

TC Document

I. Basic Information for TC

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL
▪ TC Name:	Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH): Promoting Capacity Building and South-South Cooperation
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4074
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Machado, Kleber B. (INE/WSA) Team Leader; Velasquez Rodriguez, Manuela (INE/WSA) Alternate Team Leader; Barbosa Taves De Gouvea, Heleno (ORP/REM); Carlos Guiza (INE/WSA); Celia Bedoya Del Olmo (INE/WSA); Guerrero Rivera, Marilyn Ivette (INE/WSA); Maria Eugenia De La Pena (INE/WSA); Nicolas Moreno (ORP/GCM); Prehn Garces Claudia (INE/WSA); Quintana Garcia De Paredes, Cesarina (INE/WSA); Vila Saint Etienne, Sara (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Operation Supported by the TC:	.
▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:	.
▪ Beneficiary:	Borrowing member countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
▪ Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ Donors providing funding ¹ :	Cofinancing Special Grants(COF)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$560,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	US\$0
▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):	30 months of execution and 36 months of disbursement
▪ Required start date:	November 2023
▪ Types of consultants:	Individual Consultants, Consulting Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	INE/WSA-Water & Sanitation
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	INE/WSA-Water & Sanitation
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Diversity; Environmental sustainability; Gender equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Productivity and innovation; Social inclusion and equality

II. Objectives and Justification of the TC

2.1 The present Technical Cooperation (TC) is part of the SIRWASH - Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Facility (RG-O1691), approved on December 10, 2020. Through COSUDE (Swiss Agency for Development and

¹ Funds are provided by SDC through the SIRWASH Facility (RG-O1691).

Cooperation - SDC), the Swiss Government requested the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) to implement the SIRWASH program. The program's main objective is to improve enabling policy, innovation, and knowledge exchange environments and foster the necessary capacities to deliver quality WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services to rural communities with a particular focus on vulnerable areas and disadvantaged people. While the program's scope is regional, the SIRWASH focuses on Bolivia, Haiti, Peru, and Brazil. To date, the SIRWASH has provided dialogue opportunities for the countries authorities to exchange ideas and best practices, generated and systematized knowledge that will be published in 2024, and strengthened the existing community of practice for rural WASH.

- 2.2 The program is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) agenda, underscores its commitment to assisting Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) governments in providing equitable rural services through policy dialogue, knowledge transfer, and innovation. Additionally, it strives to reduce disparities in access to these services, particularly for the most vulnerable segments of society. A strong focus of SIRWASH is ensuring the long-term sustainability of these services, a key challenge in rural WASH. The program is organized around three major components: 1/ Policy – to influence rural WASH policies, including south-south exchange and by strengthening water resources management; 2/ Partnerships, Knowledge, and Capacities to create an enabling rural WASH environment including a focus on the social components; and 3/ Innovation, to promote the adoption of technological, financial, and social innovation solutions in rural WASH.
- 2.3 SIRWASH recognizes that access to information systems, sustainable water, and sanitation that offer safe conditions and quality of life goes beyond the construction of units and equipment installation. The sustainability of services depends on the capabilities, skills, knowledge, and attitudes of the actors involved in the installed systems' planning, design, intervention, maintenance, and management. In this sense, the strengthening of capacities for national and sub-national authorities in the water sector and sanitation-rural areas. In that context, the present TC focuses on the second component, strengthening WASH institutions through capacity building and knowledge sharing at the national, subnational, and regional levels.
- 2.4 Despite significant progress in improving the provision of WASH services in the past two decades, as of 2022, 72 million people (about twice the population of California) do not have access to basic sanitation services. This number includes 9.9 million who continue to practice open defecation, mostly in rural areas². In these areas, the responsibility of service provision is predominantly at the subnational level, adding additional technical, financial, environmental, institutional, and social challenges. Rural areas in LAC have the highest levels of vulnerability and poverty, with more than 59 million people living in poverty and 27 million living in extreme poverty³. Such areas face lower coverage of public services, including water and sanitation. As national coverage rates rise, gaps increasingly concentrate in peri-urban and rural areas, situated further from urban centers and sector institutions, where populations experience lower socioeconomic conditions. Here, responsibility for service provision

² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (JMP).

