





IOM's ongoing rehabilitation of boreholes in Afghanistan, 2021 © IOM Afghanistan.

	2021
	62 Countries of operations
	13.3 M Estimated total individuals assisted

2021 saw the global ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the continuation of protracted crises from conflict and political instability in parts of Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen. Ongoing global conflicts caused continued displacement impacts in neighboring countries whereby, for example, Myanmar, Venezuela and Syria crises saw more refugees migrate to Bangladesh, Venezuela and Turkey, respectively. 2021 also saw the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Mozambique rapidly deteriorate due to internal conflict, where IOM escalated local WASH responses, or, in the case of Afghanistan, began a new WASH program to respond to identified gaps. In addition, the major tipping points for the climate may have been reached in 2021, with climate-related disaster events evident, for example, through flooding in Mozambique and Typhoon Goni in the Philippines, further compounding vulnerabilities, and contributing to amplified humanitarian needs and forced displacement.

The WASH Highlights 2021 has been developed in the recognition that crises develop based on pre-conditions and root causes that need to be addressed to prevent the reoccurrence or escalated impact of future crises. The Highlights showcase practical examples of how IOM WASH programmes contribute to Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to “minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin”, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as support the United Nations New Ways of Working and the Grand Bargain through the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN).

IOM WASH programmes deliver on IOM’s commitments to these global frameworks by providing life-saving WASH services, whilst simultaneously supporting factors such as environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, conflict resolution, economic growth and sustainable development; reinforcing IOM’s approach to reduce needs, vulnerabilities and risks and build resilient and peaceful resilient societies.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW



1.4 M
individuals assisted with access to latrines



3 M
individuals assisted with safe water



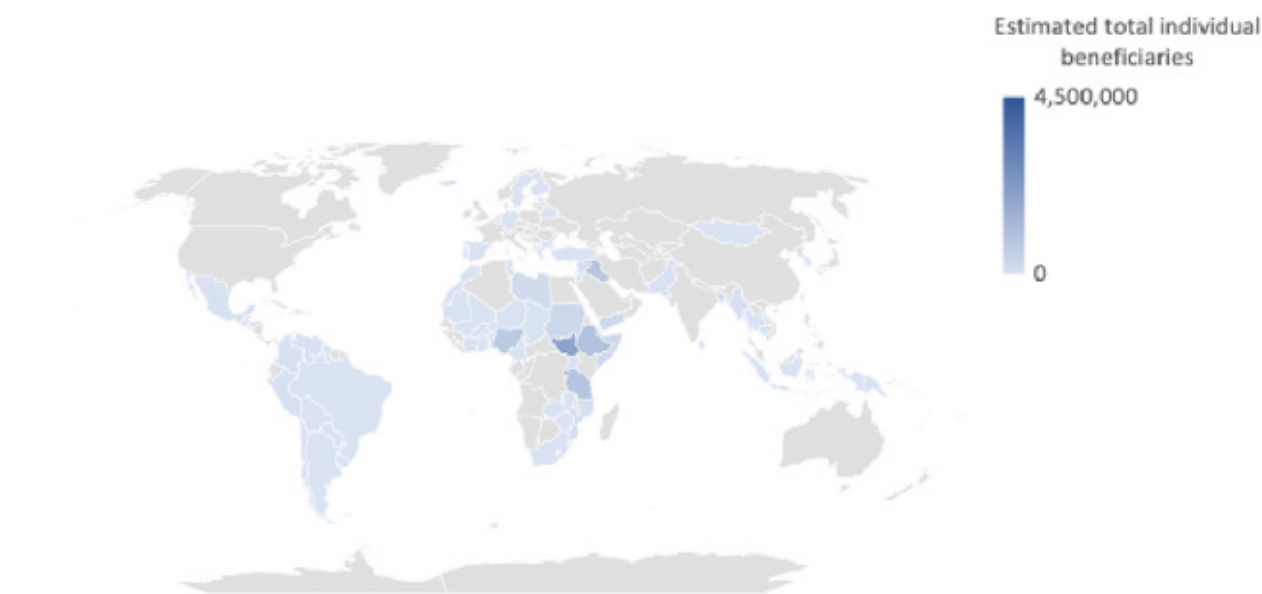
10.3 M
individuals served with hygiene promotion



