

[Resilient WASH in schools: Transformative work for transformative times?](#)

Wednesday 25 August 07:00-07:25

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Live and Learn Environmental Education

Plan International | Water for Women Fund

Improved WASH infrastructure and hygiene behaviour change at school is critical to ensure fairer outcomes for all, including girls and people with disabilities. Equal outcomes at school can help create fairer, more resilient communities. This session explores critical connectors of gender equitable, accessible WASH in schools with building community resilience.

How can WASH in schools software and infrastructure programs contribute to community resilience, social norms change and gender transformation?

This session will explore WASH in schools as an essential foundation for building community resilience. Transformative WASH in schools enables equitable access to education, hence supporting the next generations of diverse leaders to shape their communities. Critical components to achieve this will be examined, including designing menstrual hygiene friendly and disability accessible WASH facilities, and supporting social norms change through stigma free and inclusive hygiene behaviour change.

A series of powerful videos from the field will bring Pacific voices to World Water Week. Convenors will share examples from the region to illustrate how targeted WASH in schools activities and approaches can help to create fairer, more resilient schools and communities, empowering school leaders, girls and children with disabilities through WASH programs and supporting locally-led change. Participants will then have the opportunity for further learning through a rapid-fire Q&A session.

Participants will gain a better understanding of how WASH in schools programs can tackle harmful norms, enable local action and support both behavioural and practical WASH improvements, linking these with broader WASH programs to build resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Shift the balance: WASH COVID-19 responses that enhance \(gender\) equality](#)

Wednesday 25 August 08:00-09:00

Amref Health Africa | Plan International | Simavi | SNV Netherlands Development Organisation | WASH Alliance International | WASH SDG Consortium

Crises like COVID-19 and climate change disproportionately affect those with little or no access to quality WASH services and information. However, they can also catalyse behaviour change and, with dedicated efforts, contribute to a shift towards greater equality. Learn from those most impacted how this can be done!

COVID-19 highlighted once again how, in crisis settings, those with the least power, information and resources are the hardest hit. Inequalities increased between countries, within countries and within households. However, it also provided a better understanding of human behaviour and responses when confronted by global pandemics or other far-reaching crises. If we use insights from this pandemic wisely, in the long-term, it could contribute to building a fairer and more resilient society. This session will present concrete examples from the WASH SDG programme on how, half-way through implementation when COVID-19 struck, partners adjusted their strategies. Existing gender and social inclusion approaches were re-visited to ensure that communities and individuals at risk of marginalisation continued to be reached. WASH messaging and behaviour change communication were adapted to the new circumstances. Alignment and collaboration with local authorities and other key stakeholders was

During the session, participants will see three short inspiring videos where people most impacted by COVID-19 share their experiences.

After the videos, an open exchange will take place on how inclusive WASH approaches taken during COVID-19 can contribute to positive changes in (gender) equality. It will also extrapolate key learnings for consideration when addressing other crises situations (e.g. climate change).

[Preparing for an inclusive and action-oriented UN Water conference 2023](#)

Wednesday 25 August 10:00-11:00

Government of the Netherlands | Government of the Republic of Tajikistan | Sanitation and Water for All

On the way to an inclusive and action-oriented UN Water Conference in 2023, the Co-hosts of this conference will provide a brief introduction on the Conference and its preparatory process and engage with the participants to gather their views on the desired process towards and outcome of this Conference.

In 2018, the UN adopted a resolution to convey a UN Water Conference in 2023, to comprehensively review implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028. The governments of the Netherlands and Tajikistan were welcomed to co-host this unique Conference.

This session will see a brief introduction on the Conference and its preparatory process. The Conference will be the second UN Water Conference after the 1977 Conference in Mar del Plata and provides a unique opportunity to bring together different stakeholders and strengthen the water agenda. An inclusive preparatory process and action-oriented outcome will be important for the success of this Conference. A panel consisting of representatives of different stakeholder groups will discuss the outcomes of previous events and take stock of expectations regarding the Conference. The audience is targeted from a cross-section of stakeholders (government, multilateral organisations, civil society, private sector, and others). They will be actively engaged to share their views on the desired process towards and outcome of this conference, and will also be challenged to share their ambitions and intentions to support the UN Water Conference in 2023. The outcomes of this session will provide important input for the road to 2023.

