Water For People's IWRM Principles
March 2019

The Integral Management of Water Resources (IWRM) Principles listed in the following table are within Water For People's goal to reach Everyone Forever in Water and Sanitation in the municipalities where we work. They do not extend beyond what is relevant to sustainable WASH Services but consider the broader axes and principles of IWRM adapted by the World Water Association (GWP), which are:

- The 3 Axes / 4 "E's" of IWRM - **E**cological Sustainability, Social **E**quity, **E**fficiency and **E**conomics
- The 4 Principles - (1) Water is a finite and vulnerable resource, (2) water development and management should be based on participatory approaches, (3) women play a central role in water management, (4) water is an economic good with efficient and equitable use

Water For People's IWRM Principles With emphasis on IWRM linked to WASH at the municipal level	
1	**Conservation of recharge zones and aquifers** - Conservation of the influencing recharge areas and aquifers is fundamental for sustainable use of the resource.
2	**Protection of water quality for water and sanitation services**- It is important to avoid any form of contamination to drinking water sources, systems, and at all points of service. It is also important to ensure proper discharge of wastewater.
3	**Participatory and democratic processes that are oriented toward consensus**– The promotion of participatory and democratic processes aimed at obtaining stakeholder commitment are necessary to achieve sustainability of IWRM activities.
4	**Participation of women** - The participation of women is necessary in decision-making regarding the sustainability and use of drinking water sources, systems and points of service.
5	**Equitable distribution** – The distribution of water resource must be equitable, where everyone has the same opportunity to access drinking water and ensure affordability based on the use.
6	**Efficient use** – The use of water must be efficient through the maximum benefit per unit volume, cutting down loss throughout system.
7	**Sustainable financial mechanisms**– The protection and restoration of recharge areas and the maintenance of ecosystems must have viable financial mechanisms that agree with or are negotiated with local and regional authorities that have influence over the relevant recharge areas.
8	**Support of public policies** - The promotion of local public policies that include IWRM are necessary to prioritize the protection of water resources.
9	**Risk management** – Risk management is critical in the design of water and sanitation services for the protection of the water resource.
10	**Flexible models** – The contexts of IWRM and WASH vary between countries and municipalities, therefore our IWRM approach must be dynamic, flexible and applicable to the local context.