2.8 M
individuals served with sanitation services

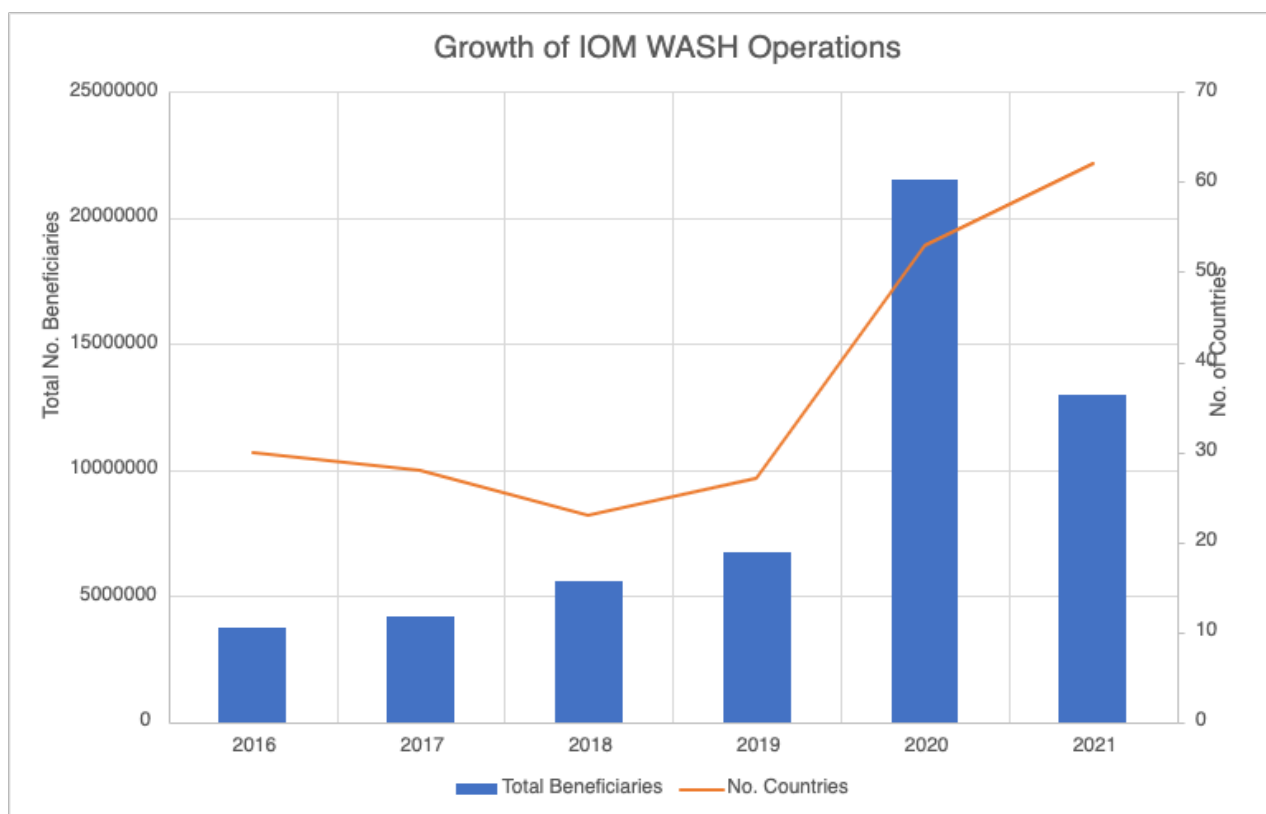
IOM WASH OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE

In 2021, IOM delivered WASH services to **over 13 M** people in **62 countries**.



IOM WASH GROWTH 2016-2021

Over the past six years, IOM WASH programming has steadily increased its size and footprint, registering an **annual growth rate of 28%** in the number of beneficiaries reached, with a significant increase in 2020 due to the number of beneficiaries reached through hygiene promotion messaging through COVID-19.



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

GCM OBJECTIVE 2: MINIMISE DRIVERS

IOM programs “minimize adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.” Adverse drivers encompass climate-related hazards such as erratic weather patterns including flooding and drought, and degradation of the environment, causing competition over access to land and water that communities depend on for survival.

In 2021 the widespread drought in the Horn of Africa severely impacted **Somalia**, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in November 2021, and forcing millions to abandon their homes in search of food, water and pasture. This added to the more than half million people that were displaced since the start of 2021 due to conflict and to avoid forceable recruitment of young boys into armed groups. IOM conducted a Technical, Vocational and Education Training programme in Kismayo and Baidoa to enhance the skills of vulnerable youth residing in IDP sites and impoverished areas of the city. The training aimed to provide the students with skills in WASH-related fields, including plumbing and solar electricity. The programme provided students with the prospect of career pathways in WASH, not only contributing to water scarcity, but avoiding recruitment into armed groups, thereby addressing drivers of migration.