³ Panorama of Rural Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018, FAO.

lies at the subnational level, creating even more technical, financial, environmental, institutional, and social challenges.

- 2.5 Due to their gender roles, women and girls are the main water users for domestic consumption, subsistence agriculture, care work, and household hygiene. In contexts of lack of safe and stable access to W&S services, the responsibility for carrying water falls 72% on women and girls and 28% on men and boys. Furthermore, during the menstruation period, women and girls face difficulties attending to their menstrual hygiene, affecting their health and participation in public spaces (such as school and work). This situation affects people with disabilities (PwD), especially women, girls, and boys, as it contributes to their isolation and worsens their health and poverty situation. For all these reasons, implementing capacity development and knowledge-sharing plans without including the gender perspective and people with disabilities would cause the inequalities that these vulnerable groups could be experiencing in their social contexts to deepen.
- 2.6 Even when social and economic contexts are primarily different, challenges for providing water and sanitation services in rural areas remain remarkably similar. Cooperation, dialogue, and the exchange of best practices are critical components of SIRWASH to promote better enabling environments and rural WASH programs. The program directly supports the SIRWASH countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, and Peru); however, dialogue and cooperation must extend to other nations in the region, transcending borders through effective south-south collaboration, leveraging successful initiatives and lessons learned in the global South. An alliance with the Asian and African Development Banks and AMCOW has been established to strategically define and coordinate south-south exchange activities, structured across three levels: 1/ Actions to promote policy dialogue at a high level to position rural WASH in the political agenda, to be done in partnership with existing networks such as the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA); 2/ Exchange of best practices— including technical advisory services, directed to professionals from the countries' governmental sector entities, to be done in partnership with a global network or nonprofit with a global presence to manage the day-to-day operations of the program. Best practices will also be documented and analyzed by elaborating knowledge products and 3/ a Capacity Building program based on state-of-the-art virtual tools such as MOOCs, SPOOCs, and Webinars directed to rural WASH professionals. This initiative is a critical step towards fulfilling the fundamental human right to water and sanitation while fostering collaboration that extends beyond borders, ensuring that the lessons learned benefit regions beyond those directly involved in the program.
- 2.7 The 2023 regional water dialogues, a crucial input for the United Nations Water Conference, identified strengthening regional, subregional, national, and local institutions and technical capacities for decision-making as a pivotal action point. Moreover, it recognized the urgent need to improve technical capacities related to the water quality of public and private operators and community operators⁴. The present TC seeks to build on the work and lessons learned from the SIRWASH program to date and contribute to this Action Agenda through a National Authorities Capacity Building Program, training for local operators, a MOOC, and establishing agreements facilitating knowledge exchange among various countries.

⁴ Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe – CEPAL.

- 2.8 **Objective.** The objective of the present TC is to strengthen the institutions responsible for rural WASH in LAC region through tailored capacity-building programs, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of scalable and validated best practices from a South-south perspective.
- 2.9 **Beneficiaries.** This TC benefits directly the countries of Bolivia, Brasil, Haiti, and Peru, beneficiaries of the SIRWASH⁵. Specifically, this TC will benefit rural sector institutions and agencies in this country⁶, as well as subnational governments (municipalities mainly) and rural operators (mostly community-based operators). Indirectly, through the SIRWASH knowledge platform and the dissemination and exchange activities financed with this TC (¶3.2, ¶3.5).
- 2.10 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the Second Update of the Institutional Strategy 2020-2023 (AB-3190-2) and is aligned with the following development challenges. (i) Productivity and Innovation by focusing on building capacity through innovative approaches, including virtual classrooms and courses; and (ii) Social Inclusion and Equality by supporting interventions that promote universal and sustainable access to WASH services, with a strong emphasis on vulnerable populations in rural areas. The TC is also aligned with the cross-cutting areas: (i) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability by seeking to strengthen the resilience of operators to the impacts of climate change by strengthening the integration of WASH and water resources management in national policies to ensure the quality and availability of water and adaptation to climate change; (ii) Gender Equality and Diversity, by including the gender and diversity approach in the training and knowledge exchange events that are implemented; and (iii) Institutional Capacity and the Rule of Law, as it will finance activities to strengthen WASH institutions and operators. In addition, this TC will indirectly⁷, through its complementarity to the SIRWASH program, and in the context of potential rural sector investment operations, contribute to the Corporate Results Framework 2020-2023 (GN-2727- 12) indicators of “Households with access to new or improved water and sanitation services” and “Agencies with strengthened digital technology and managerial capacity”.
- 2.11 This TC also aligns with the IDB Group Country Strategies of the four SIRWASH countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, and Peru. The TC aligns with the current Country Strategy with Brazil 2019-2022 (GN-2973, extended through 2024), specifically with the strategic objective of narrowing the infrastructure gap; the Country Strategy with Bolivia (2022-2025) (GN-3088), and the strategic objective of closing the infrastructure

