

Leading for Leaving No One Behind- it's time to reset!

Monday 23 August | 07:00-08:00

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Australian Water Partnership | iDE | Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney | **Plan International** | **SNV Netherlands Development Organisation** | Water for Women Fund

COVID-19 highlighted gendered and social inequalities like never before. Now is the opportunity to reset. Transformative leadership is key to leaving no one behind. Convenors will share examples of how transformative leadership, at all levels, can challenge inequalities and contribute to more inclusive and equitable WASH systems, structures and services.

Now, more than ever, the world relies on transformative leaders to drive the COVID-19 response and recovery. But how can we better enable transformative leadership in the water governance and WASH sectors to ensure more inclusive and equitable systems, structures and services?

Join the convenors in an engaging and open discussion on all facets of transformative leadership and explore how you can better support leaders to be more transformative in programming, research or policy-making to tackle challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change, head-on. Convenors will present program examples and research, sharing their pathways towards transformative leadership in many challenging contexts, including opportunities, barriers, lessons learnt and recommendations on how to better support transformative leadership in these sectors. These will be followed by an interactive panel whereby participants will have the opportunity to explore, in more detail, the emerging recommendations. Convenors will support participants to identify how they might transfer these learnings to their own areas of work. Through the session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the pathways towards transformative leadership together with exposure to a range of strategies and an increased motivation to support transformative leadership in their programming and research.

Local perspectives, global opportunities – Water as Leverage Asia

Monday 23 August | 07:00-08:00

City of Chennai | **Deltares** | **Government of the Netherlands** | Invest International | Ooze Architects | **University of Groningen** | Water Youth Network | World Bank Group

Bridging gaps between communities, experts, policy makers and financiers in developing best solutions for a sustainable future is key. The local ambassadors of Water as Leverage will share their experience on how a programme can be successful and transformative in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable way.

The local perspectives of Water as Leverage Asia offer global opportunities. During this session our local ambassadors from the cities of Chennai (India), Khulna (Bangladesh) and Semarang (Indonesia) will tell their personal story. Jayshree from Chennai will show water is an opportunity and connector, Abir from Khulna will share his dream of a green and livable Khulna and Ismet from Semarang will make clear why water is all about people. The Special Water Envoy of the Netherlands, Mr Henk Ovink, will share the inspiring journey of the programme Water as Leverage for Resilient Cities Asia, gaining ground globally. The World Bank will give their view on the international example that Water as Leverage sets, as an inclusive, design driven process.

Can a business approach link sanitation & curative health care?

Monday 23 August | 07:00-08:00

Amref Health Africa | **Aqua for All** | **FINISH Society** | **WASTE**

Scaling up health access by leveraging sanitation and hygiene marketing can address the 'double bind' of health versus economy. How can WASH marketing and a business approach contribute to healthier and socio-economically empowered communities? Interventions linking sanitation and curative health through telemedicine, universal health coverage and micro-health insurance are covered.

Linking sanitation and health can make economic sense for entrepreneurs and governments alike. Progress in universal health coverage can be made by cutting down infections. Savings from good health reduce out of pocket health expenditures for both households and the public sector. Marketing for scale at the sanitation-health nexus has potential to achieve this through public-private partnerships co-selling health insurance and improved sanitation.

Digital tools used to collect data are crucial, yet need multiple applications (i.e. geospatial intelligence, digital marketing, listenership, e-learning, entire package of m-health, communications, etc.). Conveners will share experiences with the sanitation-health nexus, focusing on:

- Digital solutions for demand and supply-side management of interventions.
- Economics of improved sanitation linked to health (i.e. co-selling with a business approach, utilizing digital tools and artificial intelligence).

Expected outcomes:

- Innovation: Rethinking sanitation programming to include health interventions and sustainable scaling
- Inspiration: Sharing best practices, novel ideas being piloted and facilitating workshop for cross-sharing of attendees' own successes and challenges
- Cooperation: Demonstrable possibilities for collaborative, multi-stakeholder, and public-private partnership approaches

This session is repeated live on Thurs. 26/Aug @ 15.00-16.00 CEST.

Climate Smart Transboundary River Basin Development

Monday 23 August | 08:00-09:00

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | International Union for Conservation of Nature | NBI - Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | **Wetlands International**

Climate change will continue to exacerbate the complexities of water resources management at the national and transboundary levels. Preparedness from riparian countries to attract investment for harnessing shared benefits of water while taking into consideration the impacts of climate change in the sector is key. River Basin Organizations have a strong role to play by tapping into innovative climate financing instruments. The event will reflect on the capacity of River Basin Organizations for preparing bankable climate action proposals for transboundary basin development as part of a global dialogue on financing climate action through the water sector. It will focus on the additional complexities from climate change for RBO's and how they can be addressed and taking into account for river basin development? What are the needs for institutional competences to develop resilience and how can they be supported

The session will feature an input from the UNECE Water Convention on the 'state of affairs' on transboundary basin development and financing climate change action from the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change. This will set of the scene on how the UNECE region and affiliated basins have incorporated into their project development portfolios, climate change considerations. This will be followed up by inputs from the Nile

Basin Initiative (Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme - Coordination Unit / NELSAP - CU) and a second river basin organization, on their experiences and challenges faced on developing bankable climate action projects and tapping on innovative climate financing. After an interactive session of QnAs based on the initial inputs, two specific case studies will be presented. The IUCN and Wetlands International will present practical examples of how they have supported stakeholders on the ground to leverage and mobilize additional resources for climate change action within the planning and management basin wide frameworks. Afterwards a dynamic fish bowl methodology will spark participation from participants to share their own experiences or to dive in into particular relevant aspects from the technical inputs.

Nature as a Partner: Implementing Nature-based Solutions Globally

Monday 23 August | 08:00-09:00

Danish Water Forum | Finnish Water Forum | Japan Water Forum | Korea Water Forum | **Netherlands Water Partnership** | Northern Water Network

Examining the journey of European and Asian cities using nature-based solutions for flood and stormwater risk management, practical cases will be presented along with learned lessons, overview of operational and institutional challenges, application methodologies, and experiences of enlisting nature as the ultimate partner to enhance resilience in urban areas.

This session will discuss the pathways and lessons from applying the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) into the existing urban landscape for flood and storm risk management in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Further, the session will also look at the financial implications of working with NBS and compare costs to benefits and outcomes instead of traditional grey solutions. An essential factor is to assess whether there are any institutional and legislative obstacles and bottlenecks for working with NBS.

