

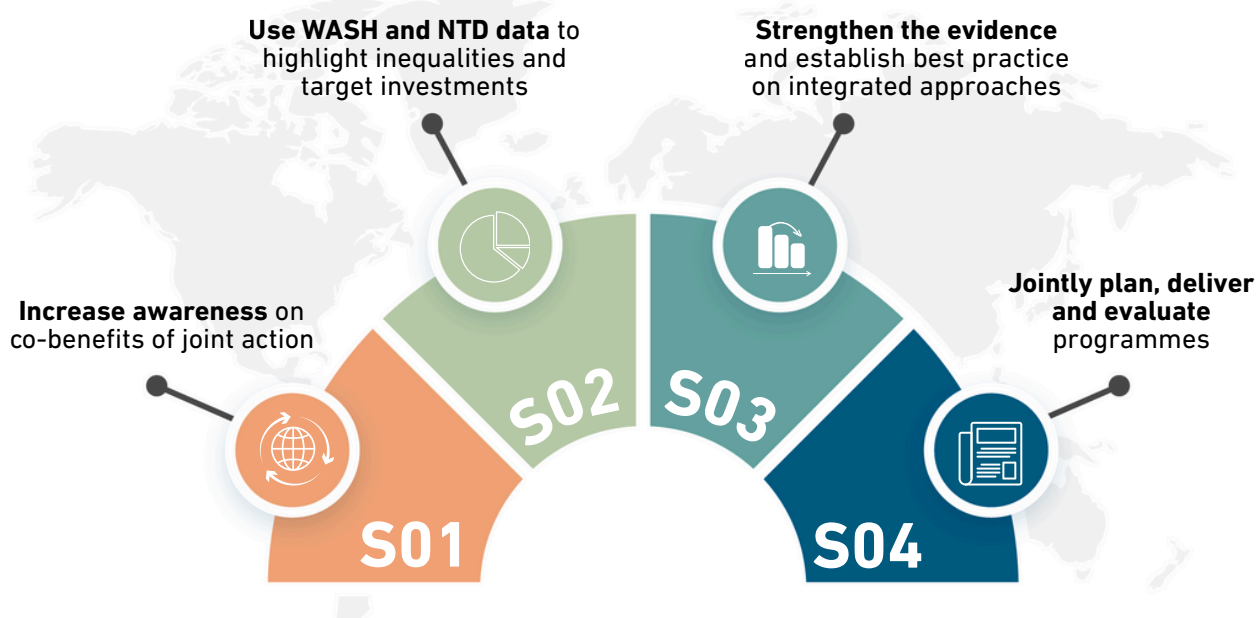
January 2026

Delivering a shared vision: Lessons and gaps following a decade of joint action on WASH and NTDs

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are indisputable pillars of global public health. Well-implemented interventions that result in improved access to WASH by individuals and communities are necessary for the control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Since 2015, the World Health Organization has directed efforts to increase collaboration between WASH and NTDs stakeholders through the Global Strategy on WASH and NTDs, which was updated in 2021 to align with the NTD road map and the Sustainable Development Goals timeframe of 2030.

Over the past decade, progress has taken place at global and country levels in delivering the strategy. The NNN WASH working group has collaborated with WHO to compile information on achievements to date, drawing on international sources and case studies from 16 NTD-endemic countries.



VISION

Accelerated and sustained achievement of the NTD road map targets, particularly amongst the poorest and most vulnerable, through better-targeted and joint WASH and NTD efforts.

The Global Strategy on WASH and NTDs 2021-2030 – Vision and strategic objectives



Increase awareness of the co-benefits of joint action and engagement on WASH and NTDs by sharing experiences and evidence throughout the programme cycle.

To bring sectors together, countries convened cross-sector high-level political meetings and ensured that the NTD agenda was included in national WASH celebrations such as World Water Day, Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet Day. Alongside these public events, progress was enabled by joint presentations to decision makers, inclusion of WASH stakeholders in national NTD taskforces, and the creation of WASH-NTDs technical working groups. WASH-NTDs coordination activities were also funded with multi-country NTD programmes, such as Ascend, Act to End NTDs and Accelerate.



Case studies: report in 2017, case study series on WHO website



Global toolkit: WASH and NTDs collaboration guide (2 editions) and SBC quick guide



Open WHO and WHO Academy course on WASH and NTDs



Two regional training series (East Africa and Latin America)



Use WASH data in NTD programmes and NTD data in WASH programmes to highlight inequalities, target investment, and track progress.

Several countries have created formal WASH/NTD data sharing mechanisms, with three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria) developing data merge platforms. Some countries have created district-level dashboards or maps overlaying district level WASH access and disease distribution. WASH data from the WHO UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme was also modelled to the district level and included on the ESPEN portal to enable data overlay for all countries in the African region. WASH indicators were included in NTD surveys developed by Tropical Data.