⁵ During the preparation of the SIRWASH facility, letters of request were received from Bolivia, Brasil, Haiti, and Peru. The activities of this TC will mostly focus in these four countries.

Nonetheless, if activities are conducted in other countries of the region, this support will be formalized with letters of request and no objection from the country’s official liaison offices, which will be requested by the Bank before starting activities in the corresponding country.

⁶ The Vice-Ministry of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation of Bolivia Ministry of Environment and Water. National Health Foundation of the Ministry of Health of Brazil. National Directorate of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation of Haiti. And National Rural Sanitation Program of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation of Perú.

⁷ This TC complements other TCs in execution under the SIRWASH umbrella, as well as complements Institutional Strengthening activities contemplated in loans and other TC currently in the rural sector portfolio of the main beneficiary countries. In a way, it is the SIRWSAH program, through its goal to develop an enabling environment to increase access to sustainable and innovative WASH services, which will contribute, in the context of rural sector investment operations, to the Corporate Results Framework indicators.

gap in sanitation; the Country Strategy with Haiti 2017-2021 (GN-2904, extended until December 2023), which has as one of its strategic objectives to widen access to water and sanitation services; and the IDB Group Country Strategy with Peru 2022-2026 (GN-3110) and its strategic objective of institutional strengthening and delivery of basic services at the regional level.

2.12 The TC is also aligned with: (i) the strategy of "Sustainable infrastructure for competitiveness and inclusive growth" (GN-2710-5) in the priority areas for action to "Promote access to infrastructure services" , "Promote continuous improvements in infrastructure governance" and "Support the construction and maintenance of environmentally and socially sustainable infrastructure " and (ii) Sector Strategy to Support Regional and Global Competitive Integration (GN-2565-4), by contributing to the thematic area of intervention "Functional cooperation and regional public goods ", by promoting interventions that seek to foster regional and extra regional cooperation practices that give added value to a national interventions in the rural sector. This TC is also aligned with the first line of action for the IDB Group in the water and sanitation sector defined in the Water and Sanitation Sector Framework Document (SFD, GN-2781-13), aimed at promoting universal access to quality water and sanitation services with equity, inclusion, and affordability, with the second line of action aimed at the design of policies and programs incorporates disaster and climate change risk management and promotes water security. and the fifth line of action involves the drive for innovation in the water and sanitation sector.

2.13 **Lessons learned and good practices.** The Bank has extensive experience supervising and/or executing similar TC, the lessons learned a good practice have been incorporated in the design of this intervention. Specifically: (i) Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of program partners to ensure buy-in and alignment, especially capacity building interventions. As part of the coordination of activities, the Bank will coordinate with the appropriate national and subnational agencies and interested parties (¶4.4); (ii) have a clear plan for communication and dissemination of knowledge products developed (¶4.6), and (iii) have a clear strategy to ensure that best practices and concepts are applied in the design and execution of rural programs (¶3.6, ¶5.1).

III. Description of activities/components and budget

3.1 **Component 1 – Institutional Strengthening Through Capacity Building:** This component focuses on bolstering institutional capabilities by enhancing knowledge and skills pertinent to rural WASH services in the LAC region. The component will be primarily virtual, and the participants will be selected in collaboration with the SIRWASH partners in the countries. The content of the knowledge products will consider climate change and resilience as core components.