IOM providing training to vulnerable youth in Baidoa TVET Centre to provide career pathways in WASH-related fields. © IOM Somalia, 2021

In **Sudan**, every year tens of thousands of people are displaced by conflict and natural disasters including those brought on by changes in the hydrogeological cycle as an impact of climate change, including drought and flooding, potentially further undermining Sudan’s peace process through conflict over scarce natural resources, including water. In 2021 IOM and the United States Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance announced the launch of a new project to reduce the risk of disasters and the adverse impact of climate change in Sudan. IOM is implementing the project from 2021 to 2023 targeting the disaster-prone states of Khartoum, West Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, North Kordofan, Kassala, Gadaref, and Blue Nile by providing effective emergency assistance including WASH services, as well as conducting trainings to support capacity building of key stakeholders, and to support local communities to identify and mitigate risks and minimize drivers of displacement.

GCM OBJECTIVE 16: INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

IOM programs aim to “increase the empowerment of migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion.” IOM does this through using participatory approaches to ensure all members of society, particularly the most vulnerable, have their WASH needs addressed, and the opportunity to co-design WASH programmes. IOM works closely with host communities, IDPs and returnees to support social cohesion through, for example water committees, whereby migrants contribute positively to the development of receiving societies by working collaboratively to protect shared water resources.

In Tumbes, **Peru**, as part of the Response for Venezuelan Crisis Coordination Platform, IOM worked to ensure provision of hygiene services had positive impacts on the environment and the local economy. IOM advocated for the inclusion of eco-sustainable items such as solar lanterns and reusable facemasks in hygiene kits, and is working to use cash-based-interventions to provide assistance in the urban settlements to stimulate local markets. In addition, hygiene services and water access were provided to host community institutions such as schools, health centres and community kitchens, promoting the acceptance and integration of migrants into receiving societies.

HUMANITARIAN- DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS

IOM aims to address short-term need by responding to acute life-saving provision of WASH, while creating long term outcomes that support transition and recovery and build self-reliance of affected communities. IOM aspires to use a whole of society approach, considering linkages to all relevant WASH stakeholders from the outset, and recognizing that humanitarian, development and peace actors need to work together to capitalise on their respective comparative advantages and to work towards collective outcomes that reduce risk and vulnerability.

In Gubio camp, **Nigeria**, water overflowing from the primary soak pit was channelled into a nearby farm to produce fruits and vegetables for agriculture. Community volunteers built perimeter fencing for vegetable crop production and managed the area to ensure safety. Whilst initially wastewater flow was seen as a challenge, this turned into an opportunity for a cohesive community effort and a small source of income for many households. This project highlights how humanitarian WASH infrastructure can be utilised to achieve long-term development outcomes such as improved livelihoods, health and well-being.

At the same time it supports peace by providing equitable positive impacts to displaced and host communities.

Al-Askari and Al Ghadeer communities in Thiqr governorate in the south of **Iraq** have faced severe potable water issues, compounded by damaged and poorly maintained water treatment plants since 2003. IOM undertook a community assessment and selected two water treatment plants for rehabilitation (Al-Askari water station and Al Ghadeer water complex) under the IOM Community Revitalization Program. In 2021 IOM repaired the filtration system, sedimentation tanks, provided a new disinfection system and provided new pumps to provide clean water to the communities. To ensure sustainability, IOM worked with the communities and the Directorate of Water to get commitment to operation, maintenance and providing disinfection material for the project after IOM completes the work. The project not only provided clean water to approximately 24,000 people in Al-Askari and Al Ghadeer communities, but supported long-term development by providing a sustainable solution for water supply, as well as building resilience and supporting peace through government ownership of the infrastructure, and improved satisfaction of the population with the government's ability to provide them with the human right to water.



Al Ghadeer water complex providing long-term safe access water for 24,000 beneficiaries © IOM Iraq, 2021

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services supports positive public health outcomes through access to clean water for domestic use, provision of soap, menstrual hygiene management items and other hygiene products to support improved hygienic practices, and reduced risk of vector borne diseases through effective drainage and solid waste management thereby “ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages.”

In **Bangladesh**, IOM worked on solid waste segregation at source, collection, and management through effective community engagement initiatives to support improved public health and well-being. Households received one red and one green garbage bin along with training on household waste segregation. The community also choose garbage collector volunteers to collect garbage every day from each household accompanied by a hygiene promotion volunteer to simultaneously monitor household practices.

Organic waste is sent to Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) to produce compost, recyclable materials are taken by local scrap dealers, and the remaining residual waste is sent to the landfill for final disposal.

