RAED)
204. Mr. Hitham Elymany (RAED)
205. Dr. Youssry Khfagy (Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation – Egypt)
206. Dr. Omima Sawan (Ministry of Environment & National Research Center – Egypt)
207. Dr. Moharm Fouad (Desert Research Center – Egypt)
208. Mr. Mahmoud Elasway (Alwattan Journal – Egypt)
209. Eng. Rehab Abdelfatah (RAED)
210. Mrs. Sara Ghanem (RAED)
211. Prof. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Attia (Desert Research Center – Egypt)
212. Mr. Abdallah Borek (Al-Nahda Association – Egypt)

213. Dr. Lamia Lotfy (Kafr El-Sheikh University – Egypt)
214. Dr. Mohamed Abdelazem (Ministry of Agriculture – Egypt)
215. Dr. Ahmed Shalby (Tanta University – Egypt)
216. Dr. Basma (Tanta University – Egypt

TOTAL UNIQUE PERSONS LISTED: 216

Appendix 4: Evaluation Matrix

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
RELEVANCE				
CEQ 1. To what extent are WDPP programme operations relevant to the Dutch government water and sanitation policies and priorities related to SDG6?	EQ1: To what extent is the programme relevant to accelerating progress towards water and sanitation related SDG's	1.1 Evidence of relevance of WDPP supported projects	Document analysis	Programme documents Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ2: To what extent does the programme support the priorities of the Dutch government as written down in the policy letters "Water for development" (2012)", "Do what we do best (2022) ", the "Netherlands International Water Ambition" (2019) and the "Policy letter Development Aid –Doing what's good for the Netherlands" published in February 2025.	1.2 Evidence the programme supports Dutch government priorities	Document analysis Dutch government perspectives	Programme documents Dutch government development frameworks Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ3: To what extend did the Theory of Change offer guidance for the programme to pursue its objectives and the selection of activities, outputs and products?	1,3 Evidence that the ToC has been applied in programme activities and projects	Document analysis	Programme and project documents Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ4**:** To what extent has the programme been able to adjust its activities in the course of time to new challenges and policy priorities? Specifically, has the programme been able to address new challenges in the area of	1.4 Evidence that the programme is adaptable in responding to policy and priority changes	Document analysis Dutch government perspectives	Programme documents Dutch government policy documents Key informant interviews

[7] The revised evaluation questions presented in this column are based on the Evaluation Team's review and realignment of all questions based on determining relevant judgement criteria.

[8] The original evaluation questions presented in this column were drawn from the terms of reference.

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
	sustainable and equitable water management and respond to particular requests from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this respect?			Focus group discussions
COHERENCE				
CEQ2: To what extent are the WDPP3 programme operations coherent with the programme's objectives and ToC, and with the development priorities of partner governments?	EQ5: To what extent is there coherence between projects within the WDPP3 programme?	2.1 Evidence that there is complementarity between projects within the WDPP3 programme.	Document analysis Partner perspectives Field trips case studies	Programme and projects documents Key informants' interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ6: To what extent is there coherence between the WDPP3 programme and the partner organisations?	2.2 Evidence that WDPP3 seeks cooperation and complementarity with partner organisations in its projects	Document analysis Partner perspectives Field trips case studies	Programme and projects documents Key informants' interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ7: To what extent has WDPP3 achieved complementarity in its programme – both conceptually and operationally – with the other Dutch-funded projects?	2.3 Evidence that WDPP3 achieves complementarity conceptually and operationally with other Dutch funded projects	Document analysis Partner perspectives Field trips case studies Partner government perspectives	Programme and projects documents Government policy documents Key informants' interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ8: To what extent is the WDPP3 programme coherent with policy priorities of	2.4 Evidence that WDPP3 projects are coherent with policy	Document analysis	Programme and projects documents

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
	the governments in the countries where it works?	priorities of partner governments	Partner perspectives Field trips case studies Partner government perspectives	Government policy documents Key informants' interviews Focus group discussions
EFFECTIVENESS				
CEQ3. To what extent is WDPP delivering its planned activities, outputs and outcomes, and adjusting where required to changing contexts and programme performance.	EQ9: To what extent does the programme have an appropriate monitoring framework that enables progress tracking, adaptative management and learning over time?	3.1 Evidence the WDPP is delivering its planned activities and outputs on the levels or areas of intervention.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ10: To what extent do the activities and results achieve the intended objectives of the programme in the three thematic areas and the four programme components, as stated in the proposal and annual plans?		Document analysis. Field missions to (observation and interviews). Contribution analysis.	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ11: To what extent does the programmatic funding facilitate flexibility and effectiveness in programme planning and management?		Document analysis. M&E system analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions In-situ observations
	EQ12: What are the initial short-term outcomes (as defined in the theory of change) that are emerging from the activities so far? What are the benefits and challenges in		Document analysis. M&E system analysis.	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
	achieving these outcomes? What could the programme do to further achieve these outcomes?		Field missions (observation and interviews).	Focus group discussions
	EQ13: How effective was the programme in taking into account of aspects of ecological sustainability, climate change, gender and inclusiveness?		Document analysis. Theory of change analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
EFFICIENCY				
CEQ4. To what extent is WDPP managing its programme resources efficiently and leveraging additional resources for water and sanitation projects and programmes?	EQ14: To what extent are the delivered outputs and initial short-term outcomes arising from activities in balance with the level of effort and resources spent?	4.1 Evidence of lesson learning and programme adaptation.	Document analysis. M&E system analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions (inclusive)
	EQ15: To what extent is there sufficient attention to operate the programme in a cost-efficient manner?	4.2 Evidence that cost-efficiencies have been achieved.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews Focus group discussions
	EQ16: What regulations does the programme have with respect to maximum costs of the different budget items?	4.3 Evidence that the WDPP programme has leveraged finance towards water and sanitation projects and programmes.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports and M&E system data Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: staff, programme partners,

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
				other development partners, private sector
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT				
CQ5. How appropriate and effective are the WDPP and IHE institutional arrangements in ensuring programme management, accountability and partner engagement?	EQ17: To what extent are the programme and its activities able to engage and work with key stakeholders in the area of work?	5.1 Evidence that the WDPP and IHE institutional arrangements are relevant, effective and efficient.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports, management reports, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: national and global programme staff and development partners.
	EQ18: What efforts did the programme make to involve non-academic partners in its programme and how successful were these efforts?		Document analysis. M&E system analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Annual reports, management reports, M&E system data, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme staff and development partners.
	EQ19: How appropriate and effective is the organizational structure of the programme and staffing profile in realizing a relevant, effective and efficient programme and activities? What changes, if any, are needed to the organizational structure, and staffing profile going forward?		Document analysis.	Annual reports, management reports, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme staff and development partners.

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
	EQ20: Who is the programme accountable to and to what extent, and how is Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) built into programming and strategy to strengthen that accountability?	5.2 Evidence that WDPP ensures accountability.	Document analysis.	Annual reports, management reports, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme staff and development partners.
	EQ21: How well does IGG interact with the programme and what are the recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of this interaction?	5.3 Evidence of regular reporting and dialogue between WDPP and Dutch government.	Document analysis	Annual reports, management reports, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme staff and development partners.
	EQ22: Are there examples of innovative approaches (partnership collaboration, achieving societal impact, sustainability, communication and dissemination)? What are the results and how do projects learn from others?	5.4 Evidence WDPP is engaging with current and potential development partners in a meaningful and strategic manner.	Document analysis	Annual reports, management reports, etc. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme staff and development partners.
SUSTAINABILITY				
CEQ6. Is WDPP programming geared towards ensuring sustainability?	EQ23: How sustainable is the programme and its activities? Identification of factors which may be constraints and those which may be beneficial to sustainability, organizational	6.1 Evidence the changes achieved with support of WDPP can be sustained.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Programme documents and annual reports. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions:

CONSOLIDATED EVALUATION QUESTION (CEQ)[7]	EVALUATION QUESTION (EQ)[8]	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA	METHODS	DATA SOURCES
	embedding, joint learning, staff capacity, ambition and financing.			programme partners and beneficiaries. In-situ observations.
	EQ24: How does the programme enhance local ownership of program activities with the aim to increase sustainability on the long term?	6.2 Evidence of local ownership of programme activities.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Programme documents and annual reports. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme partners. In-situ observations.
	EQ25: How can the financial sustainability of the programme be improved and what are recommendations for the remaining period and a possible next phase?	6.3 Evidence that WDPP can sustain programme interventions.	Document analysis. Field missions (observation and interviews).	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions: programme partners and beneficiaries. In-situ observations.