The speakers will share the application methodologies, institutional arrangement, implementation process, ways of measurement, including the cost-benefits analysis and effectiveness, compared to “do nothing” and grey infrastructure and valuing water and ecosystems, decision-making process among the multi-stakeholders, including barriers, trade-offs, operations and maintenance considerations.

The cases will assist in understanding whether and how different political, financial, landscape, and civil society settings will influence the promotion of the NBS as the means to address the risks of flood and stormwater in urban areas. The lessons of the countries above will also facilitate overcoming the institutional barriers for resilience faster. They will try to look into a future where NBS becomes a thriving and viable option in mainstreaming urban development.

Self-supply's potential for increased resilience and water security

Monday 23 August | 08:00-09:00

Ask for Water GmbH | International Water Management Institute | **IRC** | **MetaMeta** | Rural Water Supply Network | SKAT Foundation | SMART Centre Group | University of Technology Sydney | WaterAi

Self-supply means households taking charge of water provisioning as a rural and urban coping mechanism, often in response to inadequate supply. Self-financed access has potential to support improved health and nutrition, and generate income. This session shares experiences and recommendations on how this complementary solution strengthens resilience.

World-wide over 1 billion people have invested in water infrastructure at their premises for self-supply (Sutton, 2021) as a coping mechanism, often in response to inadequate supply and mainly through groundwater. This session will provide practical recommendations on how to support and further scale-up self-supply in a sustainable way. Based on different examples, it will show how self-supply complements other forms of water access for domestic and productive uses and discuss concerns including water quality and groundwater depletion.

Water at premises provides significant benefits to human development: in addition to improving health and hygiene, it contributes to reducing poverty and hunger, improving nutrition, and generating employment, among other benefits. Self-supply as a concept has cross-sectoral synergies with 'Multiple Use Systems' and 'Farmer-Led Irrigation', and this event seeks to foster a dialogue with people and actors from these sub-sectors.

Stimulating and supporting people to invest themselves is a powerful and complementary mechanism to reach SDG6 and to "leave no one behind" where other water-supply models are not applicable, considered too expensive or struggling to provide full coverage. Supporting self-supply can have benefit-cost ratios in the range of 10-20 and where combined with rainwater harvesting, it can increase resilience to climate change.

Sarphati Sanitation Challenge: Seeking Innovators in Sanitation Entrepreneurship

Monday 23 August | 10:00-11:00

Accenture | Aqua for All | Government of the Netherlands | World Waternet

In this session, Aqua for All, World Waternet and Accenture give the floor to sanitation entrepreneurs to pitch their viable, scalable solutions to accelerate access to sanitation for all. We invite the audience to join us in working with/promoting the solutions of these finalists of the Sarphati Sanitation Challenge

In 2021, World Waternet, Aqua for All and Accenture launched the Sarphati Sanitation Challenge to highlight the importance of safe sanitation and the need for creative, sustainable and scalable sanitation solutions.

In this session, the Sarphati Sanitation Challenge partners with the Government of the Netherlands to present the pitches of 10 innovative sanitation solutions. We will provide context on the challenges in sanitation business models and facilitate the discussion on how entrepreneurs, government and non-profits are addressing these issues.

The theme for the 2021 Challenge is 'Sanitation and Health,' which highlights how entrepreneurial solutions are bridging key gaps and finding opportunities along the sanitation-health nexus.

We invite the audience to join us in this dialogue and help us in our mission to accelerate access to safe sanitation for all.

Climate Migration: Water Services and Water Security in Displacement Settings

Monday 23 August 10:30-11:55

Austria Red Cross | Deltares | Eawag | International Organization for Migration | Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation | The German WASH Network | The Netherlands Red Cross | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Human Settlements Programme | WASTE | Water Youth Network

Water scarcity, sea-level rise, droughts and other weather extremes present social challenges and may fuel climate-induced migration. How can national and international actors involved in displacement matters reduce climate-induced migration triggers, and honor the right to clean water and sanitation while bringing water security in, and around, displacement settlements?

This event will be an inclusive platform for bringing actors from various fields, such as migration, flood prevention, water management, sanitation, faecal sludge and hygiene together. The session focuses on ongoing actions, innovations and tools aiming to ensure access to enough and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene services for all.

The event consists of two sections. After a short introduction, the first section introduces opportunities and actions from the perspectives of national governments, United Nations organizations and development agencies. The exemplary actions covers various scales and regions. The second section follows the World Café setup with the aim to discuss state-of-the-art technologies, methods and tools used to support policy responses and on-the-ground actions related to climate migration, water security in settlements (incl. droughts, flood risk management, WASH, environmental protection), sanitation and hygiene. The session finalizes highlighting how these innovations can be used to contribute towards reaching the sustainable development goals 6 and map out

the future needs of the sector and the way forward.

Holistic strategies for corporations to be "water positive" by 2030

Monday 23 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.

Youth Engagement: Why it Matters and How to Do It

Monday 23 August 11:00-12:00

Danone | **Government of the Netherlands** | **KWR Watercycle Research Institute** | The International Federation of Private Water Operators | UN-Water | Water Youth Network | **Watershare** | **World Waternet**

We can only build fairer, more resilient societies if we empower young people. This session sets out the benefits and opportunities of youth engagement, and will formally launch the Youth Engagement Action Plan – a multi-stakeholder initiative for engaging more young people in the water-related issues that affect them.

The session aims to challenge perceptions among water sector stakeholders of what youth engagement means and how it can be put into practice. Participants will:

Gain a better understanding the benefits and opportunities that arise from institutional engagement with young people;

Become aware of the many concrete ways in which youth can be engaged effectively, from research to policy, industry to civil society;

Learn from prior experiences of youth and industry leaders, including how they dealt with obstacles and failures to achieve fairer and sustainable outcomes;

Learn how to avoid tokenism to ensure youth engagement is meaningful and inclusive.

Participants will also be challenged to take action on engaging young professionals by aligning their organisations with the Youth Engagement Action Plan that will be launched during the session.

(1/3) Navigating Uncertain Waters - shifting powers, sharing values

Monday 23 August 13:00-14:00

Both ENDS | Government of South Africa | **Government of the Netherlands** | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | World Meteorological Organization | World Resources Institute

Session 1/3 - Step in: the politics of water and the choices we can make. Using the deliberative capacity of an election or conversational / dialogue process we will seek to remove the veil and explore the myths, realities, and multiple complexities of water and its competing interests.