[Supporting societal transformations in delta’s through long-term partner engagements](#)

Wednesday 25 August 10:00-11:00

Bangladesh Ministry of Planning | Diamonds of the Delta network | Egypt Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation | **Government of the Netherlands** | Government of Vietnam | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam | Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh | World Bank Group

Change happens at multiple spatial and temporal scales. International and Development Cooperation rely on short-term project cycles and are unfit to drive societal transformations over decades. We present key lessons on transforming deltas into climate resilient societies and discuss how long-term collaboration can drive societal sustainability, prosperity and inclusivity

Many countries have strategies up to 2030 with an outlook on 2050. Yet, in international-and development cooperation we frequently stick to 5-year strategies and even shorter projects. Engaging long term and large-scale enables a profound political dialogue, trusted policy advice, stronger alignment, the facilitation of a societal transformation and contextualized technical cooperation. We want to show the effects of long term commitment between partners on delta management.

For policy makers and influencers examples of building up mutually respectful and horizontal relations are shown. Insights are given into how a process approach to collaboration is innovative, inclusive, adaptive and goal-searching (rather than goal-oriented). Policy makers and influencers are challenged to think about a cooperation strategy with a time horizon till 2050. Cases with lessons learned from Egypt, Vietnam, the Netherlands and Bangladesh will be shown, interesting for all. Academics get a chance to discuss their role in Collaboration 2.0. Practitioners get stories of success within their organizations and sectors (e.g. regarding preferences for hard infrastructure or nature-based solutions).

Sessions at SWWW with Dutch contributions

August 23rd – 27th 2021



We hope you will be inspired by our examples of Collaboration 2.0, change your thoughts on the present day development paradigm of deltas and create new insights towards climate resilient deltaic societies.

[Impact society through smart, data-enabled water ecosystems](#)

Wednesday 25 August 10:45-11:45

2030 Water Resources Group | Facebook | **Government of the Netherlands** | Nestlé | Stockholm International Water Institute

The Leadership in Business Accelerator will highlight the importance of effective private sector leadership on water issues and provide practical advice and best practice examples on global awareness of water in the international, regional and local agendas. This programme covers key aspects of storytelling, communicating impact and return on investment, and understanding and influencing behaviours across a variety of channels and geographies.

[Breaking silos: Climate resilience for WASH through Women's Leadership](#)

Wednesday 25 August 11:00-12:00

Amref Health Africa | Sanitation and Water for All

To achieve lasting health change for Africa we need to put women in the driver's seat. To reach the SDG's WASH and Health sectors need to collaborate with African women. They are the way out and will lead to better health, better wealth, better climate, and a better future for all.

Climate change is one of the most imminent challenges to the health and well-being of people across the world, especially Africa. Globally, climate change has caused an estimated 150,000 deaths annually due to increased emissions of greenhouse gases that has led to extreme weather events such as heat waves, flooding, droughts, among others. We want to reduce the burden of climate change related diseases by developing climate resilient WASH systems – and thereby boost universal health coverage.

Evidence has shown that when women are meaningfully involved and when supported to lead in Health, WASH and Climate change mitigation, we can create the enabling environment for better health environment, better social and economic development. Women are the drivers for change and together with the WASH and Health actors, we create local WASH markets that have positive impact towards better climate and health, economic empowerment, and a better future for all.

Catarina de Albuquerque (CEO of Sanitation and Water for All) and Dr. Githinji Gitahi (CEO of Amref Health Africa and Co-chair of the Universal Health Coverage Initiative) will share together with practitioners from the field practical insights on how to build community climate resilience by mainstreaming gender into WASH and Health interventions.