Appendix 5: Case Studies

CASE STUDIES

Mid Term Review
March 2026

Review implemented by:

PEM CONSULT
PEOPLE • ENVIRONMENT • MANAGEMENT

A programme financed by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Implemented by:

IHE DELFT

WATER AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

IHE DELFT
Institute for Water Education
under the auspices of UNESCO

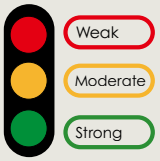
CASE STUDY - A4STORE (4 COUNTRIES) - CONTRIBUTION TO TOC

Project: A4Store – Smallholder farming families adapt African alluvial aquifers to strengthen their resilience
Theme: Water for Food
Geographic focus: Kenya (sand rivers & alluvial aquifers – Makueni and Kajiado Counties), Zimbabwe (smallholder irrigation & groundwater systems), Ethiopia (sand river irrigation – Tigray region), Niger (sand river-based irrigation – Niamey sites)
Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) 10/10/2023 - 31/12/2027

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	Across all four countries, A4Store delivers high-quality applied research combined with participatory field engagement. • Kenya: Flood risk modelling, hydro-economic analysis and mitigation scenarios. • Zimbabwe: Groundwater and irrigation research linked to emerging financing dialogue. • Ethiopia: Field experimentation (hydrology, agronomy, adaptive investment pathways) with strong institutional embedding. • Niger: Research on sand river storage and irrigation potential combined with student-led field investigation. Common pattern: strong scientific outputs and co-learning processes with farmers.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	Research outputs are robust and locally relevant in all contexts. Early livelihood-related signals are visible, though structured scaling mechanisms remain uneven. • Kenya: Decision-relevant flood maps and quantified economic losses; limited observable institutional uptake. • Zimbabwe: Institutional dialogue initiated with a public Agricultural Development Bank; revolving fund under exploration. • Ethiopia: Evidence emerging that farmer-led irrigation increases resilience and food security; solar pump users demonstrated higher resilience during post-conflict recovery. • Niger: Conceptualisation of revolving micro-loan mechanism targeting smallholder farmers (mainly women); dissemination workshop planned with ministries. Common pattern: early outcome signals exist, but formal institutionalisation is still developing.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	Environmental sustainability logic is strong across countries, but financial and institutional pathways remain at different stages of maturity. • Kenya: Mitigation options technically sound, but no cost–benefit analysis or investment pathway activated. • Zimbabwe: Public agricultural bank engagement combined with irrigation suppliers; mechanism not yet operationalised. • Ethiopia: Strong regional institutional embedding (university, research institute, Bureau of Agriculture), but no structured financing pathway. • Niger: NGO-mediated financing pathway under design; university cannot directly access funding mechanisms. Common pattern: scaling depends on structured investment and institutional anchoring beyond pilot sites.

CASE STUDY - A4STORE - CONTRIBUTION TO EQS

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	**Strong alignment with SDGs 2 & 6 and Dutch Water for Food priorities in all four countries. The ToC remains valid under climate variability, post-conflict recovery (Ethiopia), flood risk (Kenya), groundwater stress (Zimbabwe), and marginalised farmer contexts (Niger).**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	**Kenya: Technically strong but limited observable sustained outcomes. Zimbabwe: Early institutional-financial pathway activation. Ethiopia: Clear evidence of improved resilience among participating farmers. Niger: Early-stage but strong gender-focused orientation. Inclusion addressed through participation, but not systematically tracked through outcome indicators.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡	**Research-intensive approach appropriate for knowledge generation. No CBA yet in Kenya. Financing mechanism not operational in Zimbabwe. Ethiopia and Niger remain in pilot/experimental phase. Cost-efficiency at scale not yet demonstrated.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	**Strong academic partnerships across countries. Differentiation:** • **Ethiopia shows strongest territorial institutional embedding.** • **Zimbabwe shows strongest financial institutional articulation.** • **Kenya weaker engagement with county authorities.** • **Niger relies on NGO partnerships to access funding channels.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	**Environmental sustainability logic strong in all cases. Financial and institutional sustainability not yet secured at scale. Sustainability is most advanced in Zimbabwe conceptually, most territorially embedded in Ethiopia, most technically defined in Kenya, and most gender-targeted in Niger.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	**Equity and inclusion addressed implicitly. Niger: Explicit focus on women farmers. Ethiopia: Farmer-led irrigation strengthening marginalised groups. Kenya & Zimbabwe: Participation present, but no systematic gender trackinng.**
Innovation 🟢	**Technical innovation: Flood modelling (Kenya) * Adaptive investment pathway analysis (Ethiopia) * Hybrid finance architecture (Zimbabwe) * Community micro-lending concept (Niger) Scalability depends on institutional uptake and financial activation.**



CASE STUDY - A4STORE (KENYA, ZIMBABWE, ETHIOPIA, NIGER)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

Kenya (field visit)
- Improved scientific understanding of flood risk in sand river systems.
- Generation of decision-relevant flood hazard maps and quantified economic loss estimates.
- Identification of technically viable mitigation options.

Zimbabwe (online)
- Engagement with a public Agricultural Development Bank.
- Private irrigation suppliers involved in financing discussions.
- Revolving fund concept under development.
- Shift from research focus toward financing architecture.

Ethiopia (online)
- Participatory field experimentation in two sand river systems.
- Evidence that farmer-led irrigation enhances food security and resilience.
- Solar pump users showed resilience during conflict-related disruption.
- Strong institutional collaboration at regional level.

Niger (online)
- Engagement with NGOs to structure financing for smallholder farmers (mainly women).
- Conceptualisation of revolving micro-loan mechanism via "river centres".
- Recruitment of MSc students and preparation of dissemination workshop.
- Clear policy engagement intention.

Limited or absent change to date

- Common across countries:
- No large-scale structural implementation yet.
- Investment pathways not fully operational.
- Scaling beyond pilot areas not activated.

Outlook

- If institutional uptake and financing mechanisms are activated (e.g. CBA and pilot investment in Kenya; operationalisation of the revolving fund in Zimbabwe; structured policy integration in Ethiopia; NGO-mediated financial activation in Niger), A4Store evidence has strong potential to inform scalable, risk-informed agricultural investment.
- Without such enabling conditions, change is likely to remain largely confined to the research and pilot domain.

CASE STUDY - A4STORE (KENYA & ZIMBABWE)

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT – EMERGING CONFIGURATION

🇰🇪 KENYA

- No structured engagement with financial actors
- Mitigation options remain at technical design stage
- Limited de-risking mechanisms in place

🇿🇼 ZIMBABWE

- Public Agricultural Development Bank engaged
- Private irrigation suppliers positioned as implementation partners
- Risk-sharing model under exploration
- Public-backed finance enabling supplier participation

🔍 STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCE

Kenya:

- Technical-stage engagement without financial structuring.

Zimbabwe:

- Financial institution-led engagement enabling market activation.

💡 KEY INSIGHT

A4Store demonstrates that private sector engagement may be indirect.

Public financial institutions can:

- De-risk supplier involvement
- Enable structured participation
- Unlock scalable irrigation investment

CASE STUDY - A4STORE

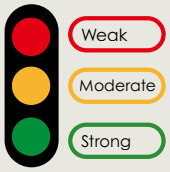
Lesson learned

- **Crosscountry:** Strong participatory research builds trust and generates locally relevant evidence, but scaling depends on how effectively projects connect with national policy systems and investment frameworks.
- **ZW:** Financial institutions can act as catalytic intermediaries between research and farmer-level investment, but financing mechanisms require operational clarity and risk-sharing design to translate intent into impact.

Recommendation

- **Crosscountry:** Strengthen systematic pathways from research to institutional anchoring by embedding results in policy dialogue, extension systems and national planning frameworks, while supporting context-specific investment-readiness processes where relevant.
- **ZW:** Facilitate structured engagement between research teams, public financial institutions and irrigation suppliers to operationalise the revolving fund mechanism through clear risk-sharing arrangements and pilot disbursement.

CASE STUDY - RS4C (KENYA & ETHIOPIA) CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC



Project: ARS-4C – Remote Sensing for Community-driven Applications (from WA+ to Co-learning)
Theme: River Basins & Deltas / Knowledge co-production
Geographic focus: Kenya: Athi River Basin (Kiambu, Nairobi, Kajiado, Makueni) & Ethiopia: Lake Tana sub-basin (wetlands, invasive species, basin governance)
Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) 2/10/2023 - 31/12/2027

Theory of Change Dimension	Assessment	Description
Activities → Outputs	🟢	Strong delivery of participatory processes, applied research, MSc and PhD fieldwork, and co-produced analyses combining remote sensing and local knowledge. **Outputs are technically sound and socially grounded.**
Outputs → Outcomes	🟡🟢	Clear evidence of **cognitive and relational change**, particularly in Kenya, including a shared basin-level understanding, strengthened dialogue, and increased confidence of WRUAs and communities. In Ethiopia, **changes remain largely prospective and research-driven**. In the Afar pastoralist case, a structured needs assessment and conceptual tool design process are underway (biomass, water availability and mobility indicators), but behavioural and institutional uptake are not yet observable at field scale.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability	🟡🟢	Local o**wnership and adaptive management mechanisms are strong** (notably in Kenya), but long-term institutional embedding of RS tools and financing beyond the project lifecycle are not yet secured.

CASE STUDY - RS4C (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)
Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6, 10 and inclusive water governance priorities.** • **Highly relevant in contexts of power asymmetries and contested basin governance.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	• **High-quality participatory and research outputs delivered.** • **Kenya: Clear behavioural and cognitive change at community level; strong uptake through WRUAs and applied use of remote sensing combined with local knowledge.** • **Ethiopia: Dual pathway emerging – (i) Lake Tana: hotspot mapping, validation and decision-support tools; (ii) Afar pastoralist case: participatory needs assessment and conceptual development of remote-sensing products (biomass, water availability, seasonal mobility support). Outcomes not yet observable at scale.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Facilitation- and research-intensive approach has generated strong community ownership, youth engagement and place-based stewardship, suggesting a positive return on investment over time.** • **Ethiopia: Efficiency gains dependent on future uptake, also constrained by security restrictions & UAV procurement delays requiring alternatives.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Strong CSO–academic partnerships combined with deep community investment have created a virtuous cycle, increasing pressure and engagement from local authorities.** • **Ethiopia: Functional multi-stakeholder structure exists (lake committee + agencies + local leaders) and supports validation; however, routinised institutional uptake is still emerging.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Strong WRUA empowerment and community-led governance mechanisms indicate high social sustainability and continuity beyond the project.** • **Ethiopia: Sustainability depends on institutional hosting of decision-support systems and continued support for operations, training, and data updates.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Strong WRUA empowerment and community-led governance mechanisms indicate high social sustainability and continuity beyond the project.** • **Ethiopia: Inclusion is mediated through committees and local leaders; broader access requires localisation (language) and targeted capacity support are needed to ensure long-term inclusion of youth and women.**
Innovation 🟢	• **Kenya: High social and methodological innovation through integration of RS, decision support tools, local knowledge and citizen science.** • **Hotspot mapping, strong "applied pipeline": validation → training → web-based delivery (mobile-first) and contingency sensing options.**

CASE STUDY - RS4C (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

Kenya

- Strong WRUA and youth ownership of river sections and rehabilitation efforts.
- Remote sensing combined with local knowledge in applied river stewardship.
- Clear cognitive and relational change (shared basin understanding, stronger advocacy confidence).