“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.

[Towards the next generation of sustainability monitoring and accountability](#)

Monday 23 August 13:30-14:55

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK | **Government of the Netherlands** | Stockholm International Water Institute | United Nations Children’s Fund

Sustainability is a major challenge for WASH. Ensuring lasting investment impacts is vital but complex and requires a strategic approach and concerted stakeholder efforts. During this interactive session, we will invite views and support around the next generation of sustainability and accountability monitoring mechanisms and how to increase stakeholder accountability.

30-50% of rural waterpoints in Sub-Saharan Africa fail within five years after construction. WASH systems frequently underperform due to systemic failures. Higher levels of sustainability can only be achieved through more robust monitoring systems that overcome the limitations of the current instruments. The establishment of sector-wide sustainability monitoring mechanisms needs to be accompanied with stronger accountability mechanisms that need to be put in place at national and sub-national/district levels. This requires a concerted effort of all stakeholders.

In this interactive session the conveners are looking for views and support from stakeholders to enhance sustainability of WASH services. We invite the audience to take part in a poll and debate on how to move towards the ‘next generation of sustainability monitoring and accountability’. The conveners will share results of over 10 years of work in supporting sustainability monitoring and accountability, identifying opportunities and lessons learned. A proposal for ‘the next generation of sustainability monitoring and accountability’ will be presented.

With this session conveners intent to encourage stakeholders to join a global initiative for the development of tailored sector-wide sustainability monitoring mechanisms, and supporting national processes in a selection of countries that contribute to the next generation of sustainability monitoring and accountability.

[Managing Floods and Droughts: The Governance Challenges](#)

Monday 23 August 14:00-15:00

Deltares | Integrated Drought Management Programme | World Bank Group | World Meteorological Organization

As the hydrological cycle speeds with climate change, so must our policies and practices for addressing flood and drought risks. A new policy framework for hydro-climatic risk management will be presented, followed by a lively discussion on how water, disaster, hydro-met, and agriculture can collaborate to reduce these risks. The session will present a new policy framework, referred to as the EPIC Response, for hydro-climatic risk management. This framework combines flood and drought risk management and explores the roles of different national agencies and how they can collaborate to ensure a joined-up government effort to tackle this preeminent climate adaption challenge.

The session is complementary to a session organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that focuses on the physical interactions between flood and droughts. Participants are encouraged to attend both session.

The session will start off with a presentation of the EPIC Response by the World Bank and Deltares, co-authors of the supporting report. Flood and drought experts from the WMO will then reflect on the institutional and policy constraints and innovations that they have experienced. Finally, representatives from two developing countries will discuss the key policy and institutional issues related to hydro-climatic risk management in their countries. After each set of presentations, there will be an opportunity for audience participation, as well a continuous parallel chat session.

Accelerating gender equality in the water domain

Monday 23 August 14:00-15:00

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 | National Water Institute of 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.

"Multi-dimensional role of youth in building resilience"

Monday 23 August 17:00-18:00

Central Asia Youth 4 Water | French Water Partnership | Global Water Partnership | International Secretariat for Water | Swedish Water House | Swiss Water Partnership | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | Water Youth Network | World Water Council | **Young Expert Programmes** | Young Water Solutions | Youth Steering Committee of World Water Forum

Climate change, COVID-19 and other systemic shocks compromise progress on the SDGs. As youth has to deal with these challenges the longest, empowering and integrating youth in building back better is more important than ever. This session offers an intergenerational experts dialogue to expose pathways for youth engagement in building resilience.

Expertise comes in all forms and shapes, ages and origins. From on the ground climate activists to high-level diplomats, building resilience is a multi-dimensional challenge that demands cooperation. Evidence has shown that Involving youth is of vital importance when it comes to resilience and it can be done in different ways and at different levels. The session will start by setting the scene with concrete examples of how to incorporate youth in resilience building. It will give voice to youth on different roundtables, while promoting intergenerational dialogue with senior experts. Participants will have the opportunity to network and share their perspectives on

themes ranging from climate change and urban disasters to community-based water resilience, peacebuilding and access to WASH in fragile or disaster affected settings.

In this very dynamic setting, based on good practices of water-led resilience connecting to different fields, we aim to collect recommendations and demands from youth around the globe to carry on beyond the water debate. Participants will gain insight on how to leverage tools such as Internet of Things and risk-informed planning. Decision makers and experts will learn about concrete pathways to capitalize and integrate youth in resilience strategies.

Disrupting the status quo: Water in health and climate crises

Monday 23 August 17:00-18:00

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

The climate crisis has sharply accentuated the need to transition to truly resilient systems and societies; and highlighted the significant risk to water and development. In this storytelling session, we will set the scene for how thinking differently about adaptation benefits could affect the water sector, requiring a cross-cutting focussed approach.

Planet Aqua: Solutions from space for clean water

Monday 23 August 17:00-18:00

European Space Agency | **Government of the Netherlands**

How do we value water from and in space? Because water is life, not only on Earth but also in space. The session will mesmerize the audience with the power of space technology, like orbital tracking of marine plastic and spacecraft-grade recycling systems and can provide water and food security on Earth. The session will look at the problems from different perspectives and give provides views from space, from Earth and even from underwater.

The session will demonstrate the valuing water principles through:

- Inspiration- Audience to be triggered by ESA astronaut André Kuipers, the story teller, who spent 204 days aboard the International Space Station looking at our Blue Planet, scrutinizing the use and reuse of their most precious resource after oxygen- water. And he asks, how is water being valued on our planet?
- Appeal through art- André's colleague Peter de Maagt, a space engineer based at space center ESA ESTEC on the Dutch North Sea coast, and a passionate scuba diver, answers through his producing award-winning underwater photography. He focuses on the impact of mankind causing water pollution and harm to animals.
- Science and innovation- Paolo Corradi works on plastic pollution solutions, using remote sensing technology. Furthermore, Peter Scheer shares how applying ESA technology to water in developing countries builds resilience, improves health and food security and increases access to sanitation, while reducing water

Learning from the Valuing Water Principles – the Dutch Story

Monday 23 August 18:00-18:25

Government of the Netherlands | **Municipality of Dordrecht, Netherlands**

Eleven countries committed to understanding, valuing and managing water better through the UN Valuing Water Principles. We tell the story of how the Principles relate to the experience of Dutch water management and the lessons learned from their application.

