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The Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to the dissemination of high-quality information on the science, policy and practice of drinking-water supply, sanitation and hygiene at local, national and international levels. The journal publishes original contributions including research, analysis, review and commentary. It emphasizes issues of concern in developing and middle-income countries and in disadvantaged communities world-wide, such as:

- Water supply: intermittent supply, community and utility water supplies, water treatment, distribution, storage and use, water access and quality
- Sanitation: collection, transport, treatment, use, discharge, on-site and off-site sanitation, resources recovery
- Hygiene: behaviours, education, change
- Technical and managerial issues: characteristics of and constraints to conventional and innovative approaches, technical options and boundaries of technical application, emerging issues, emergencies and disasters, impacts on health, poverty and development, sustainability, demand, marketing, organizing supply chains
- Institutional development: roles of public and private sector, capacity building, governance, education and training
- Financing and economic analysis: including cost-effectiveness and cost-benefits, role and impact of subsidies, user fees, financial instruments, innovations in financing
- Policy: examining all aspects and developments in the role of national policy on service provision, human rights and rights-based approaches policy, developing appropriate and scaleable legal and regulatory approaches, norms and standards
- International policy: aid and aid effectiveness; international targets, conventions and agreements, UN and international policy

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