Ethiopia

- Robust spatial–temporal datasets (water quality, hyacinth, biomass).
- Hotspot mapping and decision-support tools under development and validation.
- Participatory identification of priority pastoral indicators (biomass productivity, water availability, seasonal mobility support) and co-design of a pilot remote-sensing framework in Afar.
- Strengthened university-level technical capacity.

Limited or absent change to date

Kenya

- Institutional embedding in county planning and budgets not yet secured.
- Remote sensing tools not yet routinised in public authority systems.

Ethiopia

- Behavioural and institutional uptake remains largely prospective; pilot tools in Afar not yet operationalised at community level.
- Decision-support platforms not yet operational at scale.

Outlook

- If community ownership (Kenya) and structured institutional embedding (Ethiopia) are consolidated, RS4C shows strong potential to translate co-produced knowledge into durable basin governance improvements. Without such anchoring, impact risks remaining primarily at research and pilot level.

CASE STUDY - RS4C (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)

Lesson learned

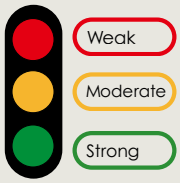
- Kenya: Deep, long-term investment in community intermediaries (WRUAs, youth groups, local CSOs) can turn high facilitation costs into **tangible behavioural change, territorial ownership, and social sustainability**.
- Ethiopia: Strong technical and research engagement — including conceptual tool design for pastoralist resource monitoring in Afar and hotspot mapping in Lake Tana — is insufficient to trigger behavioural or institutional change without early and **structured embedding in community committees and public agencies, including clear arrangements for validation, training, and decision-support tool hosting**.

Recommendation

- Kenya: Consolidate and scale gains by **anchoring community-led practices within formal institutional frameworks** (WRUAs, county planning, budgets) to secure long-term sustainability.
- Ethiopia: Frontload structured community engagement and intermediary strengthening (committees, local leaders, and agencies), alongside clear **arrangements for validation, training, and decision-support** tool hosting, before advancing complex technical research to enable future uptake and impact.

CASE STUDY - WATERPIP-KAN (KENYA & ETHIOPIA) CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC

Project: WaterPIP-KAN – Water Productivity in Practice: Knowledge & Action Network
Theme: Water for Food / Knowledge co-production & decision-making for smallholder irrigation
Geographic focus: Kenya: Upper Ewaso Ng'iro Basin (water scarcity, WRUAs, smallholder irrigation systems) & Ethiopia: Arba Minch area & surrounding catchments (community-based irrigation, learning-by-doing, university–community interface)
Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) 15/10/2023 – 31/12/2027

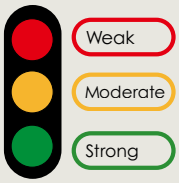


Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	Strong **delivery of applied research and participatory processes.** In Kenya, NGO–university collaboration enables tangible engagement with communities and authorities, strengthening institutional anchoring. In Ethiopia, **universities have a stable territorial presence and strong community legitimacy**, with outputs aligned to local needs. Translation into formal institutional decision-making remains gradual across contexts.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	Clear evidence of **cognitive and relational change across both contexts,** including a shared basin-level understanding, strengthened dialogue, and increased trust between academia, WUAs and communities. Where universities lead, changes remain largely prospective and research-driven. In Kenya, where NGO-led facilitation enables tangible actions, there is emerging adoption by authorities and farmers with observable results, while durable behavioural change remains uneven across contexts.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	**Local ownership and adaptive management are stronger in Kenya,** driven by NGO anchoring, recurrent community interaction, and university–authority linkages through embedded PhD researchers, enabling faster uptake of small, tangible actions. **In Ethiopia, sustainability is primarily anchored in universities** and depends on the capacity of local authorities to follow up. Long-term sustainability hinges on the universities' ability to transfer knowledge through accessible methods and community-oriented materials, with youth and women still underrepresented compared to Kenya.

CASE STUDY - WATERPIP-KAN (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)

Contribution to EQs, lessons learnt and recommendations

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6 and 10 and inclusive water governance priorities.** • **Highly relevant in contexts of power asymmetries and contested basin governance, where access to actionable knowledge shapes water-related decisions.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	• **High-quality participatory and research outputs delivered across contexts.** • **Kenya: Clear cognitive and relational change with emerging behavioural shifts, enabled by NGO-led facilitation, strong WUA engagement, and application of remote sensing combined with local knowledge, with early uptake by authorities and farmers.** • **Ethiopia: Strong engagement and shared understanding, but outcomes remain largely prospective, as university-led processes have not yet translated into operational change.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Facilitation- and research-intensive approach has fostered strong community ownership, including youth and women, suggesting positive returns over time despite higher upfront costs.** • **Ethiopia: Coordination and translation costs may persist; efficiency gains depend on effective knowledge transfer beyond research settings.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Strong CSO–institutional–academic partnerships and community anchoring have strengthened engagement with authorities and governance structures.** • **Ethiopia: Institutional embedding remains largely university-led, with good interaction among actors but limited integration into formal decision-making.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: WUA empowerment and community-led mechanisms indicate strong social sustainability for small-scale actions.** • **Across contexts: Long-term financial sustainability and formal institutionalisation remain to be demonstrated.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	• **Kenya: Active engagement of youth and communities in water stewardship strengthens ownership and territorial identity.** • **Across contexts: Sustained efforts are required to ensure long-term inclusion of youth and women, particularly in research-led settings.**
Innovation 🟢	• **High social and methodological innovation through integration of remote sensing, local knowledge and participatory approaches.** • **Universities play a key role in ensuring knowledge continuity, supporting future scaling.**



CASE STUDY - WATERPIP-KAN (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

Kenya

- Tangible NGO–university engagement with communities and WUAs.
- Remote sensing combined with local knowledge applied in irrigation practice.
- Clear cognitive and relational change, with emerging behavioural shifts and early authority uptake.
- Strong youth and women participation.

Ethiopia

- Strong university–community anchoring and shared basin understanding.
- Concrete operational follow-up in selected cases (e.g. canal budget allocation).
- High-quality research outputs aligned with local needs.
- Translation into sustained institutional practice remains gradual.

Limited or absent change to date

Kenya

- Institutional embedding in county planning and budgets not yet secured.
- Remote sensing tools not yet routinised in public authority systems.

Ethiopia

- Behavioural and institutional uptake remains largely prospective.
- Decision-support approaches not yet operational at scale.

Outlook

- If Kenya's tangible uptake and Ethiopia's operational follow-up are consolidated through structured knowledge transfer and formal institutional embedding, WaterPIP-KAN shows strong potential to advance water productivity and reduce agricultural risk. Without systematic translation and sustained authority engagement, impact risks remaining localised or primarily research-driven.

CASE STUDY - WATERPIP-KAN (KENYA & ETHIOPIA)

Lesson learned

- Kenya: Long-standing **local NGOs with strong scientific capacity and high representation of women can translate expertise into decisive community-level action and tangible solution**s. However, limited coordination and co-location with universities reduce opportunities for direct interaction and mutual learning at the same sites.

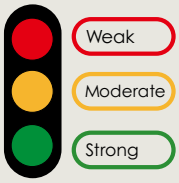
- Ethiopia: **Strong academic engagement with deep territorial anchoring can foster dialogue that leads to concrete operational decision**s, such as public budget allocations for infrastructure improvements. What remains critical is ensuring that knowledge is translated into accessible formats that inform broader and sustained decision-making processes.

Recommendation

- Kenya: **Consolidate and document early results**, strengthen long-term actor linkages (including the private sector where relevant), and move from food production toward reduced risk and higher incomes through more productive and reliable irrigation.

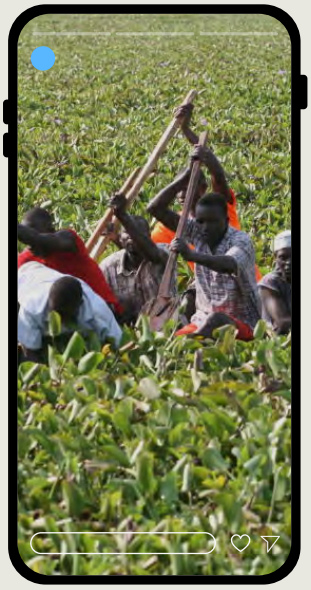
- Ethiopia: Strengthen **knowledge translation so research becomes accessible** and actionable, with youth and women actively involved at all stages of transfer and in sustained community and institutional decision-making.