Henk Ovink, the Netherlands' Water Envoy, explains how for centuries in the Netherlands, managing water meant fighting against it to avoid floods. But in recent decades more work has been done to reconcile water's

different values, leading to systemic change in water management.

Large engineering works for flood prevention in the 20th century were deemed successful, but failed to honour the UN/World Bank Valuing Water Principle to “protect the sources” with the resulting loss of ecosystems. We will show how steps have since been taken to implement this principle through increased use of nature-based solutions. The story will reveal how initial successes in combating river pollution were undermined by the inability to reconcile ecosystem and economic values.

Today, the principles are being applied through the multistakeholder, value-driven Room for the River and Integrated River Management programmes. These programmes build on the Principles to “recognize and embrace water’s multiple values” and to “reconcile values and build trust”.

The creation of an inner city multi-purpose evacuation area in the city of Dordrecht highlights the importance of the Principles to “invest and innovate” and “educate to empower” to realize the many benefits derived from water and reduce risks.

[Holistic strategies for corporations to be "water positive" by 2030](#)

Monday 23 August 18:45-19:45

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

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[Transboundary waters cooperation for resilience: global lessons and experiences](#)

Monday 23 August 19:00-20:00

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK | **Government of the Netherlands** | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | World Bank Group

Transboundary water cooperation offers much more than just water management: it is a platform for multi-sector planning and coordination of resilience interventions. This session sheds lights on the role of transboundary water cooperation as a master variable to unlock resilience across sectors, social groups and countries, under a changing climate.

Transboundary water cooperation enables much more than just improved water management. It can be a means to achieve increased resilience to multiple concurrent shocks and stressors that impact the development trajectory of regions and countries. Transboundary water cooperation can be an entry point for action in a number of sectors and as such it provides a platform to unlock resilience across sectors, social groups and countries, thus contributing to a green recovery and building back better.

The session will draw upon experiences and lessons learned from transboundary basins, frameworks and platforms over the last couple of decades but also bring in new and forward-looking perspective including how the increasing role of disruptive technology can support increased resilience. In addition, the session will bring in diverse perspectives, ranging from global actors to basin organizations, grassroots organizations and youth.

[Water: the final frontier for women’s economic empowerment](#)

Monday 23 August 21:00-22:00

Water.org | **Women for Water Partnership**

While the impact of access to household water and sanitation for women and girls is understood, the connection between access and income remains overlooked, limiting the financing solutions available. This session will

illuminate the critical role that access to WASH plays upon income for women and explore alternative financing opportunities.

An implied but less discussed component of water and sanitation is the direct connection between household access and a woman's ability to realize her full earning potential. While extending credit to low-income households for connecting to water and sanitation services is becoming more commonplace, the classification of such microloans as "consumption" rather than "income-generating" effectively prevents these loans from being mainstreamed across all financial institutions serving the poor, limiting the overall impact of this solution. This session will draw upon recent research as well as field data, including borrower testimony, that makes a clear connection between access and income. In so doing, it highlights the indirect impact of access – the "income-enabling" aspect of water and sanitation – and seeks to inspire more lenders to develop their own WASH loans.

Building resilience by challenging social norms: Fostering gender-transformative WASH programming

Monday 23 August 22:00-23:00

African Ministers' Council On Water | African Water Association | African Women Sanitation Professionals Network | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | Faecal Sludge Management Alliance | **FINISH Mondial** | National Water Supply and Sanitation Council | USAID's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Finance | WaterAid | Women in Water and Sanitation Network | World Bank Group

Gender transformative approaches to WASH programming aim to transform the power structures underlying unequal gender relations. Providing an enabling environment for marginalized women to articulate their voices, take on leadership roles and set political agendas is central to delivering inclusive policies and achieving resilient and equitable WASH programming.

There is increasing evidence that WASH offers a strategic entry point to empower women and girls and increase gender equality. Since WASH-related work such as water collection is closely associated with social norms based on gender, WASH programs and policies can provide fertile ground to promote women's voices, enhance their full and effective participation and provide equal opportunities for leadership while at the same time shift men's attitudes which is deemed critical for addressing gender inequalities in WASH. This can begin a process of change in gender relations and roles both at the community and government level.

As such, the session will give room to WASH experts from international organizations and development agencies as well as grassroots/women's organizations to showcase their work and spark a discourse on the importance of gender transformative approaches to WASH programming.

By drawing on (local) initiatives and best practices, the interactive session will offer hands-on advice and solutions for practitioners and policy-makers in the WASH sector to challenge restrictive gender norms, practices and policies and successfully apply evidence-based, nuanced gender transformative approaches, taking into consideration resilience, diversity and inclusion.

Can you teach an old dog new tricks? Unpacking finance.

Monday 23 August 22:00-23:00

IRC | United Nations Children's Fund | Water.org

Finance is a buzzword across the water sector that strikes terror in many professionals' hearts. This session will review leading short courses and tools available to help water professionals get smarter about finance, and hear from the teachers about the toughest pain points they've had to overcome for this community.

The water community, especially the WASH community, has embraced the need to identify and implement financial solutions to accelerate achievement of SDG6. Moving from knowing to doing, however, takes more than good intentions.

The first part of this session will equip participants with knowledge about what tools are available, where to find them, and how to identify which tool or tools will best serve your needs. This will go hand-in-hand with setting clear expectations for what a professional wants to be able to do as a result of their financial

The second part of the session will feature advice from leading course developers and teachers about the most common areas of difficulty for water professionals as they learn the fundamentals of finance. Understanding these components will create positive learning environments that enable water professionals to embrace finance and integrate it into their work as needed.

[Rainforestation: Cagayan de Oro River Basin, Philippines](#)

Tuesday 24 August 08:00-09:00

Vitens Evides International | Wetlands International

We share the approach of the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council and its Partners in the landscape and delta in the Philippines in building resilient and fair societies with vulnerable groups by promoting water governance, watershed and riparian restoration, food security and livelihood development, and landscape financial infrastructure.

[Women Water Climate: Tackling the Challenges](#)

Tuesday 24 August 10:00-11:00

Network of Women Water Professionals | Soroptimist International | Stockholm Environment Institute | Women for Water Partnership

Action without Vision is a nightmare, Vision without Action is a day-dream. Our Way Forward will involve an interactive discussion among all relevant stakeholders on accelerating transformation: What does traditional, local knowledge teach us for the future and lead to more resilient, sustainable and equitable water policies and programmes.