[An avalanche of collaboration triggering maximum SDG6 and SDG13 synergies](#)

Wednesday 25 August 11:00-12:00

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | EXP Consulting | soulbottles | Spouts of Water | Stockholm Environment Institute | Sustainable Sanitation Alliance | Viva con Agua
WaterWorX

Improved water management across sectors must play an enhanced role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Many of the concepts, technologies and resources required to support cross sectoral, more climate friendly water management already exist, but are not systematically available. Considering the urgency of mitigation and adaptation, an unprecedented level of cooperation between sectors, leaving silo thinking behind, is mandatory to trigger and unleash maximum SDG6 and SDG13 synergies.

By discussing international collaboration cases with a high practical potential in breakout sessions, conclusions to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration are elaborated. The results will be evaluated in the plenary.

Objective of the event is to pave the ground for an “avalanche of collaboration”. Motivation is a main driver to start this journey. Important key factors imparted during the session are:

- the benefits of cross sectoral collaboration between water, sanitation, energy, agriculture and DRR,
- the requirement for facilitating framework conditions as e.g., legislation and financial support,
- stakeholder perspectives and value creation by collaboration,
- the process of partnership formation,
- the value of existing guidelines, publications, SDG 17 (partnership) and of collaboration between SDG 6 (water/ sanitation) and SDG 13 (climate).

Inclusive practices in water climate adaptation

Wednesday 25 August 13:00-14:00

Deltares | Government of the Netherlands | World Bank Group | Wetlands

Social inclusion in water climate adaptation contributes to better, more equitable solutions for water challenges. In this session, different practical approaches for improving social inclusion will be discussed. Practical case studies and stakeholder experiences from water climate adaptation will be exchanged, to help partners improve social inclusion in practice.

Refugee Communities | Water Inside and Outside the Camp

Wednesday 25 August 13:00-14:00

Grundfos Foundation | Grundfos Holding A/S | **Plan International** | PlanBørnefonden | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | Water Mission

This interactive session will share the complex relationship of water supply inside and outside refugee settlements and how national and international stakeholders are approaching these dynamics through holistic development, appropriate technology, and behaviour change strategies. Partners will share learnings from a [Grundfos Foundation/Water Mission project in Western Tanzania](#) and bring them into the context of [a new partnership including Plan International in Western Ethiopia](#).

Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and SDG 13 on climate hold the delivery of the development agenda in the balance. In order to build resilient and fair societies, robust partnerships are being formed in refugee and host communities to address short and long-term needs within these contexts. Communities hosting refugees are often experiencing similar socio-economic difficulties, though they tend to be neglected in the increasing demand for attention and assistance of the refugee situation. For example, Nyarugusu Refugee Camp encompasses a huge area in Western Tanzania, surrounded by smaller communities. Inside the camp, you find all sorts of provisions that host communities don't necessarily have access to.

In this session, we will discuss the complex and often volatile relationship between refugee and host communities, address some of the political discussions that follow when international aid and resources pass through host communities to be distributed within the camp, present the holistic approaches being taken through appropriate technology and behaviour change strategies, and demonstrate how this approach is being scaled to new countries. This session will provide an example of how public-private partnerships are necessary to complement each other's strengths in order to achieve long-term peace and stability.

Values as the spark- Changing power dynamics, better water decisions

Wednesday 25 August 13:00-14:25

Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority | **Government of the Netherlands** | International Union for Conservation of NatureRare | University of Cambridge | University of Leeds | World Bank Group | World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Power drives decision making on water. Who gets it, and how, often reflects power structures. When personal values come in, power dynamics can change. The session will feature such experiences, invite participants to engage interactively in applying their values to water dilemmas, and encourage participation in the SWWW2021 water values survey.

This session takes a systems perspective on global trends affecting water resources, such as water pollution, depletion, broadening flood risk exposure, or persistent inequality in access to water services. We look at ways how the (dysfunctional) systems that drive these trends can be

Starting with an analysis of the power structures behind these systems, we ask three questions:

- Who has the power to change the way the current systems work?
- Which levers can be pulled effectively at which stage?
- What role do personal values play in that process?

The projects featured will include the Katuma (Tanzania) experience that builds values-based cooperation among water users to resolve over-use and pollution. The Addis (Ethiopia) experience shows how empowering the rank and file of the water utility to make value-driven decisions, can improve water services. These and other partners in the Valuing Water Initiative (VWI) will reflect on a conceptual framework developed to understand systems changes related to

Is the framework suitable to guide those looking to initiate and sustain system change in situations where current water outcomes are undesirable? The session will invite participants to themselves express what choices they would make when facing specific water dilemmas.