CASE STUDY - NILEWELL (ETHIOPIA) CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC



Project: NileWell – The Gate for Transboundary Water Research and Communication in the Nile Basin
Theme: River Basins & Deltas / Science communication, journalism & knowledge co-production for transboundary water governance
Geographic focus: Nile Basin (multi-country): Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt (with extended engagement and networks in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Eritrea).
Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) 01/12/2022 – 30/09/2026

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	**Strong and innovative delivery of science communication and knowledge co-production outputs** through journalist–scientist fellowships, the NileWell digital platform, Science Wednesdays, and community-based artistic formats (e.g. #EverydayNile exhibitions). Outputs are well documented, multi-lingual, and reach basin-wide audiences across highly politicised contexts. The creation of a transboundary space for evidence-based water narratives represents a clear added value where no comparable platform previously existed.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	Clear **evidence of cognitive, relational and narrative change, particularly in journalists' capacities,** cross-disciplinary trust, and the reframing of Nile issues beyond nationalistic discourses. Documented cases show stories triggering public debate, institutional attention, and local follow-up actions (e.g. environmental inspections, rehabilitation of small infrastructures), though pathways to policy change remain indirect and context-dependent. Outcomes are strongest at the level of agenda-setting, legitimacy, and accountability rather than formal decision-making.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	**High institutional resilience of InfoNile, under the broader Water Journalists Africa network, as a journalist-owned, Southern-led platform with diversified funding and long-term operation beyond individual projects**. Sustainability is strengthened by skills transfer to individual journalists and researchers, whose capacities extend impact beyond NileWell activities. However, basin-wide continuity of transboundary collaboration remains vulnerable to political constraints, mobility restrictions, and reliance on external funding. Long-term sustainability depends on maintaining safe spaces for expression and scaling learning to other regions while preserving editorial independence..



CASE STUDY - NILEWELL (ETHIOPIA)

Contribution to EQs, lessons learnt and recommendations

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• Very strong alignment with SDG 6, SDG 10 and SDG 16, particularly in relation to inclusive governance, transparency and accountability in transboundary water contexts. • Highly relevant in politically sensitive and asymmetrical basin settings, where access to credible, independent and locally grounded knowledge shapes public debate and constrains decision-making.
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	• Strong evidence of high-quality outputs and meaningful outcomes at the level of agenda-setting, public awareness and accountability. • Journalist–scientist collaborations have demonstrably improved investigative depth, credibility and reach of water-related reporting. • Documented cases show stories triggering public debate and institutional responses (e.g. inspections, infrastructure rehabilitation), though translation into sustained policy or regulatory change remains indirect and uneven across countries.
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟢	• Lean, network-based operating model delivers high visibility and influence relative to financial inputs. • Use of fellowships, digital platforms and regional convenings enables basin-wide reach without costly physical infrastructure. • Efficiency is strengthened by leveraging journalists' existing media outlets and careers beyond the project lifecycle.
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• Strong internal governance and editorial independence within InfoNile, fostering trust among journalists and researchers. • Effective cross-border collaboration despite politically constrained environments. • However, formal institutional linkages with basin authorities and regional governance bodies remain limited by design and context, constraining direct policy uptake.
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	• High human and institutional sustainability through skills transfer to journalists and researchers whose work continues beyond NileWell. • Financial sustainability is moderately strong due to diversified funding streams, though continued external support remains necessary. • Long-term transboundary sustainability remains vulnerable to shrinking civic space, political pressure and security constraints in parts of the basin.
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡	• Strong contribution to inclusion through amplification of underrepresented voices and local narratives from across the basin. • Gender and youth are well represented among journalists and fellows, but inclusion is uneven across countries and not systematically tracked as an outcome dimension.
Innovation 🟢	• • High innovation in combining investigative journalism, scientific research, storytelling and arts-based approaches to influence water governance. • NileWell represents a distinctive and transferable model for knowledge co-production and accountability in contested river basins where conventional policy engagement is constrained.

CASE STUDY - NILEWELL (ETHIOPIA)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Strengthened investigative quality and credibility of water reporting through sustained journalist–scientist collaboration.
- Creation of a trusted transboundary platform for evidence-based Nile narratives across politically sensitive contexts.
- Documented cases of stories triggering public debate, institutional attention and local follow-up actions (e.g. inspections, rehabilitation of small infrastructures).
- Increased professional legitimacy and international recognition of basin journalists (e.g. awards), unlocking new networks and funding opportunities, particularly in structurally constrained contexts such as Ethiopia.

Limited or absent change to date

- No systematic translation of investigative reporting into formal basin-level policy reform or regulatory change.
- Limited institutionalisation of journalist–science interfaces within government or basin authorities.
- Uneven impact across countries, reflecting differing civic space conditions and structural constraints.
- Impact monitoring remains largely qualitative and not systematically tracked beyond selected cases.

Outlook

- If the NileWell programme further strengthens InfoNile's role within Water Journalists Africa as a regional accountability and science-communication platform, it can deepen institutional responsiveness and transboundary water discourse. More context-differentiated support and clearer documentation of influence pathways would enhance impact. Without sustained support and safe civic space, change is likely to remain primarily at the level of narrative and capacity strengthening.

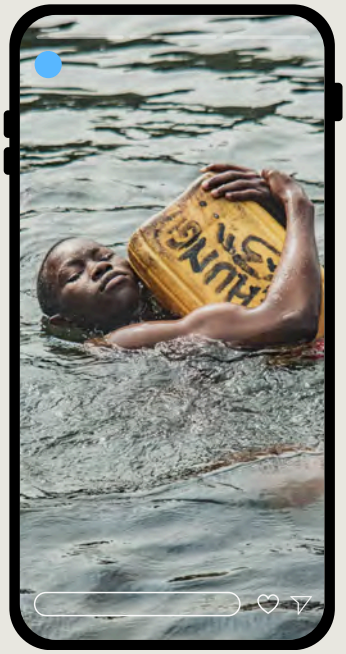
Case study - NILEWELL (Ethiopia)

Lesson learned

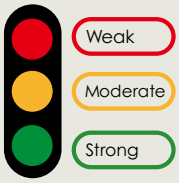
- Ethiopia: where journalists face deeper structural gaps in recognition, funding and international exposure, international awards and visibility have a disproportionate effect: they strengthen professional legitimacy, unlock new resources and networks, and enable sustained investigative work. This shows that **individual recognition can generate systemic impact** in more constrained contexts.
- Regional: NileWell shows that in highly politicised transboundary basins, journalist–scientist collaboration can effectively **shift narratives, build trust and improve the quality of public water discourse**, even when direct policy influence is limited. Impact pathways are indirect and uneven across countries, requiring realistic expectations beyond formal policy change.

Recommendation

- Ethiopia: Adopt a more context-differentiated approach, particularly for Ethiopia, to address structural gaps. Tailor **support and follow-up to national realities**, and strategically leverage individual achievements to facilitate access to funding, partnerships and sustained local impact, while reinforcing NileWell's transboundary narrative.
- Regional: Position NileWell explicitly as a regional **soft-governance and accountability platform, and strengthen systematic documentation of narrative change and institutional responses**. Develop **context-sensitive impact indicators** and reinforce cross-country learning to demonstrate value in politically constrained basin settings.

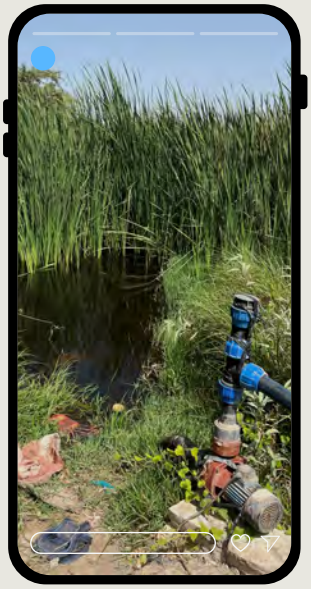


CASE STUDY - WATER MOBILITY (ALGERIA & MALI) CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC



Project: Water Mobility – Irrigation, Climate Change and Mobility
Theme: River Basins & Deltas / Water–Agriculture–Migration Nexus
Geographic focus: Mali (Gao, Timbuktu, Douentza – Sahel transition zones) and Algeria (Province of Ghardaïa, M'Zab Valley and Saharan agricultural extension areas). The project follows trans-Saharan mobility routes linking water-scarce Sahelian regions with groundwater-dependent Saharan agriculture.
Duration: 18 months (WDPP3 Small-Scale Project) 11/2023-04/2025

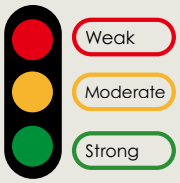
Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	**Strong delivery of interdisciplinary research and arts-based knowledge co-production on the water–irrigation–mobility nexus.** Comparative fieldwork, ethical research training, and cultural formats (podcast, theatre, slam, comic, storymap) generated context-sensitive, multilingual outputs. The project created protected research–art collaboration spaces in politically sensitive migration contexts, enabling discussion of groundwater exploitation and migrant labour precarity.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	**Strengthened analytical capacity** to challenge simplified 'climate refugee' narratives and foreground the socio-ecological interdependencies between water scarcity, groundwater extraction and migrant labour.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	Strong **human and methodological sustainability through skills transfer and durable interdisciplinary networks**. Institutional anchoring remains deliberately selective, as engagement in formal migration policy arenas carries political risk. Sustainability depends on embedding findings within groundwater and agricultural governance dialogues rather than migration control frameworks.



CASE STUDY - WATER MOBILITY (ALGERIA & MALI)

Contribution to EQ

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	**Strong alignment with SDG 6, SDG 2 and SDG 10 and Dutch priorities on climate adaptation and inclusive knowledge.** **Highly relevant in fragile Sahel–Sahara contexts where irrigation, labour mobility and climate variability intersect.** **Highly relevant in addressing the double invisibility of groundwater depletion and migrant labour in Saharan agriculture.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	**High-quality interdisciplinary outputs delivered. Strong evidence of narrative reframing and strengthened analytical capacity.** **Impact concentrated at the level of discourse, professional capacity and local dialogue, while structural labour recognition**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟢	**Lean, network-based model leveraging early-career professionals and digital collaboration tools.** **Arts-based dissemination enhanced accessibility and reach with limited infrastructure costs.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	**Institutional design deliberately avoided public university or ministry anchoring in Algeria to prevent censorship, opting for private and youth-led structures to protect research autonomy.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	**Strong human and intellectual sustainability. Financial and institutional sustainability remain dependent on continued funding and strategic positioning.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡	**Strong equity focus on migrants and agricultural workers with explicit ethical safeguards.** **Gender and youth engaged as active contributors.**
Innovation 🟢	**High innovation in integrating hydrology, migration studies and arts-based methodologies as core research tools in sensitive contexts..**



CASE STUDY - WATER MOBILITY (ALGERIA & MALI)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Strengthened interdisciplinary understanding of the water–irrigation–mobility nexus.
- Reframed migration narratives from crisis discourse to adaptive strategy.
- Created safe dialogue spaces across Mali and Algeria.
- Increased visibility and capacity of early-career researchers and artists.
- Increased visibility of migrant workers' role in sustaining groundwater-based agricultural systems.