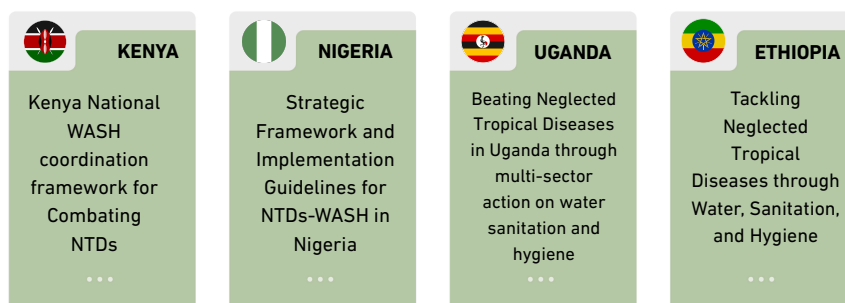
Building on available information, WASH-NTD data is increasingly used in joint planning and resource allocation processes. Data on trachoma, soil transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis has been used to prioritise WASH investment at sub-national level in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, while there has been some use of joint data in humanitarian programming in Sudan and Yemen.



Strengthen evidence and establish best practices on integrated approaches to NTDs based on robust documentation and analysis and embed the findings in guidance and national strategies.

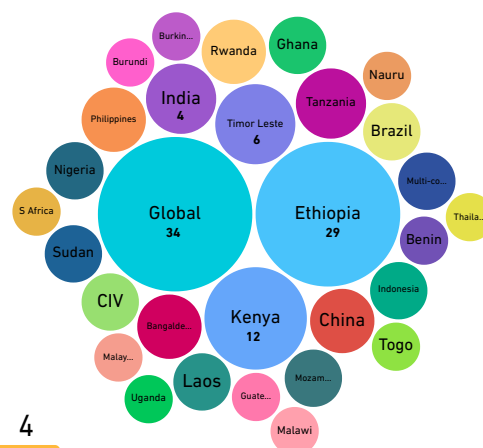
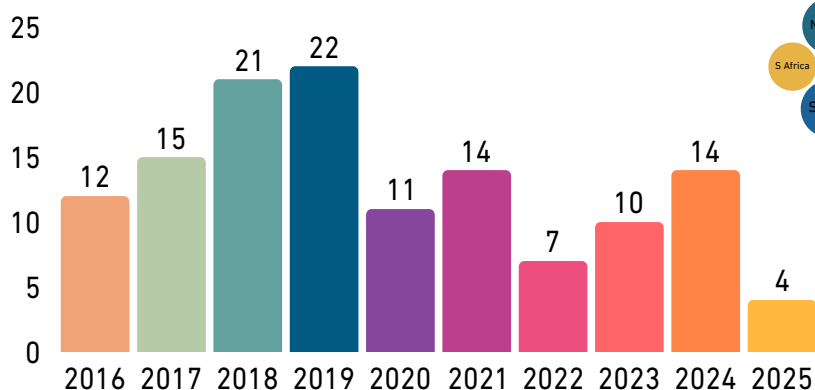
Significant efforts have been made to embed collaboration and integration into national guidelines and strategies. National frameworks on WASH and NTDs have been adopted by several countries, with Ethiopia publishing its framework in 2019, later also publishing a district level WASH and NTDs training toolkit. Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria have also developed their own national coordination frameworks. WASH has also been incorporated in several national NTD master plans and sustainability strategies, and in some countries, joint strategies for social and behaviour change have been developed, including implementation guidance for community-led WASH for schistosomiasis elimination in Laos and Cambodia.

Since 2015, a total of 130 articles on WASH and NTDs have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Around a quarter of these publications took an international perspective of



the issue, while the rest were country specific. With almost 30 articles, Ethiopia has seen the highest number of peer-reviewed articles on the topic, followed by Kenya and Timor Leste.

Peer-reviewed publications – by year, and by country





Jointly plan, deliver and evaluate programmes to enhance the accountability, sustainability and equity of programme impact.

Several countries have established national coordination platforms, with structures and processes defined by the national institutional landscape. These include technical working groups and joint task forces, and sub-national (state, region or county) coordination forums. In countries such as Gambia and Namibia, such coordination has been brought under national One Health platforms as part of broader cross-sector coordination efforts. Where national WASH NGO networks exist, efforts have been made to include these networks in coordination platforms. In some cases, these platforms went beyond coordination to deliver integrated activities, such as social and behaviour change initiatives. Increasingly, coordination has led to joint annual WASH-NTDs planning processes at national and sub-national level. In Kenya, NTDs are now covered within the WASH investment plan.

Remaining gaps and priorities towards 2030