[Investing for change through the World Water Quality Alliance](#)

Tuesday 24 August 10:00-11:00

European Commission - Joint Research Centre | IHE Delft Institute for Water Education | UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology | UN Environment Programme | Wageningen University & Research | World Bank Group

The World Water Quality Alliance Ecosystem workstream will mobilise policy, investment and public support for ecosystem based choices in the protection and restoration of inland waters. This interactive session will develop the concepts and practice for future protection and restoration of waters at local, regional and global scales.

There is no doubt about the magnitude of continuing global decline of water quality. The causes are known, but the solutions remain largely elusive. The newly formed World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA), under the auspices of UN Water provides a new approach to mobilise the global expertise, policy and business communities to identify and develop regional solutions. The 'know how' to deliver significant water quality improvements, for example, through nature based solutions, across sectors and scales is available, and many of the solutions provide multiple benefits that are underrepresented in existing policies. Too often the silo mentality persists, with development policies continuing to drive further pollution. The challenge now lies in mobilising policy makers, investment and public support for change leading to ecosystem based choices, and supporting communities in the protection and restoration of the ecosystems on which they rely. This can only be achieved through an international Coalition of the Willing, inclusive of multiple interests and disciplines to share experience through an informed community of change. This session provides another building block for global collaboration in recognising the negative social and economic effects of ongoing water quality decline, and mapping out the solutions for better protection and restoration.

[Water Resource Management for WASH: strengthening communities for climate resilience](#)

Tuesday 24 August 10:00-11:25

Amref Health Africa | Government of the Netherlands | RAIN foundation | Simavi | WASH Alliance International | WASH SDG Consortium | Wetlands International

Climate vulnerability and resilience (CVR) is a cross-cutting theme within the Netherlands WASH SDG programme. This session provides interactive, virtual field visits to successful IWRM interventions where participants are invited to interact with community members and programme staff. In Ethiopia we will showcase catchment restoration and in Uganda, constructed wetlands.

This session provides the opportunity to visit programme sites – virtually!

The audience is invited to join the WASH SDG team and visit two programme locations where WASH Alliance International implements water resource management activities with the aim to strengthen communities for climate resilience.

Our first stop will be Olyelowidye – Agago District, Uganda – where a constructed wetland is using green infrastructure to increase water security in the area. After, we will continue to Ethiopia and visit a catchment restoration project in the Ziway-Shalla

In addition to live video footage where project staff and other stakeholders will showcase key challenges and achievements, these visits will facilitate direct interaction between the audience – who can make comments and ask questions - and the team.

Other relevant stakeholders such as community members and local authorities will also be present to showcase the different perspectives and the importance of applying a multi-stakeholder approach.

After the field visits, participants will be divided into smaller groups and delve into some key challenges. Based on the experiences from the audience, the groups will explore alternative solutions to contribute to sector knowledge around the importance of water resource management for sustainable and climate resilient WASH programmes.

[Adaptive WASH planning to confront uncertainties during emergencies and beyond](#)

Tuesday 24 August 10:30-11:55

Deltares | IHE Delft Institute for Water Education | Simavi | WASH Alliance International | Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association

In this super interactive session we investigate how and why the WASH sector should move beyond using Theory of Change and apply adaptive planning practices to identify and prioritise critical assumptions and uncertainties, develop associated adaptation actions and monitor triggering indicators.

Restrictions on movements and assembly, lockdowns, social distancing, increased care work due to closure of schools and sickness, loss of staff and many other consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic challenged our assumptions on how WASH interventions are implemented. The WASH sector adapted its way of operating quickly to continue its work in the new normal. While thrilled to see this adaptability, if we are to respond to a variety of uncertainties in today's complex world, the systematic use of adaptive planning and management approaches in the WASH sector, during emergencies and beyond, should increase.

The conveners invite you to join this session and experience, through engaging in an interactive game, how the use of adaptive planning can benefit WASH actors. This will demonstrate how informed decisions making that anticipates possible future circumstances can help to mitigate the impact of critical uncertainties. The game will be followed by short pitches on lessons learnt from Kenya, Uganda and Bangladesh. The session also offers ample opportunity for questions and answers. The game, pitches and discussions, will help to set the future agenda for adaptive planning approaches for the WASH sector, identifying benefits but also remaining challenges in applying adaptive planning in practice.

[Right2Grow: empowering communities to improve nutrition and WASH services](#)

Tuesday 24 August 10:30-11:55

Action Against Hunger | Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa | Civil Society Network for Nutrition | Community Integrated Development Initiative | Max Foundation | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands | Save the Children | The Hunger Project | World Vision

Making sure every child can reach its full potential! This is the Right2Grow partnership's goal: well-nourished children, resilient communities, despite COVID-19 and climate change. Right2Grow's multi-perspective panel will share

ambitions for a locally-driven global movement to eradicate undernutrition and improve access to WASH. Join us to discuss challenges and opportunities!

We see a world full of great intentions, expertise and wealth, which does not live up to its promises and potential. At the same time, we also see strong women, men and children in affected communities ready to voice their needs, and ready to contribute their own part of the solution. In this session Right2Grow will take you along on its journey to build a locally led global movement that puts these affected communities at its centre. Our multidisciplinary panel will showcase you how sustainable progress can be achieved by strengthening local communities and building cross-sectoral partnerships that connect the local to the global level. We present a people-centered approach that brings in and amplifies local voices in national and global dialogues. This session will challenge you to look at water and food security through another lens: what is the game changing potential of putting communities in the lead to instigate and achieve long lasting change at the global level? Right2Grow invites you to join us in exploring challenges and opportunities so that together we can Build Resilience Faster!

Reimagine water systems management in a changing climate

Tuesday 24 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.

Inclusive practices in water climate adaptation

Tuesday 24 August 11:00-12:00

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

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.

Social inclusion is increasingly important in water climate adaptation. It stimulates creativity, enables sustainable solutions and mitigates social and environmental risks.

In practice social inclusion is a complex matter and often fails to meet expectations. Technical approaches are still very dominant in projects. Knowledge and in-depth understanding of local dynamics are often limited as are resources to create this understanding.

