



## IRC statement of commitments

3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership  
Washington, April 2014

At IRC, we believe that turning on a working tap should not be a surprise or cause for celebration. We believe in a world where water, sanitation and hygiene are fundamental services that everyone is able to take for granted. For good.

Every year, too many projects within and beyond the WASH sector fail – the result of short-term targets and interventions, at the cost of long-term service solutions.

In addressing this complex challenge, **IRC wishes to be held accountable by the Sanitation and Water for All partnership on the commitments listed below. We will:**

- 1 Contribute to driving a global movement**, in partnership with local and national governments and other organisations that promotes the delivery of sustainable services to achieve safe water, sanitation and hygiene services for everyone, forever by 2030.
- 2 Strengthen national government leadership** through our long-term engagement in at least five of our selected focus countries<sup>1</sup>. This includes support in improving monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress towards nationally agreed service levels. We will work with local governments to pioneer new tools and systematic approaches in planning, developing and maintaining water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- 3 Lobby nationally and internationally** for the sufficient and appropriate financing of the full cost components of delivering long-lasting water, sanitation and hygiene services for the poor. We will continue to collect and contribute evidence on the costs of providing services, the impacts of doing so and the (public) finances needed.
- 4 Find the solutions and innovations necessary**, in collaboration with others, to tackle the complex challenge of inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all. We commit to driving a collaborative initiative that coordinates and pulls resources towards a joint agenda for learning, sharing and documenting these experiences across African countries.
- 5 Maintain a strong presence in the SWA partnership.** Through our active participation in SWA we will contribute to strengthening the sector's knowledge base. In our focus countries we will continue to support national governments in the formulation and implementation of their commitments to the SWA partnership.

<sup>1</sup> IRC focus countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Mozambique and Uganda

# Why we commit to this

IRC believes that today's sanitation and water crisis is not just about scarcity or lack of hardware. The systems that should give people access to safe water and sanitation are breaking down, or are providing sub-standard services on a massive scale across the world.

It is clear that the way we work in the water and sanitation sector requires fundamental and structural change – to ensure that all people receive a service they can rely on, every day.

To solve the global water and sanitation challenge faced by millions, we need to take collective action to realise systematic improvements. This involves taking into account all aspects of developing and running a service including policy making, planning and long-term financing of services; introducing management models for maintenance, repair and replacement of hardware; and strengthening institutions and capacities, through training and coaching on service monitoring and regulation.

We firmly uphold the belief that strengthening the ability of governments to lead in the provision of services is not only the best route to bring improvements to scale, but the only viable strategy in preparing for a post-aid era.



**Patrick Moriarty**  
CEO IRC



**Hans van Dord**  
Chair IRC Supervisory Board



Photo by Peter McInyre

## About IRC

IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with national and local governments, organisations, businesses, and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. At the heart of its mission is the ambition to move from short-term interventions to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

With over 40 years of experience, IRC runs programmes and projects in more than 25 countries and large-scale projects in seven focus countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is supported by a team of over 100 staff across the world.

## Contact

Erma Uytewaal  
[uytewaal@ircwash.org](mailto:uytewaal@ircwash.org)

P.O. BOX 82327  
2508 EH The Hague  
The Netherlands

T +31 70 3044000  
[info@ircwash.org](mailto:info@ircwash.org)  
[www.ircwash.org](http://www.ircwash.org)