

openwashdata phase 2 proposal funded

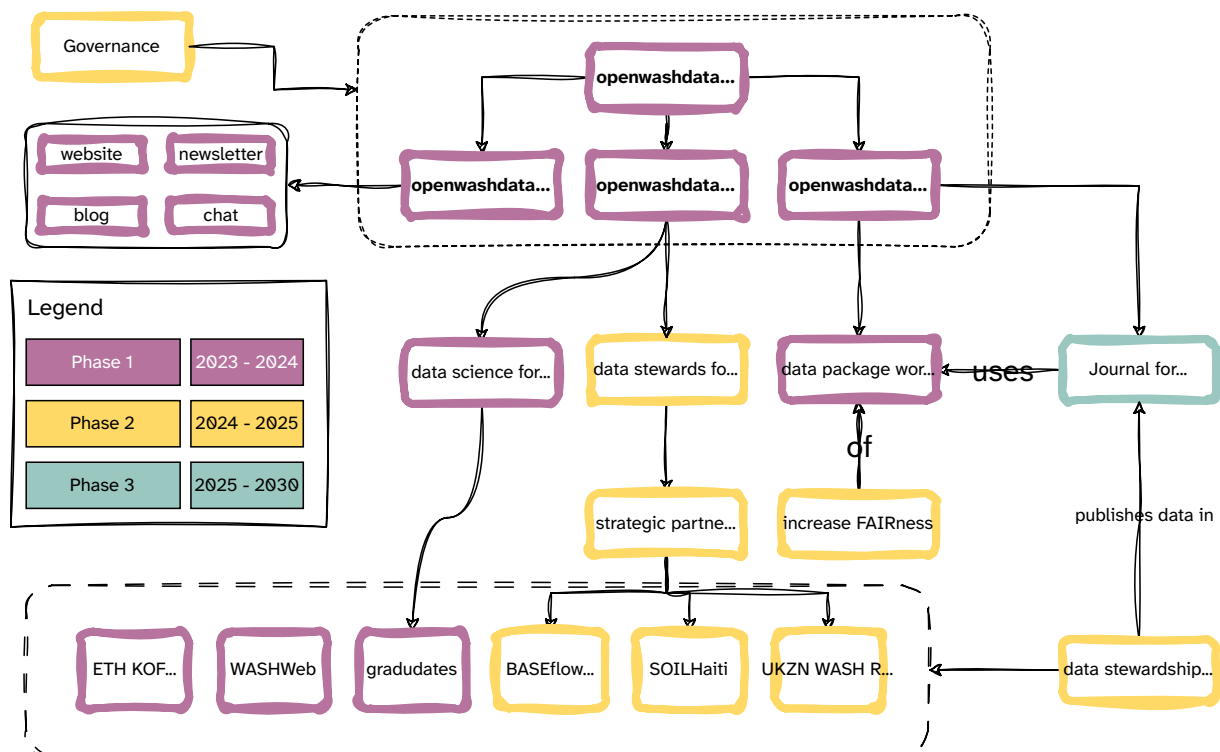
openwashdata.

Establishing a data stewardship network through
strategic partnerships

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Achievements in phase 1

The openwashdata community was established in March 2023 and received funding for an 18 month period. Since then, we have established a website for the openwashdata community that attracts 15 unique visitors daily¹, we disseminate a monthly newsletter that reaches 200 people, and we maintain a community chat with 100 members.

We also established the “openwashdata academy” with our 10-week “data science for openwashdata” training programme from which 20 people have graduated by preparing a final capstone project report using their own data².

¹<https://openwashdata.org/pages/gallery/stats/>

²Find open reports and associated data packages here: <https://openwashdata.org/pages/academy/graduates/>

Lastly, we established “openwashdata publishing”: a clear and efficient data publishing workflow for datasets and code that follows FAIR principles, as outlined by M. D. Wilkinson *et al.* [1], and the highest standards for computational reproducibility and version control. We are in the process of submitting our developed R package [washr](#)³ to the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) to increase usage potential within the community.

Data stewardship in phase 2

In phase 2 we will expand the scope of the openwashdata program by embedding a full-time data steward at each of two institutions. These stewards will collaborate with the openwashdata team to identify existing open data practices, formulate a preliminary data management strategy, pinpoint datasets ready for open publication, and identify datasets requiring more careful scrutiny before publication due to ethical approvals, data privacy, or industry partnerships.

The long-term goal is to introduce and eventually solidify practices that enable open data (e.g. Data Management Strategy & Data Management Plans) to the WASH sector.

The full proposal with additional work packages can be accessed at <https://openwashdata.org/pages/gallery/proposal-02/>

BASEflow & UKZN WASH R&D Centre & SOIL

Our partners [BASEflow](#) and the [UKZN WASH R&D Centre](#) will receive funding through the phase 2 grant to hire a full-time data steward. We will start the 12-month training programme around October/November 2024, together with SOIL, who have separately agreed to identify a data steward within their organization.

Sanima & Toilets For All - new partnerships

[Sanima](#) and [Toilets For All](#) have joined our vision for openwashdata. We have established new partnerships and are excited to explore how we can collaborate going forward.

Are you interested, too?

Check out our [partnership page](#) and get in touch with us. We will be happy to discuss how we can work together to make open data in WASH a reality. You will also find us and our partners at a [session at Stockholm World Water Week](#) this year where we will be with our partners to talk about our vision for open data in WASH.

If you or your organization works in WASH and would like to join the data stewardship network, [email us](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Bibliography

- [1] M. D. Wilkinson *et al.*, “The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship,” *Scientific Data*, vol. 3, no. 1, Mar. 2016, doi: [10.1038/sdata.2016.18](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18).

³Find the package under development here: <https://github.com/openwashdata-dev/washr>