

# Exploring global potential for WaSH distance education and training

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## Aim

To evaluate the potential for distance learning in Water, Sanitation and Health (WaSH) in global markets.

## Context

Millions of people in the world do not have access to safe water and sanitation. This is a major cause of disease and a significant barrier to personal, social and economic development in many countries. The provision of effective water and sanitation systems requires resources and technological solutions; it also needs environmental health workers and other practitioners with relevant knowledge and skills. The ultimate aim of this project is to produce distance learning materials using appropriate delivery methods that can be used throughout the world for capacity building in the WaSH sector.

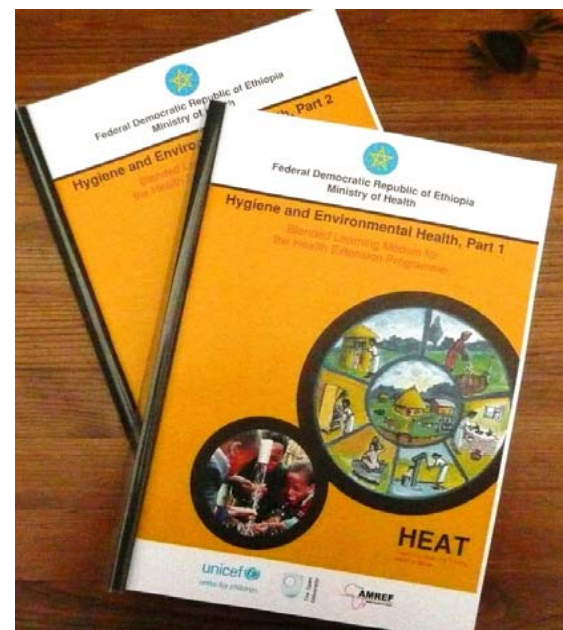
## Plan

The project will build on the experience of HEAT (Health Education and Training) in Africa. Working with Ethiopian health experts, the OU HEAT

team have produced thirteen distance learning modules for more than 30,000 community healthworkers in Ethiopia.

The *Hygiene and Environmental Health* (HEH) module, covering water supply, sanitation, waste management and hygiene, is directly relevant to the WaSH sector.

Over 1000 students on the pilot programme are currently studying the HEAT modules.



The project will assess how the HEH module, and potentially other teaching materials, can be adapted to suit other groups and markets.



Research questions will include:

- Is there a demand for distance learning in the WaSH sector?
- Where in the world? At what level?
- Who are our potential partners?
- How can the HEH module be adapted and developed?
- What media mix is most appropriate?
- What delivery methods are most appropriate?
- What is the appropriate blend with practical training?
- Who are the potential funding organisations?
- How should partnerships be developed?

Responses to these questions in relation to WaSH and the HEH module will be used to develop a model for the assessment of global potential for distance learning in other sectors.

## Anticipated outcomes

1. Identification of potential markets for WaSH distance learning.
2. Specification of distance learning materials to meet the needs of the identified market(s).
3. Bid for funding to develop WaSH distance learning materials.
4. Model for potential collaboration with partner organisations to develop global markets in this or other areas.

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