Limited or absent change to date

- No direct influence on formal migration or water policy frameworks.
- Limited institutional embedding in ministries or basin authorities.
- Impact monitoring largely qualitative.
- No formal recognition mechanisms for migrant agricultural labour influenced to date.

Outlook

- If strategically positioned within agricultural, climate and water governance platforms, Water Mobility can gradually strengthen institutional receptivity. Without sustained support and safe civic space, impact will remain concentrated at the level of narrative and capacity

CASE STUDY - WATER MOBILITY (ALGERIA & MALI)

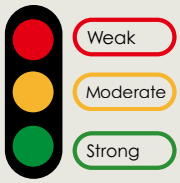
Lesson learned

- In contexts where both water resources and migrant labour operate in conditions of political ambiguity, arts-based research can surface hidden socio-ecological injustices without direct institutional confrontation. However, discursive visibility does not automatically translate into labour recognition or groundwater governance reform.

Recommendation

- Future engagement should frame migrant labour recognition as integral to groundwater sustainability and agricultural resilience. By positioning findings within irrigation and climate adaptation policy arenas rather than migration control debates, the project can increase institutional receptivity while mitigating political risk.

CASE STUDY - BEWOP PHASE 4B CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC



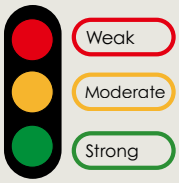
Project: Boosting Effectiveness of Water Operators' Partnerships (BEWOP) Strategic Global Partnership
Theme: Water & Health / Institutional Capacity Development
Geographic focus: Global (EU-WOP Programme – 22 partnerships across Africa, Asia & LAC)
Duration: Multi-phase programme under WDPP (current phase 4b)

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	**Delivery of structured knowledge development, methodological guidance and facilitation for Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs).** Outputs include global Communities of Practice, practitioner-oriented research, methodological tools, learning events and support to EU-WOP implementation. BEWOP functions as a coordination and knowledge consolidation platform embedded within GWOPA.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡	**Improved quality, coherence and visibility of WOP practice globally.** Strengthened professional capacity among participating utilities and increased methodological clarity on partnership design, climate resilience integration and performance improvement processes. Outcomes primarily occur at professional, institutional learning and sector discourse levels.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	**Institutional anchoring within GWOPA (UN-Habitat) provides structural continuity.** Sustainability at programme level reinforced by EU-WOP Phase 2. Utility-level sustainability remains dependent on national regulatory, governance and financing conditions beyond BEWOP's direct control.

CASE STUDY - BEWOP PHASE 4B

Contribution to EQ

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	**Strong alignment with SDG 6 and Dutch MFA priorities on public water governance and institutional capacity strengthening. Directly addresses structural capacity gaps in utilities in low- and middle-income countries. Positions WOPs as solidarity-based peer learning mechanisms within a UN-hosted framework.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	**High-quality BEWOP-specific outputs delivered, including the Special Issue on WOPs (IWA Journal), global Communities of Practice facilitation, methodological guidance for EU-WOP partnerships and structured learning events. Evidence shows strengthened methodological coherence and professional exchange across EU-WOP partnerships. Direct improvements in service performance remain mediated through partner utilities and are not directly attributable to BEWOP.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟢	**Lean coordination structure embedded in GWOPA leveraging EU-WOP investments. WDPP funding acts as catalytic support with high multiplier effect relative to budget size.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟢	**Strong institutional anchoring within GWOPA (UN-Habitat). Clear governance architecture and global legitimacy. However, embedding within national regulatory systems varies across contexts.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡	**Sustainability is strong at the level of knowledge infrastructure and institutional anchoring within GWOPA. Continuity is reinforced through alignment with EU-WOP Phase 2. However, long-term utility-level impact remains dependent on national governance and financing frameworks beyond BEWOP's direct mandate.l.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟢	**Inclusion of Global South utilities as knowledge co-producers. Programme-level gender and demographic tracking is active within the Global WOPs Community, including disaggregated participation data and dedicated webinars on diversity and inclusion.**
Innovation 🟢	**Structured global model for institutional peer-to-peer learning in public utilities, integrating research, facilitation and policy dialogue within a multilateral framework.**



CASE STUDY - BEWOP PHASE 4B

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Completion and publication of a Special Issue on Water Operators' Partnerships, strengthening practitioner-led knowledge production.
- Consolidation and facilitation of Global Communities of Practice for WOP practitioners.
- Contribution to the EU-WOP Programme assessment and methodological reflection processes.
- Structured Enablers Dialogues fostering exchange on enabling conditions for WOP implementation.
- Development and delivery of training modules on utility management, climate resilience, drinking water safety planning, low-income community Engagement and Sanitation, implemented in collaboration with partner utilities.

Limited or absent change to date

- Financial linking of utility partnerships with infrastructure investments has been strengthened, together with actions to enable supportive policy and regulatory frameworks and improve WOP performance, even though WOPs and systems still require additional and innovative sources of funding.
- Limited evidence of measurable service delivery improvements directly attributable to BEWOP knowledge interventions.
- Impact pathways are primarily mediated through EU-WOP, WaterWorX and GWOPA members, meaning downstream service improvements remain indirect.

Outlook

- IIf systematically linked to regulatory frameworks, national investment cycles and financing mechanisms, BEWOP-supported WOPs can strengthen institutional reform pathways within utilities. Without stronger integration into financing and regulatory systems, impact is likely to remain concentrated at the level of professional capacity, methodological coherence and sectoral learning.

CASE STUDY - BEWOP PHASE 4B

Lesson learned

- Global knowledge consolidation and structured facilitation can professionalise institutional peer partnerships and enhance sector coherence. However, partnership-based learning alone does not automatically translate into structural utility reform without enabling financial and governance conditions.

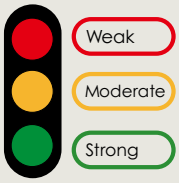
Recommendation

- As BEWOP has become structurally embedded within the global WOP architecture, the strategic priority now lies in consolidating its impact pathway. Future phases should strengthen the systematic linkage between WOP processes and financing and regulatory frameworks, ensuring that partnership learning translates into measurable service performance improvements. Refining monitoring systems to better connect peer-exchange activities with utility-level outcomes will be critical to demonstrate long-term added value. This deepening of institutional anchoring should reinforce — not dilute — the solidarity-based and non-commercial ethos that constitutes the comparative strength of the WOP model. As BEWOP operates primarily as a knowledge and facilitation backbone, strengthening its interface with financing and regulatory actors will be key to deepening downstream impact.

CASE STUDY - WATER MIRRORS (COLOMBIA & MEXICO)

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC

Project: Water Mirrors – Exchanging Knowledge for Sustainable Water Management
Theme: Urban wetlands / Identity & Knowledge Co-production
Geographic focus: Colombia (Bogotá – Tunjuelo Wetland) & Mexico (Xochimilco)
Duration: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026 (36 months) Extension requested until July 2026 (budget neutral)

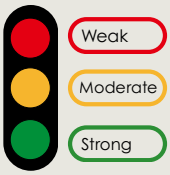


Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	**Strong delivery of applied MSc research, reciprocal South–South exchange visits, community-based water quality monitoring, audiovisual documentation and comparative knowledge production.** The mirror methodology was operationalised through structured contextual reflection (Stage I), process interaction (Stage II), and joint outputs (Stage III). Outputs combine academic rigour with socially embedded learning and intercultural dialogue, including documentary material and a joint scientific article under preparation.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	**Clear cognitive, relational and behavioural change is observable at community level.** In Colombia, communities show strengthened territorial confidence, increased awareness of monitoring tools and interest in generating their own water-quality data. In Mexico, research dynamics shifted from extractive practices toward co-created agenda-setting, including community-led seminar initiatives. Cross-border solidarity and identity reinforcement are evident. Institutional uptake by authorities remains indirect and not yet formalised.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	**University–community alliances have strengthened significantly, where no structured relationship previously existed.** Equipment transfer and methodological training enable continued monitoring beyond the project period. Ongoing seminar activities and planned joint publications indicate emerging continuity. However, no formal long-term agreements or secured follow-up funding mechanisms are yet established. Sustainability remains relational and emerging rather than structurally institutionalised.