3.2 Activity 1.1 Massive Open Online Course – MOOC on Rural Water and Sanitation Services. This activity aims to develop a free web-based distance learning program to examine current conditions and trends in WASH services in rural LAC countries by taking a critical look at the underlying political, economic, social, and technical reasons why rural areas fall behind in closing access gaps. The MOOC will also, in general terms, offer examples drawn from lessons learned on overcoming current obstacles to universalizing WASH services in rural areas in LAC. The MOOC will be available in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese. Given the nature of this knowledge product, its content will be made available to every country in the region.

- 3.3 Activity 1.2 National WASH Authorities Capacity Building Program: This activity will improve the conditions in providing sustainable and quality rural water and sanitation services for rural populations through implementing a capacity-building program at the national and sub-national levels in the SIRWASH countries. The target audience of this program is public administration officials or technicians at the national and sub-national levels.
- 3.4 These trainings will include a module about gender and diversity approach that will take into account the following aspects: (a) the relationship between gender, people with disabilities (PwD), and WASH and their influence on overcoming inequalities; (b) methodologies to ensure the participation of women and PwD in the design of solutions of WASH and (c) taking into account the culture and cosmogony of indigenous peoples for the design of WASH solutions, when applicable.
- 3.5 **Component 2 – Institutional Strengthening Through Knowledge Exchange:** This component focuses on enhancing institutional capacities by facilitating knowledge exchange in the water and sanitation sector.
- 3.6 Activity 2.1 Partnerships: Establish partnerships between sector entities to exchange and provide technical advisory services in specific best practices within SIRWASH countries, the region, and counterparts in the global South. Through webinars and workshops, authorities and public officials can exchange experiences and knowledge. The main objective is for them to identify their common issues and possible collaboration venues.
- 3.7 Activity 2.2: Survey to understand drivers and incentives for young rural WASH professionals in LAC. This activity aims to understand the main factors for young people in LAC to want to participate in Water and Sanitation programs in the Rural Sector, all data will be treated according to best practices and the IDB data policy.
- 3.8 Activity 2.3: Diagnostics and sharing of lessons learned from successful indigenous communities' initiatives to close the access gap with a focus on the Amazon. This activity will include the bank's successful experiences related to the inclusion of a gender perspective in working with indigenous communities and the active participation of women in the design of WASH solutions.
- 3.9 The total estimated cost of the TC is US\$ 560,000, financed with resources from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the SIRWASH Facility (RG-O1691). The budget structure is presented in the indicative budget table.

Indicative Budget

Component	Activity	COF Funding
Component 1 – Capacity Building	1.1 MOOC on Rural Water and Sanitation Services	80,000
Component 1 – Capacity Building	1.2 National Water Authorities Training Program	300,000
Component 2 – Knowledge Exchange	2.1 Partnerships between rural WASH entities to exchange and provide technical advisory services in specific best practices	70,000
Component 2 – Knowledge Exchange	2.4 Survey to understand drivers and incentives for young rural WASH professionals in the municipalities and other sector entities	10,000

Component 2 – Knowledge Exchange	2.5 Diagnosis studies on successful disperse indigenous communities' initiatives to close the access gap	100,000
Total		560,000

3.10 The resources of this project are to be received from the Government of Switzerland through a Project Specific Grant (PSG). The Bank administers a PSG according to the Report on COFABS, Ad-Hocs, and CLFGS and a Proposal to Unify Them as Project Specific Grants (PSGs) (Document SC-114). As contemplated in these procedures, the commitment by the Government of Switzerland was established through an Administration Agreement. Under such an agreement, the resources for this specific TC have been allocated and are being administered by the Bank.