Technical knowledge and expertise are vital in tackling climate issues, but can only deliver true value when connected with local knowledge, governance and communities. This practical side of social inclusion receives little attention and is extremely challenging. Collaboration is needed between donors, experts, national and local authorities and communities. Cultural differences need to be bridged. Therefore, investment in understanding local cultural and social context is key as well as investment in processes to enhance inclusion and co-created solutions.

The year of valuing water puts the different values of water for different groups central and provides an excellent opportunity to discuss opportunities and dilemmas of social inclusion in practice. In this session we discuss and explore practical approaches in enabling and improving social inclusion and share experiences from different countries.

Gender transformative leadership in WASH: voices from Asia

Tuesday 24 August 11:30-11:55

Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney | **SNV Netherlands Development Organisation** | Water for Women Fund

Curated series of personal interviews with WASH sector leaders in Asia featuring COVID-19 responses that are enabling gender-just and resilient futures. In these interviews, diverse leaders talk about how their responses are transforming personal perspectives, norms, and systemic patterns to achieve gender equality.

Leadership qualities are especially put to test by unforeseen crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In these situations, safeguarding the right of people to water and sanitation is paramount. To support social cohesion, stability, and resilience during times of upheaval, WASH leaders in the sector must listen, address, and respond to the diverse needs of people, including women, girls, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups. Actions of leaders have lasting effects on citizens. Now more than ever leadership needs to be inclusive and gender-transformative.

Drawing on an Australian Government Water for Women Fund supported research partnership between SNV in Bhutan, Nepal and Lao PDR and ISF at the University of Technology Sydney this session will feature a series of curated interviews with diverse inspirational WASH leaders in government and civil society who are transforming inequalities in their COVID-19 responses. In the process, leaders will share how traditionally excluded (and voiceless) groups are being involved in WASH decision-making processes in Asian contexts. Ideas shared through the interviews will have applicability across a wide range of WASH-COVID programming to support more transformative leadership strategies, and to assist implementers to find new entry points for strengthening gender equality and inclusion.

Disrupting the status quo: Water in health and climate crises

Tuesday 24 August 13:00-14:00

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

Globally, we need to develop impact and cost benefit investment pathways for the most vulnerable to mitigate and manage the impacts of the climate and health crises. This interactive grounding session will host a panel focused on how different sectors will be affected and includes examples of good practice which demonstrate the rationale and materiality for urgent interventions.

Certain Uncertainty: Next Generation Water Planning for Deep Uncertainty

Tuesday 24 August 15:00-16:00

Alliance for Global Water Adaptation | **Deltares** | International Center For Integrated Water Resources Management | UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

As attention turns towards implementation of climate commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions, countries need practical guidance on how to address climate risks and other uncertainties in water management. This event will showcase the upscaling of so-called “bottom-up” approaches to resilient water management.

Climate change is accelerating even as countries across the globe devise strategies to mitigate its impacts and adapt to the “new normal.” The effects of climate change are most acutely felt through impacts on the water cycle and water-related extreme events. To ensure water supply for humans and the environment while meeting the world’s ambitious climate and development goals, decision makers and regulators will need to adopt a new paradigm for resilient water management that embraces the uncertain future ahead.

Over the past decade, various organizations have developed a set of complementary resilient water management tools and approaches that work to address climate risks and other uncertainties in a manner that can be integrated within existing planning, design, and operational decision processes. These “bottom-up approaches” differ from the

dominant paradigm guiding water management for the past half-century — namely the assumption that we can use the past to predict (and plan for) the future.

In this session, speakers will illustrate how bottom-up approaches have been utilized to date, presenting opportunities to achieve climate, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction goals. The event will also feature an interactive session for audience engagement.

Global Lessons from COVID-19 Impacts on Water and Sanitation Utilities

Tuesday 24 August 15:00-16:00

Isle Utilities | World Bank Group

This resilience story is drawn from data from a worldwide survey of the impacts of COVID-19 on water and sanitation utilities and a financial impact assessment. We will deep dive into cases from Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific to show how utilities and Governments responded and built resilience.

In this 60 minute session, we will be providing case examples of what happened to water service providers - municipalities and water suppliers - when the pandemic reached their cities, during the first wave, and then in the longer term. We will dive into the impacts on their service provision, their revenue, their customer engagement abilities, and their workforces. The utilities' actions to mitigate the impacts will be described along with their effectiveness at the time, as well as which of the interventions have been retained in the long term for their value in future disaster scenarios of other kinds. The final part of the session will take the lessons learned from these interventions to discuss the essential building blocks for utilities to build long-term resilience.

Making WASH first line of defense accessible to the furthest behind

Tuesday 24 August 15:30-15:55

Amref Health Africa | **Plan International** | **Simavi** | **SNV Netherlands Development Organisation**

Most countries have taken measures, such as lockdowns, social distancing and campaigns to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Those in vulnerable situations, however, either were not informed about these measures or lack the necessary means to follow them. This session illustrates how WASH First programme changed this narrative.

The lives behind the masks!

Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the conveners of this session and their local partners, WASH First programme aims to promote health-related hygiene practices to prevent further spread of COVID-19 through awareness raising and improved access to WASH services. The programme is implemented in 6 countries: Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda.

In this storytelling session, we will showcase the stories of WASH First programme's "Movers & Shakers", who have assumed responsibility and acted despite their restricting circumstances at home, institutions and communities. Those who have made a difference. Because 'doing nothing was not an option'. Veiled behind their facemasks, they have demonstrated that despite the strong forces widening the inequality gap, the trend can be reversed and a new narrative of hope can be written.

The conveners invite you to join us in this inspiring session, in which the stories behind the masks are brought into light and the faces that have been hidden away for more than a year are revealed.

(2/3) Navigating Uncertain Waters - shifting powers, sharing values

Tuesday 24 August 17:00-18:00

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

Session 2/3 - Step forward: making decisions that value water A simulation of a parliamentarian or congressional debate that explores how collaborative approaches can help reach a better, more sustainable, and more accepted decisions on water while not driving participants apart: decision making by water deliberation.

“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.

Resilient Communities in the Face of Pandemics and Climate Change

Tuesday 24 August 17:00-18:00

CAF - Development Bank of Latin America | Inter-American Development Bank | IRC |
One Drop | Water For People | Water.org

Rural and peri-urban areas and poor regions of LAC face a wider gap to achieve SDG6. Context-adapted short, medium, and long-term actions build resilient communities to withstand hazards such as COVID-19 and climate change. This session highlights experiences, tools, and lessons learned to overcome these challenges in LAC.

