Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill
Title VII
Section 7060

What is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene?
USAID’s water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, ranging from emergency response to long-term systems strengthening across 44 countries, accelerate progress toward a water-secure world that saves lives, improves livelihoods, and increases resilience. Access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene education is the most basic human need for health and well-being and can lead to improved health, reduced poverty, and socio-economic development.

What do the funds support?
- Strengthening water and sanitation sector governance, financing, and markets through improved policy, planning, monitoring, and institutional capacity building.
- Increasing equitable access to safe, sustainable, and climate-resilient water and sanitation services, and the promotion and adoption of key hygiene behaviors.
- Improving climate-resilient conservation and management of freshwater resources and associated ecosystems.
- Supporting efforts to anticipate and reduce conflict and fragility related to water.

Foreign Aid Delivers
U.S. investment in WASH creates positive returns across sectors, generating water management practices that build climate resilience and biodiversity, create healthy communities, bolster food security, and promote long-term, sustainable economic growth. Under the 2017-2022 Global Water Strategy, USAID exceeded its targets to provide access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation by 39% and 160%, respectively. In FY2021, 5.4 million people gained access to sustainable water services, 53% for the first time, and 6.3 million gained access to sustainable sanitation services, 80% for the first time.

Funding History
Funding levels may not accurately reflect those in the appropriations bills and/or reports due to rounding.