The project produced approximately 21,164 kilograms of organic compost in IOM camps in 2021, and 10,236 kilograms have been already distributed to the refugees and host communities for their agriculture purposes. The production and distribution of compost has now become a continuous process benefitting the families interested in vegetable farming, further improving health and well-being.

In Northern **Mozambique** there are several endemic diseases, with cholera and other diarrheal diseases are among the leading causes of child mortality, especially in conditions where children are already malnourished. IOM donated 1000 cholera emergency kits to the Serviço Distrital de Saúde Mulher e Acção Social of the Metuge District to support cholera outbreaks. In addition, IOM is promoting good hygiene practices using theatre shows, where the population can learn about the importance of handwashing, proper water storage and cholera prevention. In addition to physical health and well-being these leisure and interactive activities promote positive psychosocial benefits for the community.



IOM implementing activities to support access to essential health and WASH services © IOM Mozambique, 2021

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

Access to WASH is crucial for achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. Through a human rights-centered approach, IOM promotes the systematic integration of protection, gender, and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) risks within IOM WASH programming. At the same time, women are often managers of domestic water resources as well as promoters of home and community-based sanitation activities, therefore their participation and contribution is crucial for effective WASH programming. IOM utilizes WASH activities as an avenue to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” through, for example capacity building and job creation, encouraging women to be active participants in the decisions that affect them.

In **Afghanistan** IOM is working to hear the perspectives of women and girls through focus group discussions scattered across the country. As it is cultural practice in Afghanistan, IOM employ female staff to gather information from women, to ensure their perspectives are incorporated into WASH programming. The needs assessments undertaken in Afghanistan have shown that both men and women prioritize looking after their families, however with men prioritizing income and women more focused on food and healthcare. Based on this, IOM is working closely with women to ensure the WASH services support their specific needs.

Intensive workshops were conducted with Rohingya females in Cox’s Bazar, **Bangladesh**, in different camps jointly by the IOM WASH, Protection, and Site Management Site Development - Communications With Communities units to identify challenges with providing information and training on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). IOM launched a “Mother and Daughter’s Work” project, where women and girls led an initiative for producing reusable sanitary pads by themselves. Women and girls are being trained and equipped on cutting and sewing the pads, and now they are also getting some financial access through cash for work initiatives. The model uses a peer-based approach to support females to feel comfortable sharing their feedback with their trainers or sewers, and bring changes in the quality and design to make MHM products more comfortable and contextual. When females have a mobility restriction, lack job and capacity building opportunities, this initiative provides financial empowerment, thereby supporting SDG5.

Camps in Jere and Konduga LGAs in **Nigeria** are places of refuge for many displaced populations. However, they can also be potential places of insecurity for vulnerable people. Community sanitation facilities and the paths to and from them have been seen as places of danger, especially for women, girls, and children. Following a dozen community meetings, IOM provided multi-function solar lamps to over 8,000 women, elderly and disabled people who lived relatively far from sanitation facilities. The idea was widely welcomed and increasingly recognized as a simple, yet effective way to promote gender equality through safe sanitation access.



Focus group discussions with women and girls as part of WASH needs assessments, Afghanistan, 2021 © IOM Afghanistan, 2021

SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

IOM interventions are designed to provide immediate, life-saving WASH services, whilst “ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” IOM’s services extend from infrastructure and management, to education and behaviour change, to supporting governance structures and capacity building, delivering on the full continuum of WASH interventions.

As of mid-July 2021 the WASH Cluster identified 32 out of **Afghanistan’s** 34 provinces to be in urgent need of safe water supply given the significant reduction in water quantity and quality, and increased displacement. Groundwater remains one of the safest water sources for the communities in Afghanistan. As part of its humanitarian response, IOM is repairing wells to provide safe drinking water to communities in Kabul, Herat and Nangarhar provinces. Additionally, the WASH team is working with local communities to bring awareness to climate change and its impact on the drawdown of the groundwater table and consequential reduction to safe drinking water. The communities are actively seeking ways to limit water wastage as well as implementing coping mechanisms such as the use non-potable water sources for not drinking water needs.

Sabacare-4 site for IDPs is one of 131 IDP sites established in **Ethiopia’s** Tigray region following the breakout of conflict in November 2020. The IDP population has now reached more than 15,000, and the camp is expected to hold 20,000 people when IDPs from other collective sites are relocated.



Nyalok Loongar drinking from IOM installed borehole in Thiet payam, Sudan @IOM Sudan, 2021

Groundwater sources ensure provision of constant water supply to the Sabacare site. With the former closest boreholes 4.5 km away from the camp, in 2021 IOM provided financial and technical support to the town’s water utility to construct a new borehole which is now supplying water to the camp seven days per week, with four hours maximum pumping time.