[SIWI Seminar: Climate action and water across sectors and boundaries](#)

Wednesday 25 August 13:00-14:00

Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank Group | International Water Management Institute | Stockholm International Water Institute | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | **speaker Jos Timmerman, Senior Water Expert, the Netherlands**

While breaking silos between sectors is necessary, transboundary cooperation in adaptation is crucial: 60% of freshwater flows are in transboundary basins. This session (part 3 of 3) will showcase the implementation of transboundary adaptation strategies by basins across the world, leading to improved knowledge and trust.

Climate, ecosystems, food systems, societies, and economies interact dynamically, and water is often the connector. Embracing multiple water values across sectors and boundaries is vital for responding to shared risks including climate change and the economic recession triggered by COVID-19.

Water management is affected by climate change in many ways (availability, floods, and droughts), hampering development and threatening the security of water and people. Providing water for food and energy, preventing ecosystem degradation, and managing water stresses require new approaches, especially in transboundary basins. Vulnerable people are disproportionately exposed due to low coping and adaptation capacity.

The COVID-19 crisis has been a threat to health and a socio-economic hazard, exacerbating tensions within societies, shrinking economies, and increasing poverty. Countries' capacity to build back better is threatened but it also is an opportunity to tackle climate change and achieve progress on inter-sectoral and transboundary cooperation for resilience building – an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

This seminar has three sessions that aim to walk the talk regarding cooperation across borders and sectors. If you are curious about community-based initiatives, youth-led behavioral change, nexus approaches and voices from basins around the globe, tune in to continue breaking silos!

Capacity for governing water security risk and uncertainty

Wednesday 25 August 13:00-15:30

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education | Stockholm International Water Institute

The world is moving towards increased water insecurity. If current trends persist it will come at huge social and economic costs. Consequently, countries are at cross-roads to develop and implement appropriate policy responses. Capacity development plays key role for effective institutional responses to transition from crisis management to managing risk.

IP High Level Dialogue

Wednesday 25 August 14:00-15:00

Government of the Netherlands | Stockholm International Water Institute

The 2021 High Level Dialogue will provide an opportunity to shine the spotlight on the strategic and transformative water synergies and actions that connect the sustainable development agenda and the climate agenda.

The World Water Week High-Level Dialogue (HLD) has served as a stocktaking moment, to gather a range of actors to discuss progress on the Water Action Decade and how it contributes to the fulfilment of the entire 2030 Agenda, as well as the achievement of other global agendas such as the Paris Agreement. Now in its fourth iteration, the 2021 High Level Dialogue will advance the conversation through a dialogue on “Strengthening Synergies, Accelerating Action”.

Disrupting the status quo: Water in health and climate crises

Wednesday 25 August 14:30-15:55

Deltares | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development | **OneWorld** | Stockholm International Water Institute

The climate and health crisis are firmly in mind as countries embark on the difficult journey to reactivate economies and deliver inclusive basic services, such as water and digital access for all. This session includes a debate based on case studies and topical break-outs about how we can accelerate movement towards decentralization.

Circular sanitation economy: Cross-sectoral approaches to climate resilience

Wednesday 25 August 15:00-16:00

Amref Health Africa | **Aqua for All** | **Caritas** | **FINISH Society** | Indian Council of Agricultural Research | RDO Trust | **WASTE**

With only 9% of the world’s economy circular, opportunity remains to tackle climate change by strengthening local value chains for cross-sectoral impact across WASH, waste and agriculture. Supporting women and youth entrepreneurs through circular sanitation economies improves livelihoods and restores soil carbon and nutrients , contributing to healthier, socio-economically empowered communities.

How can the role of the circular sanitation economy help communities build resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change on both environment and livelihoods?

