



Information Sheet

Working in the Nile region

Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region (RiPPLE) is a DFID-funded Research Programme Consortium hosted by WaterAid Ethiopia

RiPPLE Information sheets introduce an aspect of RiPPLE, related issues and references to further resources.

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Objectives

RiPPLE focuses primarily on Ethiopia, but is building links to learning processes in other Nile region countries and supporting transboundary research activities, in order to:

1. Improve sector research and learning processes through facilitating greater exchange of knowledge and developing a regional research agenda around water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
2. Strengthen the linkage between sector research, policy and practice through aiding the establishment of a regional WASH Learning and Practice Alliance (LPA)
3. Increase capacity to carry out action research across the region on WASH
4. Support links to other regional networks beyond the WASH sector, including transboundary river basin management, agriculture and the environment.

Nile-regional LPA

In March 2008, RiPPLE held a regional learning Colloquium which brought together policy makers, practitioners and researchers involved in WASH and related sectors from across the Nile basin. This paved the way for the establishment of a Nile-regional LPA. Participants agreed that there are critical barriers to learning both within the water sector and between water and other related sectors such as health and agriculture, and the Nile LPA will seek to overcome these barriers with the ultimate goal of improving decision-making around water in the Nile Basin, with benefits to the poor.

The LPA will include a wide range of stakeholders from government, if possible drawn from all ten Nile Basin countries: Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. With RiPPLE's support, participants will develop a joint agenda for research and work in partnership to carry it out. RiPPLE will support partners to undertake joint research activities, and to seek funding for the Nile LPA as a long-term regional research management mechanism, if desired. The Nile LPA will have strong links with the LPAs already established at different levels in Ethiopia, and will be closely embedded into existing regional platforms—though its focus on research and learning will make it unique in the region.

A taskforce of participants is now developing proposals for future LPA activities, and prospective members are invited to share their comments and ideas through the RiPPLE website blog (www.rippleethiopia.org/blog/).

Joint research studies

Joint research activities are a key practical way of enhancing learning across the region. RiPPLE's first joint (and cross-country) study examined technology choice for the delivery of WASH services in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. Working with local partners, the study emphasised joint learning and how experiences from different social and environmental contexts can usefully be shared. The study also examined the process of lesson-learning between countries and how future learning could be scaled up at a regional level. Further joint activities are envisaged under the Nile-LPA process.