CASE STUDY - WATER MIRRORS (COLOMBIA & MEXICO)

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	**Highly aligned with SDG 6 and inclusive water governance priorities. The project addresses ecological degradation of urban wetlands, identity erosion and power asymmetries in knowledge production.** **The South–South mirror approach strengthens contextualisation and directly contributes to WDPP3's knowledge co-production mandate.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	**High-quality outputs were delivered and translated into measurable relational and cognitive shifts.** **Communities demonstrate increased agency, strengthened negotiation narratives and willingness to engage in evidence-based territorial advocacy.** **Behavioural change at institutional level remains prospective rather than consolidated.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡🟢	**Exchange visits functioned as catalytic interventions that generated disproportionate relational impact relative to financial input.** **Integration with parallel projects (e.g., Trans-Path-Plan) enhanced knowledge spillovers.** **Transaction costs are moderate but justified by the depth of engagement and co-learning achieved..**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡	**Strong institutional anchoring within GWOPA (UN-Habitat). Clear governance architecture and global legitimacy. However, embedding within national regulatory systems varies across contexts.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	**Functional collaboration between universities and civil society organisations is in place.** **Authority engagement occurs indirectly through community empowerment rather than formal governance embedding.** **Institutional anchoring within municipal systems remains limited and dependent on follow-up formalisation.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡	**The project demonstrates decolonial research practice, epistemic justice through intended community co-authorship, linguistic accessibility (Spanish outputs), gender inclusion and integration of science, art and cosmovision.** **Power asymmetries in knowledge production were explicitly addressed.**
Innovation 🟢	**Conceptually innovative mirror methodology linking identity, ecology and governance across geographies.** **The integration of ritual, documentary storytelling and scientific monitoring constitutes high epistemic and methodological innovation beyond conventional technical cooperation models.**



CASE STUDY - WATER MIRRORS (COLOMBIA & MEXICO)

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

Colombia

- Strengthened territorial confidence and collective identity around wetland stewardship. Communities express concrete interest in conducting independent water-quality monitoring and using academic outputs for negotiation with authorities. Cross-border inspiration (e.g., biofilter approaches) influenced local reflection.

Mexico

- Shift from extractive research dynamics toward co-created knowledge production. Community-led seminar cycles addressing extractivism were initiated. Solidarity networks between community actors in Xochimilco and academic partners across countries have deepened.

Limited or absent change to date

- No formal policy adoption or binding agreements with municipal authorities have yet been secured. Institutional embedding within public planning systems remains prospective. Long-term financing beyond the current grant period is not yet formalised.

Outlook

- If monitoring equipment use is consolidated, the joint scientific article is finalised with community co-authorship, and emerging alliances are lightly formalised (MoU or follow-up funding), Water Mirrors has strong potential to translate relational innovation into durable governance impact. Without such consolidation, impact risks remaining primarily epistemic and community-based.oral learning.

CASE STUDY - WATER MIRRORS (COLOMBIA & MEXICO)

Lesson learned

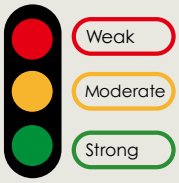
- Deep relational investment and epistemic humility can transform historically extractive research relationships into durable alliances. South–South exchanges reinforce identity, solidarity and community agency even before formal institutional change occurs. Empowerment through tools, authorship recognition and reciprocal visits generates behavioural readiness for future governance engagement.

Recommendation

- Consolidate emerging alliances through light but formal mechanisms (MoU, joint declaration or follow-up proposal) and document continuity of community-led monitoring as measurable sustainability evidence. Finalise bilingual publication outputs to ensure both international visibility and local accessibility. Embed the mirror methodology into future WDPP knowledge exchange models.

CASE STUDY - DJI MANSA: YOUTH-LED CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOC



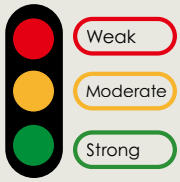
Project: Dji Mansa: Youth-led citizen science initiative in Sub-Saharian Africa for ecological sustainability
Theme: Water Quality, Ecological Sustainability & Citizen Science
Geographic focus: Mali & Niger (Niger River Basin)
Duration: 2023–2025 (18 months)

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	**High-quality citizen science activities delivered**, including community interviews, focus groups, joint water sampling with laboratory actors, youth mobilisation, documentary production and cross-border dissemination. Outputs integrate **traditional ecological knowledge with scientific water quality analysis**.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	Evidence of **strengthened trust between riverine communities, youth professionals and technical institutions**. Improved local treatment practices and increased awareness of pollution sources observed. Institutional uptake remains emerging rather than formalised.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡	Strong **social legitimacy and ownership**. However, long-term embedding in regulatory and basin-level governance frameworks depends on **sustained financing and formal partnerships beyond the project scope**.

CASE STUDY - DJI MANSA: YOUTH-LED CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	**Strong alignment with SDG6 and ecological sustainability priorities.** **Addresses deteriorating water quality, declining fisheries and rising treatment costs.** **Responds to context-specific governance gaps in Sahelian river systems.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	**Clear relational and awareness outcomes at community level.** **Strengthened youth leadership and cross-border collaboration (Mali–Niger).** **Behavioural adaptations observed (improved use of coagulation practices).** **Structural policy change not yet evidenced.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡	**Lean budget leveraged strong community participation and international visibility.** **High contextual constraints (security, logistics) managed effectively.** **Scaling efficiency not yet demonstrated.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡	**Productive collaboration between civil society, youth associations and utility laboratory.** **Engagement with decision-makers initiated but not institutionalised.** **Basin-wide coordination remains limited.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡	**Strong social and cultural sustainability logic.** **Financial and regulatory continuity not secured within timeframe.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟢	**Youth empowerment central.** **Indigenous knowledge explicitly recognised.** **Decolonial knowledge integration approach.**
Innovation 🟢	**Combines storytelling, citizen science and laboratory validation.** **Bridges epistemic divide between riverine knowledge and technical expertise.**



CASE STUDY - DJI MANSA: YOUTH-LED CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

MALI

- Strengthened dialogue between Bozo riverine communities and SOMAGEP laboratory actors, narrowing the gap between community knowledge and technical expertise. Exchanges on water sampling and treatment improved understanding of pollution trends and rising treatment costs. Communities also expressed interest in more structured participatory monitoring, signalling growing ownership beyond project activities.

Niger

- Dji Mansa strengthened mobilisation within the Sorko community and reinforced youth engagement around water quality issues. Awareness of ecological degradation and its effects on fisheries and adaptive livelihoods has grown, alongside a clear demand from local actors to continue and expand the initiative regionally.

Limited or absent change to date Mali & Niger

- Citizen-generated evidence has not yet been formally integrated into regulatory or utility monitoring systems. While environmental protection laws exist, enforcement remains limited, constraining structural change. Engagement has largely been concentrated in selected urban and peri-urban areas, and upstream basin actors are not yet systematically involved in a coordinated governance framework.

Outlook

- If embedded within basin-level dialogue and supported by sustained financing, Dji Mansa has potential to evolve from awareness-building to participatory water governance reform. Without institutional anchoring, impact risks remaining primarily relational and symbolic.

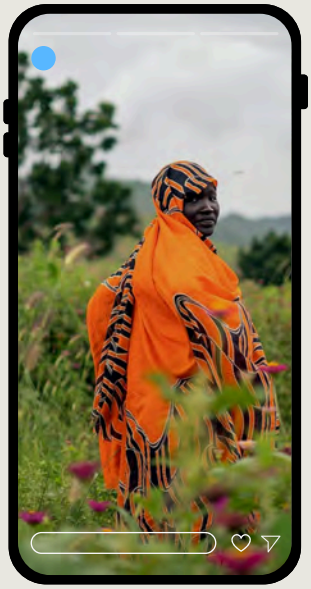
CASE STUDY - DJI MANSA: YOUTH-LED CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Lesson learned

- Citizen science can rebuild trust and generate context-relevant knowledge in fragile river basins; however, without institutional embedding and enforcement mechanisms, its impact remains socially transformative rather than structurally systemic.

Recommendation

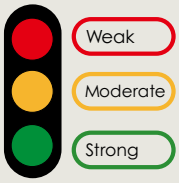
- Strengthen awareness-raising efforts at community and institutional levels, while formalising community-based monitoring partnerships with utilities and regulators. Facilitate basin-level dialogue, including upstream countries, and promote structured knowledge exchange with other WDPP3 contexts such as Kenya and Ethiopia to enhance cross-regional learning and policy traction.



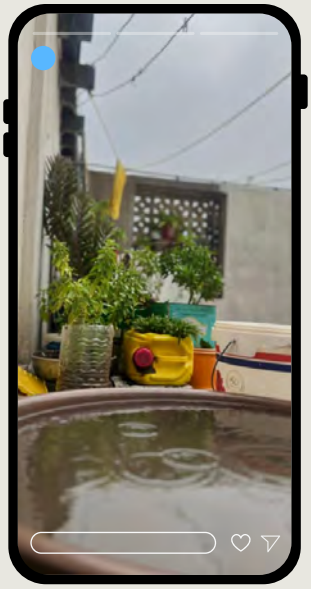
CASE STUDY – URAHA (YEMEN) URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING

Theme: Water for Food, Water and Health
Geographic focus:
- **Yemen**

Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) – 31/08/2023 – 31/07/2027



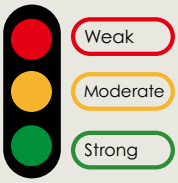
Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢	Strong delivery of training and education activities and applied research under close collaboration between universities and local institutions. Training provided to water utilities and WUAs, research conducted by MSc and PhD students, and incorporation of local knowledge on rainwater harvesting strengthened contextual relevance and technical robustness.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡	Clear evidence of increased knowledge of rainwater harvesting and its application in urban areas following research and training activities. However, the conflict situation in the country is limiting opportunities for broader roll-out and scaling of outcomes.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟢	Training of water utilities and WAUs, together with collaboration with local organisations, supports institutional uptake of results. Financial sustainability is reinforced through embedment within participating universities and partner organisations.



