

W4EE success stories: Ensuring sustainability

KEY SUCCESSSES

- + Secondment of South Sudanese government staff and employment of national professionals to W4EE
- + Engagement of national CBOs, individuals, private consultancy, and infrastructure firms as well as NGOs to ensure local capacity is created
- + Creation of common interest groups to maximise income through environmentally friendly agroforestry and fisheries practices
- + Engagement of water resource users' associations
- + Establishment of Kenneti Watershed Management Board
- + Ownership among water management committees of water points
- + Capacity-building of government hydrological staff
- + Establishment of a GIS centre in Ministry of Physical Infrastructure

Replication and scaling up

From the very beginning of W4EE, the vision has been to start as a national integrated water resource management pilot project and roll out the learnings and successful interventions in other parts of South Sudan. On the institutional side, capacity-building efforts within national, state, and local government and among county staff and NGOs have been critical so that activities such as hydrological monitoring, sanitation and hygiene education, borehole and water pump repair, and water quality testing can continue. Organisational bodies like the Kenneti Watershed Management Committee and the foundational structures beneath it – including water users' associations and common interest groups – ensure the broader ecosystem of the catchment will be managed sustainably in the future.

In the project's final year, capacity for extended support is naturally limited so the focus is on sharing best practice, replicating, and scaling up. Activities like farmer field days are very important, for example, as they not only offer an opportunity for others to learn how a farmer has achieved success, but they also result in new linkages. This could be as simple as a women's cooperative deciding to support one of its members to become a vegetable trader and buy wholesale from the farmer, or another donor-funded project linking to that farmer and other W4EE beneficiaries and scaling his or her successes up rather than starting from scratch. The W4EE team has been dedicated in its efforts to connect village savings and loan associations and water and farm service centres with upcoming financial opportunities and new partners.

70%

South Sudanese nationals'
share of W4EE team



To strengthen the ecosystem, vegetation is increased through agroforestry and soil & water conservation

"The leadership in state government has been critical in supporting the initiative and trying to raise awareness among the community of the importance of water as a resource that must be properly managed. The national government in turn has tried to support by building staff capacity and seconding ministry staff to work directly in the project. We are trying to ensure that the project is owned by nationals at the end of the day, when the project closes, the backstopping comes back to us."

**Alier B. Ngong Oka, Undersecretary,
National Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation**



The W4EE team in Torit is comprised largely of South Sudanese nationals from government and implementing partners. Staff in Kapoeta are not pictured here.



Kingdom of the Netherlands



NIRAS





To ensure ownership of the infrastructure, water management committees (WMCs) comprising community members have been trained in minor operations and maintenance of boreholes, pumps, and small water distribution systems. WMCs collect maintenance funds (anywhere from 50–100SSP or in-kind contributions such as groundnuts or sorghum) per household per month to buy spare parts and pay for mechanics to do repairs. Hand pump mechanics have been taught how to safely lift pipes and replace plunger seals, ensuring repairs can be done at the local level and avoid waiting for county-based mechanics who need vehicles, fuel, and per diems to travel. Pictured here, a local community member cleans around the village hand pump.

Ownership among locals

While the institutionalisation of the process has been important to the success of W4EE, without buy-in from the surrounding community – the water users – progress would stall. With the support of government, the team has done a lot of work to raise awareness about the available resources and how they should be used responsibly, as well as resources that have been over- or misused (e.g., wetlands) and how these need to be rejuvenated. This sense of ownership has been built broadly across communities, in schools, and among interest groups like herders, fishermen, and farmers.

“It’s complicated for sure, but if the water is managed holistically, with everyone understanding at their own level the impact they have up- and downstream and that the resource belongs to everyone, then we are successful.”

Nyika Charles Jacob, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and W4EE team member

Partnerships and local capacity

W4EE brought in multiple local partners to help implement activities. In the area of sanitation and hygiene, Rural Water and Sanitation Support Agency (RUWASSA) – together with Hope for Women and Children Foundation and Moon Light Development Organisation – played an essential role in community-led total sanitation (CLTS) efforts as well as promoting sanitation and hygiene education in schools. Premium Agro Consult and the Innovative Institute of Agriculture, Business, and Capacity Building (IABC) were involved in livelihood interventions, particularly in the creation of and support to model farmers. The project networked with a number of agencies as part of its exit strategy. For example, it collaborated with Cordaid on the initiation of the South Sudan Agribusiness Development Project phase 2, linking W4EE beneficiaries to their upcoming activities.

On issues of strengthening private sector development, the project is liaising with FAO and UNICEF in an effort to develop a common approach to promoting private sector service and input providers such as water and farm service centres and, in cases of relief, to make arrangements with the private sector to handle it. W4EE team members also attend the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure WASH cluster meetings in Torit and Kapoeta, which enables networking with other partners in the sector and avoids duplication of effort. W4EE has also collaborated with the ministries responsible for water and justice, the parliament, Torit and Kapoeta State organs, national institutions, and several interested support agencies including the UN and bilateral and non-governmental organisations to support the process of enacting the South Sudan Water Bill.



W4EE has encouraged households to build their own latrines without subsidies, creating ownership of the structures and commitment to maintain and improve them. There is also now a wider understanding of the need to end open defecation in an effort to prevent transmission of diseases like cholera and typhoid. It is no coincidence there has been no cholera outbreaks in Torit and its environs in the last two rainy seasons. This is partly attributable to the work of W4EE.