Pandemics and climate-change related disasters are here to stay and they both have huge implications for reaching SDG6 by 2030. This session brings together funders and implementers who will share case studies from across the Latin America region with various examples of resiliency in WASH in the face of pandemics and climate change. Covering responses including regulation, policies, governance, financial innovation, and sustainable approaches to behavior change – this session will tie together these case studies by looking at the macro, mezzo, and micro-level impacts.

Water savings and water stewardship in industries: return on experience

Tuesday 24 August 17:00-18:25

Antea Group

Join us to discuss water savings and water stewardship for your industry. Due to climate change, population growth and degradation of water quality, water is becoming a major issue even in temperate countries. We will share with you our insight and return on experience. A proven methodology including comprehensive diagnosis, water consumption mapping, technical and economic assessment, enables industrial sites to identify and prioritize pragmatic actions for reducing their water consumption. A water stewardship strategy considering the industrial sites as part of the local watershed, helps increasing water security for the whole local community including the water supply of the sites.

Join us to discuss water savings and water stewardship for your industry. Due to climate change, population growth and degradation of water quality, water is becoming a major issue even in temperate countries.

Water scarcity impacts human activities and industries will have to adapt in order to continue their activity during drought periods. Depending on the location, environmental policies or proactive approaches, like certification or commitment to sustainable development goals (e.g. SDG12 for responsible consumption and production), encourage industries to limit their water consumption

We will share with you our insight and return on experience. A proven methodology including comprehensive diagnosis, water consumption mapping, technical and economic assessment, enables industrial sites to identify and prioritize pragmatic actions for reducing their water consumption. A water stewardship strategy considering the industrial sites as part of the local watershed, helps increasing water security for the whole local community including the water supply of the sites.

After our session, the audience will have in hand a reliable methodology for saving water. The audience will also be able to value the strategy of water stewardship for industries, no longer limited only to the industrial site but expanded, considering it as part of the watershed.

Advocacy in Africa: Tools for Integrating WASH-Conservation in local agendas

Tuesday 24 August 17:00-19:30

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group | Conservation International | IRC | United States Agency for International Development

Linking WASH and environmental conservation in policy enables truly, sustainable WASH greatly needed in sub-Saharan Africa. A well-designed advocacy strategy is fundamental for turning concepts into action. This training will showcase a FREE tool for designing advocacy strategies, practice a core skill, and connect practitioners tackling similar challenges in Africa.

The target audience for this training are development practitioners and advocates who desire a supportive policy environment for integrated freshwater conservation and WASH programming. Through an introduction to the ABCG methodology, participants can expect to learn:

- Why advocacy is critical for the success of integrated approaches to water management in sub-Saharan Africa;
- The key steps to designing an effective advocacy strategy outlined in the ABCG Advocacy Strategy methodology, drawing from examples in South Africa and Uganda.
- How to increase their ability to apply a key advocacy skill highlighted in the manual, demonstrated through an interactive activity.
- Where to access the suite of ABCG resources for integration, learn about future trainings on the full methodology, and find resources/contacts useful when working on advocacy aimed at influencing local-level policy, funding, and/or planning.

Reimagine water systems management in a changing climate

Tuesday 24 August 18:45-19:45

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.

Climate Change Adaptation Through Nature-based Solutions for Infrastructure

Tuesday 24 August 19:00-20:00

Deltares | **Multiconsult** | **World Wide Fund for Nature**

Participants will discuss challenges and solutions for planning and implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to adapt to climate change. The seminar will apply interactive digital tools to discuss with participants good practices for Nature-based solutions as well as how to apply such approaches for a climate resilient future.

Climate change in combination with land degradation is one of the greatest threat to the future of our societies, our economies and the state of the earths ecosystems. Climate change is also already affecting water resources and exacerbating water-related risks around the globe, and the need for action is dire. Traditional infrastructure based solutions are not sufficient to meet this challenge, and the need for Nature-based Solutions are key to meet the various water-related risks. Participants will discuss challenges and solutions for planning and implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to adapt to climate change.

The event features a short key-note input, a panel debate with representatives from selected water and natural resource management specialists, as well as interactive elements where participants are given the opportunity to actively engage and discuss challenges and innovative ideas.

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).

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.

Navigating Uncertain Waters - shifting powers, sharing values

Thursday 26 August 07:00-08:00

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

“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.

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Private Public Potential: incremental project innovations for resilience and impact

Thursday 26 August 07:00-08:25

Government of the Netherlands | **Solidaridad** | Vergnet Hydro | **Vitens Evides International** | **Wetlands International**

With 40+ projects and a €150 million portfolio on WASH, IWRM and water efficiency across the globe, impact-oriented experiences are made available for a new generation of public private alliances. A catalysing perspective on the potential of coalitions and their contributions to inclusive, sustainable and scalable interventions. Faster, better, together!

For decades partnerships and broader coalitions between public and private actors have been essential in ODA-related policy development worldwide, as an answer to the realization that global and local water challenges cannot be overcome by public involvement alone. Progressive programmes initiated by the Government of the Netherlands around 2012 have generated a wealth of experience on practical implementation on public-private alliances.

To boost the next generation of collaborations in water that facilitate climate and social resilience and biodiversity values, such knowledge is invaluable. As the world needs action, faster, better and together, it is this practical knowledge of managing partnerships that complements the political dialogue.

The 40+ projects, 150 million Euro Netherlands Sustainable Water Fund (SWF) contributes to today’s challenges by disseminating its key lessons learned. The good and the bad. With a special focus to WASH, IWRM and Water Efficiency in agriculture, SWF provides a wealth of practical insights in private and public sector involvement in water, Covid-19 mitigating, public health and climate change adaptation that are essential for boosting resilience in nature and societies.

An interactive session on partnership potential, from practical experience in WASH, IWRM and water efficiency in agriculture.

Real time water data from satellites to achieve faster resilience

Thursday 26 August 08:00-09:00

Asian Development Bank | **eLeaf** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education** | International Water Management Institute | **MetaMeta** | **Wageningen University & Research**

Timely access to water data is key for effective adaptive measures. Three practical examples of how open access remote sensing (RS) data can support resilient agricultural systems will be showcased, ranging from water accounting in Karnataka, to sugarcane water productivity, and policy implications of monitoring groundwater use in arid areas.

