

Fourth Annual Report Web Update

GTF010 Water Aid

The WaterAid and Freshwater Action Network (FAN) GTF programme aims to increase the capacity and resources of civil society in 15 targeted countries (across Africa, Asia and Central America) and 30 civil society organisations. This will allow them to participate in effective evidence-based dialogue with decision-makers in the water and sanitation sector and build pressure for securing pro-poor service delivery.

Over the last year there have been significant improvements in the capacities of our local partners in terms of strengthening organisational capacity to engage effectively with duty bearers in decision-making processes at all levels. Recent activities build on past achievements, including fundraising, policy influencing and documentation training, organisational and strategic development and increasing membership. In order to improve ownership and sustainability of the organisations beyond the GTF programme's lifespan, a proven capacity needs assessment tool for CSOs, CSO networks and local governments was piloted successfully in four countries.

There have been significant improvements and tangible evidence of WASH policies and practices being influenced following our governance advocacy work through participation in the Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) at national level, the South Asia Conference for Sanitation or AfricaSan at regional level, and the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and World Water Forums (WWF) on a global level. This has led to duty bearers being more accountable and responsive to the needs of the citizens in terms of access to WASH, through the institutionalisation of Accountability spaces or creation of multistakeholders fora, renewal of government commitments and access to budget or systematic involvement of CSOs in decision making processes. A growing role has also been played by the media in ensuring improved accountability and responsiveness from the duty bearers through informed and empowered citizens using different approaches, eg community broadcasting radio programmes in Uganda and Central America or organising a press caravan with key leaders.

The Mid Term Review of our programme was a great opportunity to reflect back on our programme. The review concluded that our programme was on track to achieve its set objectives and evidence of changes are most apparent at local level. As a result, there has been a shift in our programme, taking local level changes to the national level. This explains the increasing presence and influence at national, regional and global decision-making platforms.

Going forward, our GTF programme will work towards strengthening and sustaining these initial results which will directly impact on our programme's objectives and thereby WaterAid's global aims. As described above, one of the key activities for the coming year is the roll-out of the capacity needs assessment tool across the programme both within WaterAid and externally. This will result in a comprehensive capacity development plan for the partners' organisations. Moreover, whilst achieving our set objectives, our programme will contribute to critically analyse global experiences from the GTF programme to support the WASH sector. The suggested solutions will cover 1) sustainability of demand side governance programme, 2) maximising impact through effective engagement strategies and power analysis, and 3) building success in WASH through strong networking and alliances. Our Annual Reports can be found on the WaterAid website [here](#).

