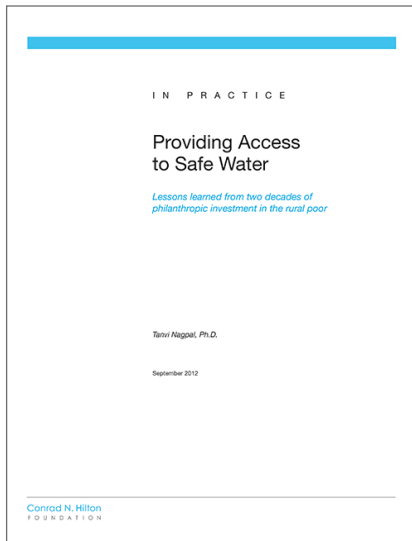


This is a summary of the full In Practice report:



Read the full report at
www.hiltonfoundation.org

Key Findings

Inherent Challenges

- The WASH sector lacks standardized indicators and a shared framework for monitoring and evaluating outcomes
- Health and livelihood impacts are complex, and consequently difficult to monitor and report
- Inequities in funding cause power imbalances and tension within partnerships
- Grantees who work in remote areas often have much higher costs than those who work in urban and peri-urban settings—making it difficult for organizations to focus on the harder-to-reach, remote populations

Elements of Success

- Focus on rigorous monitoring and evaluation with shared metrics for improvement in WASH access and behaviors
- Provide support to advocacy initiatives to increase funding to the WASH sector
- Invest in creating and disseminating new knowledge for the sector
- Evaluate the effectiveness of alternative approaches in sustainably reaching the rural poor
- Articulate why leveraging resources and matches are critical and when exceptions may be made
- Insist on transparency in reporting

Providing Access to Safe Water

Since 1990, the Hilton Foundation has awarded more than \$114 million to increase sustainable access to safe water to more than 2 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa and water-stressed regions of India and Mexico.

The Foundation's international involvement in the water sector began with a grant to World Vision to help eliminate guinea worm; this partnership expanded into multi-partner, multi-year support for the West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI). Further Foundation support grew to include a watershed management program implemented in Mexico by Alternativas y Procesos de Participacion Social, a partnership with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust to expand WASH programs in India, and a grant to the Millennium Water Alliance to implement the Millennium Water Program in Ethiopia.

Lessons learned from these programs (and from WAWI in particular) reveal the importance of establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess impacts on all objectives, and especially for health and economic security, developing annual work plans to retain alignment with these longer-term goals, and establishing “ground rules” for managing partnerships. These lessons, and the success of longer-term investments within a region to allow country-level programmatic planning, ultimately led to the development of a new program strategy to guide the Foundation's Water investments.

The Hilton Foundation's Water strategy has three main components: supporting sustainable access to safe water; strengthening the enabling environment for WASH in target countries; and supporting

the dissemination and adoption of relevant sector-wide knowledge. Embedded in these are support of advocacy initiatives to increase funding to the WASH sector and a commitment to invest in creating and disseminating new knowledge for the sector.

The Foundation's grants in 2011 and 2012 reflect continued interest in supporting efforts that target the hardest-to-reach and poorest rural areas, and have strengthened its focus on monitoring and evaluation to improve the sustainability of its investments. The Foundation will assess currently used WASH standards and indicators and select those to be tracked in Hilton-funded programs in the future. Metrics will move beyond tracking dollars spent and wells constructed, to measuring impact that sustainable, safe water has on livelihoods.

The Foundation's strategic decision to focus primarily on water access may limit its ability to work with smaller actors who cannot raise the matching funds required to pursue complementary sanitation and hygiene programs. Philanthropic resources alone will not be sufficient to meet the water needs of millions of people. In the next phase of its water initiatives, the Foundation could do even more to ensure that it creates valuable knowledge on the best approaches and technologies to reach water-stressed people at scale and sustainably. Future commitments will seek to follow newly learned practices by:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of alternative approaches in sustainably reaching the rural poor
- Supporting long-term monitoring
- Articulating why leveraging resources and matches are critical and when exceptions may be made
- Insisting on transparency in reporting