



### WASH technology: friend or foe?

The world is a market place of diverse and innovative water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) technologies. Cheap and affordable solutions to sustained access to WASH services are within reach, yet very few of these have been implemented effectively. Despite the technological leaps achieved in the last few decades, progress in improved access to WASH services is at a staggering low.

A wide range of WASH technologies have been promoted by conflicting stakeholder interests, creating more challenges than offering easy solutions.



With peoples' lives at the centre of technological innovation and development, WASH technologies have the potential to **facilitate a more dignified and humane way of life for all**.

In the coming decades it is expected that the drive to develop innovative and potentially cheaper WASH technologies to serve the poorest in the world will only strengthen.

The task at hand -- to provide the sector with a

**systematic and participatory way of assessing and adopting technology innovation that effectively takes the poorest of the world a step closer to expanding their life choices and opportunities for development.**

### WASHTech - Investing in adequate technologies for sustainable WASH services

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technologies (WASHTech) is a three-year action research initiative (2011 to 2013) that:

- ✓ Is driven by an overall goal to facilitate **effective investment in new technologies for sustained access to WASH services**
- ✓ Aims to strengthen the sector's capacity to arrive at **informed decisions in the choice of sustainable WASH technologies**
- ✓ Undertakes participatory **action research to identify barriers and opportunities for uptake and scaling up** technology beyond pilot testing
- ✓ Offers sector professionals (governmental agencies, development partners, NGOs, private operators, research institutes etc.) **a set of methodological tools and participatory approaches** for informed decision-making and strategic planning
- ✓ Through the participatory development, implementation and evaluation of the methodological tools, **embeds the practice of multi-stakeholder learning, sharing and collaboration** - instilling individual and collective ownership of, attention to, and responsibility for sustainability

WASHTech endeavours to introduce a robust **Technology Assessment Framework (TAF)** that provides a neutral approach for investigation of WASH technological innovation through an objective examination of criteria in the key dimensions:

- ✓ Technology performance
- ✓ Market potential and scalability
- ✓ Institutional support
- ✓ Innovation and planning
- ✓ Sustainability of service provision
- ✓ Potential and process uptake of new technologies

### Beyond the Technology Assessment Framework: WASHTech deliverables

Beyond the TAF, WASHTech offers the sector:

- ✓ **Informative guidelines** for the application and adaptation of the TAF at different scales (district and national level)
- ✓ A **continental technology report** that reviews existing technology examined by the WASHTech research team
- ✓ **Country situational assessment reports** that document the experiences of pilot countries Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Uganda in working with the TAF and reflects country-specific recommendations
- ✓ A **WASHTech website** that will provide WASHTech partners and other interested parties with a regularly updated platform for discussion and engagement to develop, monitor and validate the progress of the TAF, and other **face-to-face engagements and meetings**
- ✓ A **series of training courses** to roll out and embed the use of the TAF in the partner countries.