The Typhoon Goni (Rolly) response in the **Philippines** saw IOM undertake monitoring of WASH activities to ensure accountability to affected populations. 98 per cent of beneficiaries reported that the assistance provided during the typhoon response improved their WASH situation and that they had increased access to WASH creating enhanced comfort, safe water access, improve hygiene and latrine repair assistance. The beneficiaries expressed that without the assistance, 39 per cent would “not at all” have safe access to WASH within the first three months.

Funded by the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, IOM provided access to safe water in **Sudan** through the rehabilitation of boreholes and distribution of water purifying tablets, jerrycans and buckets. The WASH team also rehabilitated 75 boreholes in communities, health and nutrition sites. To ensure sustainability of access to the water supply, IOM trained 24 pump mechanics – men and women – and provided spare parts and tools for ongoing care and maintenance of the boreholes. To further enhance sustainability, the community committed to make small monetary contributions managed by the Water Management Committee for maintenance of the infrastructure, increasing their resilience with less reliance on external sources for support.

SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

IOM “ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” through WASH programmes for example, by utilizing solar energy for water distribution and production of biogas for energy use from the treatment of fecal sludge to create a closed-loop energy system for sanitation.

Operating in a complex humanitarian context in **Northwest-Syria** where 4.1 million people are in need of WASH services, IOM Turkey (Cross Border Programme) is one of the leading agencies working towards providing sufficient access to safe water in IDP sites. To enhance sustainability and climate change mitigation, IOM focused on solarizing seven on-site simple water networks linked to associated boreholes in 2021. This reduced reliance on water trucking and use of fuel for operating water systems.

Studies of Sanliurfa Metropolitan Municipality General Directorate of Water and Sewerage Administration in **Turkey** showed that climate change has affected the groundwater in Sanliurfa. To combat this, IOM is implementing various projects with the General Directorate of Sanliurfa Water and Sewerage Administration. In 2021 IOM supported the water well purification projects by upgrading water networks with variable speed drives (VSD) inverter panels and chlorine through infrastructure interventions and providing items and products for water purification and treatment at the household or community levels. The VSD inverters were used for efficiently prioritizing high flow wells across the province. The new panels prevented 40% of the wastage of groundwater and a 10% energy saving for each well due to the automatic motors.



Al Al Mashawelah water site in Taiz Governorate using solar groundwater pumping ©IOM Yemen, 2021

The destruction of water systems, fuel shortages, and lack of maintenance has affected 40% of **Yemen's** hydraulic assets. Groundwater is the country's primary water sources and in response to severe water scarcity during 2020 and 2021, IOM carried out the construction and rehabilitation of groundwater extraction systems that have benefited more than 350,000 people affected by the conflict. Most of these projects have included implementing pumping systems empowered by solar energy to provide reliable and affordable access to clean water for communities affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in areas where fuel and electricity supply is either non-existent, erratic, or too expensive.

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

IOM “strengthens the means of implementation and revitalizes the global partnership for sustainable development” by working closely with academic institutions and the private sector to support shared knowledge and resources across IOM’s global missions. At a local level, IOM partners with implementing partners to ensure effective delivery of WASH activities, as well as works to support national government, local authorities, and local water committees, civil society and user groups for effective governance and management of WASH services.

IOM continued its co-ordination and engagement with the Global WASH Cluster, being an active member of WASH cluster technical working groups (TWiGS) at global level, such as the Fecal Sludge Management TWiG and the Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies (HPiE) TWiG. IOM is also a member of the Menstrual Hygiene Management in Emergencies (MHMiE) Working Group as an intersectoral working group led by UNHCR and UNFPA. In 2021, IOM also became a member of the Cholera Global Task Force on Cholera Control Subgroup 8 for the HPiE TWiG.


IOM, with funding from Innovation Norway, is piloting the E-waste Project - Greening humanitarian response through recovery, repair and recycling of solar products in displacement settings in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Uganda. In 2020, through a Call for Innovative Partnerships, IOM partnered with BRIGHT Products, Solvoz and TotalEnergies Offgrid Solar Solutions to holistically address the solar waste value-chain from manufacture and distribution, to repair, recovery, recycling and procurement. In 2021 IOM engaged a local implementing partner, CTEN, to deliver the pilot activities at the field level. The ongoing partnerships exemplify how IOM WASH works with multiple sectors - across government, local organizations and the private sector towards sustainable development, through clean energy and effective waste management.



IOM E-waste Bidibidi Focal Point and CTEN Project Manager in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe, Uganda ©IOM, 2022

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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