IV. Executing agency and execution structure

- 4.1 The bank will execute the TC and build on the experiences of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and the IDB to advance best practices in rural WASH. Moreover, this will promote the articulation between national, local, and community actors. Considering the multisector nature of rural WASH, the program will also direct efforts to increase the engagement of other sectors in all dialogue and activities, particularly with the health and education departments. The project team will be responsible for the preparation and submission to the donor of the project reporting in compliance with the stipulations of the Administration Agreement and RG-O1691.
- 4.2 Since this is a Research and Dissemination (RD) TC, the IDB will execute this operation in accordance with OP-619-4 Annex 2. The water and sanitation division (INE/WSA) will be responsible for all aspects of this TC, including disbursements, under the supervision of Project Team Leader and the Water and Sanitation Lead Specialist. Activities developed in any country in the region will be coordinated with the respective INE/WSA specialist in Country Offices (COF), and, if necessary, when activities are developed in a specific country, with the liaison authority in the country and/or sector officials. The Bank has experience in successfully executing regional TCs of this type, such as [ATN/CF-19214-RG](#) and [ATN/CF-17344-RG](#), likewise, execution by the Bank helps to ensure that the lessons learned from the activities carried out are properly disseminated within the region, due to the varied nature of activities included in the TC and the required actions for ensuring the coordination with the actions of SIRWASH (RG-O1691).
- 4.3 The execution and disbursement period will be 30 and 36 months, respectively. The Bank will contract individual consultants, consulting firms, and non-consulting services in accordance with the Bank's current procurement policies and procedures for Bank-executed operations. The activities to be executed are included in the Procurement Plan and will be contracted in accordance with Bank policies as follows: (a) AM-650 for Individual consultants; (b) GN-2765-4 and Guidelines OP-1155-4 for Consulting Firms for services of an intellectual nature and; (c) GN-2303-28 for non-consulting and other related services; and, (d) Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1).
- 4.4 The activities to be financed with this operation as well as dissemination of products developed will be coordinated with the Bank's country specialists and sector agencies to ensure complementary with other similar activities being carried out and to create synergies with rural programs in the SIRWSAH countries' portfolio. Specifically, with

TC and/or projects currently in portfolio contemplates activities linked to Institutional Strengthening Through Capacity Building, particularly in rural areas.

- 4.5 The knowledge products of the TC will be delivered and approved by the team leader (INE/WSA Specialist), with support from the SIRWASH coordination team and the Bank's specialists in SIRWASH countries, as well as appropriate government agencies (particularly at the local level), local community organizations, and implementing partners of the different activities to be financed by this operation. The Team Leader will be responsible for the supervision, follow-up, and approval of all products. Given the nature of the products to be developed through this TC, all content will be made available to every country which requests it.
- 4.6 The Bank will hold all intellectual property rights regarding all products developed in execution of this CT, including the training material of Component 1. In particular, for the case of the training course that will be developed within the framework of Component 1 of the CT, the Bank may grant a non-commercial use license in favor of any national or subnational governmental entity that requires it. In those cases, said training material can be hosted in its domains and said entities will take care of the associated maintenance costs once the execution of the CT is completed. The Bank will maintain copies of the source material. To formalize the terms of said license, the team will coordinate the preparation and signing of the necessary documents with the accompaniment of LEG.

V. Major issues

- 5.1 The major risk during the execution of this TC is that many different/divergent stakeholder interests may prevent efficient consensual decision-making and hinder the effectiveness of the capacity-building efforts. This risk will be mitigated by identifying the appropriate government agencies (particularly at the local level), local community organizations, implementing partners, and project implementation arrangements prior to project inception to ensure buy-in and alignment. Another risk is the possibility of insufficient political commitment and continuity of roles to apply capacities, skills, and competencies of authorities, officials, and technical teams at national and sub-national levels for better fulfillment of their roles and functions in providing sustainable water and sanitation services for rural populations. To mitigate this risk, the proposal includes activities such as mapping training programs, knowledge exchanges (south-south experiences), demonstrative studies, specific online activities, and a community of practices supporting capacity building at the national, sub-national, and/or local levels.

VI. Exceptions to Bank policy

- 6.1 This TC does not contemplate exceptions to Bank policies.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies for specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (MPAS).

Required Annexes:

[Results Matrix - RG-T4074](#)

[Terms of Reference - RG-T4074](#)

[Procurement Plan - RG-T4074](#)