CASE STUDY – URAHA (YEMEN) URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6, 10 and responding to Dutch water sector policies.** • **Within the given political situation, the project is very relevant for access to water for food and health.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟢	• **High-quality participatory and research outputs delivered.** • **The project strategy of partnership, research, education and institutional strengthening is highly effective to deliver outputs that lead to relevant outcomes.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡	• **The project is highly efficient in terms of delivered activities, based on collaborative action between various academic and civil society actors, in relation to financial inputs and institutional contributions.** • **Challenges in transactions between north and south Yemen may hamper the project's efficiency**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟢	• **The institutional arrangements between participating universities, local organisations, utilities and associations are very conducive for achieving the objectives and activities of the project with a high attainment rate.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡	• **Embedment in local organisations and local ownership of the project by partners are factors that are favourable for sustaining the project's results.** • **The instability in the country makes future sustainability of the action insecure.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟢	• **The multi-layer, multi-actor character of the project ensures addressing cross-cutting issues. Gender equity and social inclusion are high on the agenda within the project's activities.** • **Indigenous rainwater harvesting techniques are fostered within the context of advocacy and research, contributing to inclusive water management.**
Innovation 🟡	• **Innovation in approach and inclusiveness to rainwater harvesting and inclusive water management.** • **Action oriented research by MSc and PhD students on access to water, including for vulnerable groups, and social aspects of rainwater harvesting and inytroducing new techniques.**



CASE STUDY – URAHA (YEMEN) URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Demand responsiveness by developing training packages and implementing training activities for water utilities and WUAs.
- Inclusiveness high priority in access to water
- Advocacy and research are spear heads of the project

Limited or absent change to date

- Focus remains on applied research and partnerships.

Outlook

- Strong commitment of project partners and the project strategy aligning with WDPP3 pillars and principles look favourable for local take up of results and institutional achievements.
- Challenges for the project are the political situation, financial conditions and problems regarding transactions, limited number of female employees in target organisations, and limited internet access.

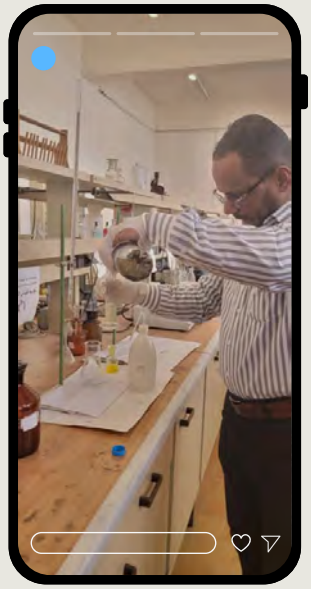
CASE STUDY – URAHA (YEMEN) URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING

Lesson learned

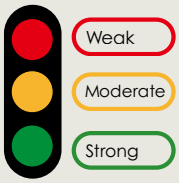
- Partnership of local organisations, academic institutions and stakeholder groups are conducive to achieving tangible project objectives.
- The effectiveness of the project achievements for reaching the objectives remain unsure in a conflictive political environment

Recommendation

- Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for structural measuring outcomes and impacts of project's activities and outputs in the longer term.
- Study effects of the project strategies on gender equity, social inclusion and sustainability on access to safe water, and if relevant, recommend strategy adjustments.



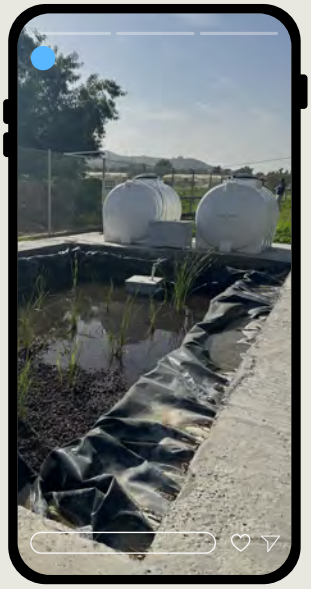
CASE STUDY – SAFEAGROMENA (JORDAN, EGYPT) REUSE OF NUTRIENT-RICH TREATED WASTEWATER FOR A FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MENA: ADDRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS THROUGH AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TOOLS



Theme: Water and Health
Geographic focus:
- **Jordan. Egypt, Iraq**

Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) – 01/10/2022 – 01/10/2026

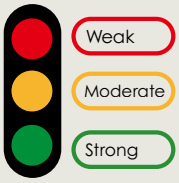
Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢🟢	**Jordan**. High degree of implementation of planned activities as per the project proposal. Activities particularly in education and research, and mobilising partnership between implementation partners, RSS and Mutah University. High delivery leads to outputs in applied research results and demonstration pilots to farmers and WUAs. Likewise in **Egypt** the delivery rates in all four components of the project are very high. Consequently the achievement in outputs are similarly very satisfactory.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟢🟢	Both in Jordan and Egypt there is clear evidence of increased knowledge and change resulting in outcomes. Connecting with WUAs and farmer associations, the project in both countries implemented activities that resulted from applied research in the partner organisations.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟢🟡	The engagement of local organisations and embedment in local educational institutions enhance chances of sustainability of the project activities. In Jordan is the relation with local (water management) authorities favourable for uptake by these authorities but there is no evidence as yet that this will occur. In Egypt there is no evidence of engagement of water management authorities in the project activities.



CASE STUDY – SAFEAGROMENA (JORDAN, EGYPT) REUSE OF NUTRIENT-RICH TREATED WASTEWATER FOR A FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MENA: ADDRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS THROUGH AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TOOLS

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6, 10 and inclusive Dutch and country-level water policies and priorities.** • **The activities in both countries are highly relevant for safe water access.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟢	• **High-quality participatory and research outputs delivered.** • **Strong relation between research outputs and their application at farm and water quality management level.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟢	• **In both Jordan and Egypt are the implementing partners efficient in their delivering of project activities and achieving project targets, evidenced by the high rate of implementation in relation to the project plan.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• **In both countries, the project is embedded in strong academic institutions with clear institutional reputations. Although in both countries that engagement with local organisations is string, in Jordan the linkage with water management authorities is more evident than in Jordan.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟢	• **The embedment in and uptake by implementing partners in both countries is conducive for sustainability of the activities.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟢	• **The WDPP3 pillars and principles are very strongly adhered to by the project in both Jordan and Egypt. There is significant attention to gender equity, social inclusion, early career researchers and professionals in project implementation.**
Innovation 🟢	• **In Jordan, the constructed wetland pilot site is implemented with a farmer, member of the WUA and demonstrated to farmers in the region.** • **In Egypt, on-farm irrigation water treatment demonstration site is also implemented in collaboration with and participation of a farmer, and shared with other farmers through the WUA.**



CASE STUDY – SAFEAGROMENA (JORDAN, EGYPT)
REUSE OF NUTRIENT-RICH TREATED WASTEWATER FOR A FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MENA: ADDRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS THROUGH AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TOOLS

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- In both Jordan and Egypt, the research and experimental results are impressive and encouraging. The close collaboration between project implementing academic institutions and local organisations is strong and promising for uptake and sustainability. The institutionalisation of the collaboration is yet to be establishes.

Limited or absent change to date

- Involvement of water management authorities could be strengthened, particularly considering sustainability after the project phase.

Outlook

- The application of research outputs for practical solutions to important water and health consideration is encouraging. The uptake by project implementing institutions and partner organisations in the field is favourable for sustainability prospects. However, more attention could be given to involving water management authorities.

CASE STUDY – SAFEAGROMENA (JORDAN, EGYPT)
REUSE OF NUTRIENT-RICH TREATED WASTEWATER FOR A FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MENA: ADDRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS THROUGH AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TOOLS

Lesson learned

- The embedment of project activities in a receptive institutional setting is important for sustaining activities after project interventions.
- The institutional arrangements between partner organisations have been conducive for the implementation of the project in both countries.
- Engagement of local water authorities may be essential to ensure sustainability.

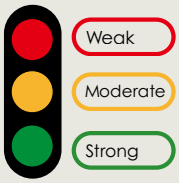
Recommendation

- Engage with water management authorities to institutionalise outcomes of research and experimental activities of the project.

Observation

- The exchange between project implementation partners in Jordan and Egypt has been very strong. Resulting in joint training activities and exchange of findings and experiences. Partners in Iraq are informed as well and may attend meetings and workshops.

CASE STUDY – ABCDRYBASIN (JORDAN, EGYPT) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH REINFORCED INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SMART TOOLS FOR SOCIALLY-JUST WATER MANAGEMENT



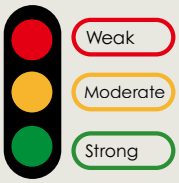
Theme: River Basins and Deltas
Geographic focus: Jordan; Yemen; Egypt; Nigeria; Ethiopia; Lebanon; Tunisia
Duration: (WDPP3) – 01/04/2023 – 01/08/2026

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢🟢	Strong delivery of applied research, MSc and PhD fieldwork, and co-produced analyses of water saving techniques in irrigated agriculture. Outputs are technically sound and result in piloting activities on-farm.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟢🟡	In both countries, there is a clear evidence of relation between applied research and application in the field of new technologies in water saving in agriculture, water harvesting and reduced water use irrigation. Systematic uptake by water management authorities and durable change in water use in irrigated agriculture are yest to be established
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟢🟡	The engagement of local organisations and embedment in educational institutions enhance chances of institutional sustainability of the project activities. Financial sustainability of the project beyond this project phase is uncertain. Long term effects depend to a large extend of the results of the experimental living labs and the dissemination thereof.