Convenors will showcase successes, challenges and future ambitions to create opportunities for the private sector, communities and local governments to safely manage waste while improving environmental and human health. Attendees will have the chance to participate in a dialogue to together build a framework to try to realise, advocate for and quantify the impacts of the promising circular sanitation

This session will:

- Share case studies to assess the circularity of local sanitation interventions through improved resource recovery practices.
- Showcase the role of sanitation and waste management in carbon sequestration and nutrient recovery to fight the global climate crisis on a grassroots level.
- Share experiences and best practices for women and youth empowerment through a market-based approach to support sanitation and agriculture entrepreneurs (including farmers).

This session is repeated live on Fri. 27/Aug @ 7.00-8.00 CEST.

[Using Less Water to Save Energy: Exploring the Water-Climate Nexus](#)

Wednesday 25 August 15:00-16:00

2030 Water Resources Group | 50L Home Coalition | World Business Council for Sustainable Development | World Economic Forum | ***Netherlands Water Partnership in panel***

The LA Times recently published the article ‘Want to save energy and fight climate change? Try using less water’ which highlighted water is the forgotten link in the global fight against climate change. This session brings together actors collaborating in the 50L Home Coalition and their experiences exploring this challenge.

The 50 Litre Home Coalition is aiming to nurture innovations that ensure an efficient and equitable use of drinking water and energy resources for all. Convened by WBCSD, WEF, and 2030WRG, our Coalition enables innovators in the private sector to collaborate with each other and interface with city governments, NGOs and communities to adapt technological innovations to local conditions. In the initial months of the Coalition, we have learned how stakeholders in numerous cities require creative solutions that simultaneously address global challenges such as water efficiency and carbon emissions as well as local challenges such as adaptation and water stress.

In this context, our Coalition members have started to think about the relevance of water efficiency technologies to different geographies in the context of localised water stresses, energy efficiency, and our global climate emergency.

This session aims to create a dialogue between innovators and city leaders/managers with a focus on local climate challenges. What is the role of water systems in implementing local climate agendas? How are innovators responding to water stress, and how is that relevant to the cities' mitigation and adaptation priorities?

[How Digital Twins Can Improve the Health of Europe's Oceans](#)

Wednesday 25 August 15:30-15:55

Xylem

To improve the health of Europe's oceans, Xylem and a charitable foundation partnered with several utilities across Europe to conduct pilot studies on watershed (stormwater and wastewater) management and treatment optimization using real-time decision support system (RT-DSS) applications to achieve nutrient load reductions and energy savings at lower cost.

Coastal areas and oceans around the world are suffering from excess nutrients loads, resulting in eutrophication, harmful algae blooms, fish kills, and negative impacts to the fishing, tourism and recreational sectors, as well as to public health and the environment. Sources of excess nitrogen include urban stormwater runoff, wastewater (collection systems and wastewater treatment) discharges, agricultural runoff, and burning of fossil fuels.

To help improve the health of Europe's oceans, this multi-sectoral partnership has undertaken a cross-national portfolio of projects to examine whether advances in data science and analytics can change the real and perceived economics of positive interventions to reduce nutrient loading. Xylem, working with a global charitable foundation,

has partnered with several utilities to jointly assess the economic and environmental implications of digital twins in supporting the optimization of wastewater networks and treatment processes. The consortium has conducted pilot studies on watershed (stormwater and wastewater) management and treatment optimization using real-time decision support system (RT-DSS) applications to achieve nutrient load reductions and energy savings.

While our pilot studies remain underway, early outcomes are promising and demonstrate the ability of optimization to reduce nitrogen load by nearly 1/3 while simultaneously saving energy through more effective control of aeration processes.

[\(3/3\) Navigating Uncertain Waters - shifting powers, sharing values](#)

Wednesday 25 August 17:00-18:00

Both ENDS | Government of South Africa | Stockholm International Water Institute | World Meteorological Organization | World Resources Institute

Session 3/3 - Step up building resilient institutions through spaces for adaptive and participatory decision-making- Building resilient institutions for adaptive decision-making that consider climate change, the most vulnerable, places, economies, and ecosystems.

“Water is life.” Despite this importance, increasing demands, pollution, and mismanagement are threatening the world’s water resources and impeding our capacity to respond to emerging challenges like climate change, extreme events, and the recent pandemic. Addressing these challenges will require additional financial resources and a new way of thinking and acting that includes enhanced research, data, and actions that can better manage the complex technical, social, economic, and political trade-offs needed to ensure we can meet the needs of all – especially the most vulnerable. To get there, we must build a culture of political accountability and participatory decision-making that builds trust, spurs innovation, mobilizes resources, improves water resources management, and – above all – values water. We protect what we value. A valuing water movement can be the catalyst for political leadership and reform on water, and position water as the true “no-regrets” solution to climate change and pandemic preparedness. For this noble act to be achieved, the Water Sector will need all hands on the deck, demystification of the myths created on the concept of valuing Water and further, ensure buy-in, community mobilization and inclusion.

[Impact society through smart, data-enabled water ecosystems](#)

Wednesday 25 August 17:45-18:45

2030 Water Resources Group | Facebook | **Government of the Netherlands** | Nestlé | Stockholm International Water Institute

The Leadership in Business Accelerator will highlight the importance of effective private sector leadership on water issues and provide practical advice and best practice examples on global awareness of water in the international, regional and local agendas. This programme covers key aspects of storytelling, communicating impact and return on investment, and understanding and influencing behaviours across a variety of channels and geographies.

[How sustainability compacts contribute to institutional sustainability](#)

Wednesday 25 August 18:00-19:25

Amref Health Africa | **Government of the Netherlands** | IRC | Plan International | Simavi | SNV Netherlands Development Organisation | WASH Alliance International | WASH SDG Consortium

Effective monitoring, asset management and planning are key to generate sustainable WASH service delivery systems that leave no-one behind. Join us in this super-interactive session to explore how and to what extent formal agreements such as sustainability compacts with local/national WASH authorities can strengthen institutional sustainability and build resilience for WASH.

The legitimacy of international development depends on many factors and is subject to competing pressures. How can NGO programmes support national and local government and at the same time, hold themselves accountable to donors, the public and the communities they serve? How can stakeholders create a space where competing political, economic and social issues overlap and are meaningfully discussed?

With the SDG targets requiring significant political and financial commitment in the coming decade, it is critical that WASH (I)NGOs and other actors renew their commitment to major structural change in the way WASH services are prioritized and provided. Sustainability compacts and checks can contribute as they enable the formalization of these commitments to long-term sustainable services, also beyond the timeframes of traditional WASH programmes.

Breakout groups will be formed to discuss the session theme from the perspective of the different stakeholders involved in the negotiations of the sustainability compacts. Can sustainability compacts push the limits of what is expected and what is possible? What is required to make them work and what happens next? Come to our session and find out and contribute.

[Accelerating gender equality in the water domain](#)

Wednesday 25 August 21:00-22:00

African Ministers' Council On Water | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Ministry of Infrastructure, Argentina | Secretariat for Water Resources Argentina | UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management | UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific | UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme | **Women for Water Partnership**

Unlocking gender equality progress in water needs solid knowledge, practical solutions, and collaborative and immediate action. The Convenors will present a multi-stakeholder Call for Action for accelerating progress towards gender equality in the water domain and building just and resilient societies. Climate, social and health crises make this call urgent.

25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and 10 years to the end-date of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNESCO WWAP carried out an extensive analysis of gender-related achievements and challenges in the water domain. The outcomes clearly suggest that despite advances at policy-level, progress in the fulfilment of the basic right of gender equality in water and sanitation is not on track. Simultaneously, women are underrepresented in terms of employment and participation to water-related decision-making at all levels. In light of this, a multi-stakeholder coalition led by UNESCO WWAP is facilitating a coordinated 'Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain'. The coalition consists of Member States institutions, UN agencies, international and regional organizations, NGOs, ODAs, private sector and civil society. The Call not only aims to raise broad awareness on related issues, but particularly urges decision-makers, leaders and private sector to break with business-as-usual by recommending concrete actions to advance gender equality in the water domain.

This session will present the supporting technical publications and the participatory Call for Action, accompanied by a discussion of strategies, good practices, methods and strategies to overcome the challenges for gender inequalities in water.