CASE STUDY – ABCDRYBASIN (JORDAN, EGYPT) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH REINFORCED INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SMART TOOLS FOR SOCIALLY-JUST WATER MANAGEMENT

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6, 10 and water for food priorities.** • **Highly relevant in to enhance access to scarce water and water-saving techniques and practices for agriculture.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟢	• **Quality research outputs and their practical application delivered and demonstrated.** • **Strong relation between research outputs and their application at farm and water saving management level.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟢	• **In both Jordan and Egypt are the implementing partners efficient in their delivering of project activities and achieving project targets, evidenced by the high rate of implementation in relation to the project plan.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• **In Jordan there is a strong academic alliance to implement the project. Relations with water management authorities are not evident and with farmer communities limited to demonstration of living lab experiments.** • **In Egypt the project is coordinated by an international NGO and implemented together with a university. The operational relations are that the NGO manages the project and the university implements research and experimenting on the field.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟢	• **The embedment of the project in local organisations is favourable for sustainability of the activities.** • **There is a clear local ownership of the project and activities in the countries, even though coordination of the overall project is with an organisation in Lebanon.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	• **In both countries the WDPP3 principles are advocated throughout project implementation. The attention to gender equity, early career researcher and professionals, inclusiveness and sustainability was more explicit in Jordan than in Egypt.**
Innovation 🟡	• **The innovation lies in the introduction of new on-farm water saving irrigation techniques and water harvesting techniques.**



CASE STUDY – ABCDRYBASIN (JORDAN, EGYPT) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH REINFORCED INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SMART TOOLS FOR SOCIALLY-JUST WATER MANAGEMENT

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- In both Jordan and Egypt, the research and experimental results are well presented and encouraging. The close collaboration between project implementing partner institutions is strong and promising for uptake and sustainability. However, the relation with local wáter management authorities and outreach to communities are still to be established.

Limited or absent change to date

- In both Jordan and Egypt, the activities at the living labs are too recent to present research and dissemination results.
- There is no exchange between project countries on activities and research.

Outlook

- The application of research outputs for practical solutions to important water for food consideration is encouraging. The uptake by project implementing institutions and partner organisations may be favourable for sustainability prospects. However, more attention could be given to involving water management authorities and outreach to farmer communities.

CASE STUDY – ABCDRYBASIN (JORDAN, EGYPT) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION TO ENHANCE DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH REINFORCED INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SMART TOOLS FOR SOCIALLY-JUST WATER MANAGEMENT

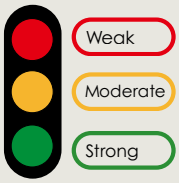
Lesson learned

- The embedment of project activities in a receptive institutional setting is important for sustaining activities after project interventions.
- Engagement of local water authorities and outreach to farmer communities may be essential to ensure sustainability.

Recommendation

- Engage with water management authorities to institutionalise outcomes of research and experimental activities of the project.
- Establish a functional platform for information exchange between projects in the different project countries and encourage exchange of research outputs and experiment results.

CASE STUDY – WASH GENDER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF GENDER-BASED DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SOUTH-NIGERIA



Theme: Water and Health
Geographic focus:
- **Nigeria**

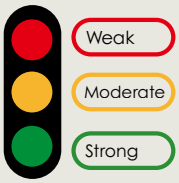
Duration: (WDPP3) – 01/12/2022 – 30/06/2024

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢🟢	A consortium of 6 partners addressed cultural challenges with access to water. Activities included observations, focus group discussions, local workshops, joint learning, platform for institutional engagement, advocacy and research, school WASH projects. Outputs include 3 PhDs, publications, media involvement, uptake by government, awareness.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	There is clear evidence that the outputs have resulted in improved knowledge, increased awareness and policy development. Study outputs are shared by knowledge bearers. Knowledge transfer by joint learning
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	The network of project partners is still operational. The project has ended but the consortium intends to respond to new calls.

CASE STUDY – WASH GENDER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF GENDER-BASED DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SOUTH-NIGERIA

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Strong alignment with SDGs 6, access to water for all, gender and indigenous knowledge** • **Highly relevant on gender equity and social inclusion.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟢	• **High-quality participatory and research outputs delivered. The strategy of joint learning and awareness raising was effective to reach policy makers and improve understanding in communities.**
Efficiency (EQ10–12) 🟡🟢	• **Outputs and outcomes are substantial in relation to the project budget. Potential impact in the longer term yet to be established.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟡🟢	• **The partnership of 6 implementing partners still exists after the project ended in June 2024.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	• **Strong on gender empowerment and social inclusion. Cultural beliefs being exploited for water saving management in low rainfall periods. Publications and awareness had significant follow up, and are continuing. Sustainability of change to be assessed.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	• **Project focus on women empowerment and improve access to water in low water availability periods. Other water supply methods explored. Policy makers made aware of water access issues at local level.**
Innovation 🟢	• **First project addressing socio-cultural and environmental factors in relation to access to water.**



CASE STUDY – WASH GENDER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF GENDER-BASED DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SOUTH-NIGERIA

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Increased understanding of the role of socio-cultural factors in water saving strategies in periods of low availability.
- Raised awareness at policy and international level.

Limited or absent change to date

Outlook

- The project implementing consortium intends to continue studies and activities to increase awareness on the subject. It also intends to respond to new calls to extend awareness and develop strategies to address the subject.

CASE STUDY – WASH GENDER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF GENDER-BASED DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SOUTH-NIGERIA

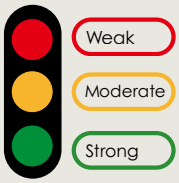
Lesson learned

- Addressing local socio-cultural aspects of water management through participatory research and awareness creation is highly affective.

Recommendation

- The project has ended but has potential to extend impact. The consortium will develop a proposal and plan to respond to a possible new call.
- Dissemination of study results and outcomes in action to a wider public. In general increase visibility and mediating of the repository.

CASE STUDY – RISK WASH
RISK-BASED DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMANITARIAN WASH



Theme: Water and Health
Geographic focus:
- **Uganda, Bangladesh**

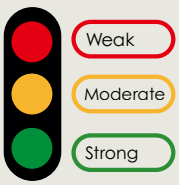
Duration: Ongoing (WDPP3) – 01/12/2022 – 21/12/2026

Theory of Change Dimension	Description
Activities → Outputs 🟢🟢	A research and advocacy project on WASH in refugee camps in Uganda and Bangladesh. Three PhD studies in these countries and the Netherlands compare risk assessment tools related to sanitation with the objective to contribute to reducing risks for vulnerable groups. Outputs to improve sanitary conditions and less diseases for vulnerable refugees.
Outputs → Outcomes 🟡🟢	There is a clear linkage between the research results and proposed action in health interventions. Outcomes are improved conditions in sanitation for vulnerable groups. This is to to be assessed.
Institutional & Financial Sustainability 🟡🟢	The project is driven by recognised and respected universities and NGOs in both Uganda (Makerere University and Red Cross) and Bangladesh (International Centre for Diarrhea Research and BRAC), and IHE. The project is locally owned in sub-projects. The institutional arrangement is favourable for sustainability. Finaqncial sustainability is not clear.

CASE STUDY – RISK WASH
RISK-BASED DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMANITARIAN WASH

Contribution to EQs

Evaluation Dimension	Key Findings
Relevance (EQ1–4) 🟢	• **Project directly aligns with Dutch water policies, SDG6 and WDPP strategies on improved access to safe sanitation and by vulnerable groups.** • **Highly relevant in social inclusion and access to safe sanitation.**
Effectiveness (EQ5–9) 🟡🟢	• **Participatory research should lead to identifying tools to use for safe sanitation. Outcomes should show effectiveness of the strategy.**
Institutional Arrangements (EQ13–18) 🟢	• **In both Uganda and Bangladesh the institutional arrangements are solid and conducive for the project.**
Sustainability (EQ19–21) 🟡🟢	• **Set up and partnership within the project is favourable for uptake of project results by the participating organisations. Sustainability of interventions is related to uptake by authorities. Dissemination of research results and advocacy activities will enhance the chance of sustainable action.**
Cross-cutting Dimensions 🟡🟢	• **Project addresses humanitarian refugee sector in both countries. It aligns with strategies on gender equity and social inclusion. The involvement of project partners creates a framework for further outreach.**
Innovation 🟢	• **Innovation is in the approach of research and advocacy of health interventions that are used in high income countries but not in refugee settings.**



CASE STUDY – RISK WASH
RISK-BASED DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMANITARIAN WASH

OBSERVED CHANGE TO DATE AND OUTLOOK

Change observed to date

- Strengthened understanding of use of tools for safe sanitation in humanitarian challenging context.
- Involvement of early career researchers
- Advocacy of safe sanitation

Limited or absent change to date

- Engaging of authorities is essential to realise improved access to safe sanitation

Outlook

- Project shows large potential to improve sanitation conditions for vulnerable groups. Clear dissemination of research results and advocacy towards local authorities is essential. Embedment in strong partners at academic and implementation level is promising for uptake of results.

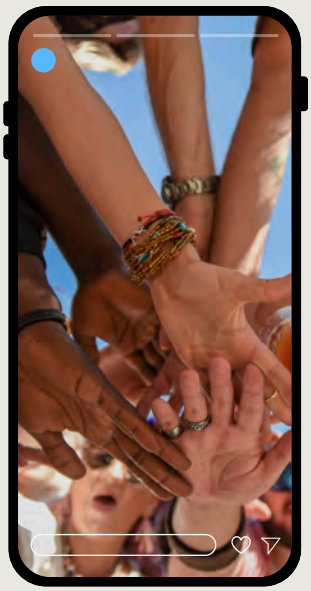
CASE STUDY – RISK WASH
RISK-BASED DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMANITARIAN WASH

Lesson learned

- Institutional backing at academic level and implementation outreach is an important condition for achieving expected outcomes and effects.
- Engaging local authorities will enhance improved access to safe sanitation.

Recommendation

- Strengthen dissemination of research results and advocacy activities on the use of studied tools for improved access to safe sanitation for vulnerable groups.
- Engage with local authorities on involvement in implementation of health interventions resulting from the studies.



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Mid Term Review

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WATER AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

IHE DELFT
Institute for Water Education
under the auspices of UNESCO