- ADB supports in depth water accounting (WA) in its areas of intervention, where IHE Delft and IWMI deliver spatially disaggregated data and trends in water availability and consumption. The latter are integrated in AQUAMAPS, the FAO global spatial database complementing AQUASTAT. Benefits of the methodology and results of the water accounting in Karnataka, India, are presented.
- Sugarcane water productivity in Ethiopia and Mozambique was scrutinized by the “Water Productivity Improvement in Practice” (WaterPIP) project through WaPOR, the FAO portal providing publicly accessible near real time database using satellite data that allows monitoring of agricultural water productivity. Recommendations for improved efficiency at plantation levels were derived from the analysis of water consumption against cropping patterns.
- After a first phase of development, the WaPOR portal enters a second phase to promote and support the usage of the RS data at country level. Development of national capacity will further entail creation of applications bringing solutions to country-specific issues. Impact of such applications in Jordan’s policies are documented.
- A panel, following the above 3 short presentations, will interactively discuss how open access RS data can build resilience faster.

Developing accountable AI methods for decision support in water systems

Thursday 26 August 08:30-08:55

Delft University of Technology | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education**

Highly consequential decision contexts such as climate change mitigation involve conflicts across multiple sectors, regions, and generations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers exciting opportunities for meaningful decision support in such contexts. However, to attain real-world impact, AI techniques must address the well-being of all stakeholders, minimize conflict, and protect vulnerable communities.

The importance of considering distributive justice in climate policy, and other large societal challenges, motivates research in AI-based decision support to search for alternatives that are balanced across multiple sectors, regions, and generations, and counteract existing asymmetries in policy design. Human-centered AI tools offer promising opportunities to aid planning and management. However, to achieve broad societal benefits and garner support, fair design needs to be at the front and center of advances in AI-based decision support by incorporating principles of distributive justice to guide the exploration of policy alternatives as opposed to searching solely for efficient ones. Second, progress in accountable design can be achieved by improving interpretability of black-box methods that enable great flexibility and efficiency at the expense of explainability. Finally, human-centered design is key to engage stakeholders in systematic, AI-supported, deliberation and negotiation throughout the policy development cycle to achieve effective policy design and implementation.

Managing Floods and Droughts Together: The Technical Challenges

Thursday 26 August 10:00-11:00

Associated Programme on Flood Management | **Deltares** | Integrated Drought Management Programme | World Bank Group

Integrating the management of flood and drought risk is more effective and efficient than a silo approach. In this session we learn and discuss new approaches to seize these synergies from a practical perspective. A complimentary session will focus on the governance aspects.

Flood and drought are at the opposite ends of the same hydro-climatic spectrum, but despite the large potential of synergies, their risks are usually managed in isolation. In this session we will learn and discuss new approaches to overcome the siloes, covering the full bandwidth of integrated disaster risk management, including risk mitigation, preparedness, monitoring & warning and response.

The session is complementary to a session organized by the World Bank that focuses on the policy aspects of integrating flood and drought management. Participants are encouraged to attend both sessions.

Stakeholder training materials to assess freshwater health

Thursday 26 August 10:00-11:00

Conservation International | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education**

This session highlights the value of considering freshwater health at the ecosystem level and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. Participants will learn about the Freshwater Health Index (FHI), a platform that assesses ecosystem vitality, ecosystem services, and water governance. We will introduce to a new online course on the FHI.

This session focuses on processes to assess the health of freshwater at the ecosystem level and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. The session is designed to provide guidance for decision-makers on how to critically assess the status of their freshwater ecosystems and resources in terms of their ecological health; their capacity to provide the full possible spectrum of ecosystem services that can benefit the landscape and the people dependent on it; and the way in which these water resources are governed. We will take a specific model of management, the Freshwater Health Index, and show how it has been applied in various geographies to address these challenges of sustainable management and conservation. A panel of colleagues who have applied the Freshwater Health Index in basins around the world will also discuss their experience, and the ecological and socio-economic value of such an approach. We will review the new online course, co-developed by Conservation International and IHE-Delft, that outlines what is needed to more effectively understand and manage freshwater ecosystems. The session will include a live demonstration of how to use the Freshwater Health Index and will invite discussion of the application of this Index.

How accountability is accelerating progress on SDG6

Thursday 26 August 10:30-11:55

African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation | Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney | **IRC** | Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network | Partnership for African Social and Governance Research | Sanitation and Water for All | Water Witness International

A discussion involving WASH and water governance practitioners, policy makers and researchers. What works in improving accountability for results and how can we apply the lessons of the latest research and experience?

This session will take a detailed look into how accountability can strengthen systems to deliver accelerated WASH access and WRM. Successes and failures will be shared to inform the discussion.

Brief presentations will set the scene, and participants will then join breakout sessions for detailed discussion of priority accountability themes, each of which will include presentations and interactive, facilitated discussions. These

will cover lessons from recent research into mutual accountability and national multi-stakeholder platforms, analysis of global research into accountability initiatives in the WASH and water resources sectors, and ongoing research into accountability interventions and approaches in Africa.

Leverage business structure and governance to create stakeholder value

Thursday 26 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.

From forecast to prevention – acting on resource-related conflict risks

Thursday 26 August 11:00-12:00

Deltares | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | **Government of the Netherlands** | **IHE** Delft Institute for Water Education | **The Hague Center for Strategic Studies** | World Resources Institute

This event asks how national and international policy makers can take effective actions to prevent conflicts relating to water, food and energy insecurity. It focuses on how to prioritize water conflict prevention on the basis of conflict forecasting approaches, especially in times where governments are strained by multiple challenges.

The event starts with an overview of current and potential future hotspots for water, food and energy related conflicts, which have been identified through the Water, Peace and Security (WPS) Partnership, further developed in the frame of the GIZ-FREXUS project. It then embarks on a discussion that aims to understand why, in spite of the available early warning capacity, preventive action on water, food and energy conflicts is still lagging behind. High-level panelists from the Sahel Region as well as the international 4D-community will discuss what role early warning systems can play at which stages of the decision-making process and how they can facilitate truly preventive action. This will include discussions on how to design such systems in a way that ensures policy-uptake. The audience will be asked to actively contribute with their experience and engage in the discussion, ensuring a broad regional coverage and gathering the insights from various affected locations around the world. A specific emphasis will be put on designing effective policy responses to water, food and energy insecurity related conflict risks, investigating what forecasting capacities and decision support policy makers need at different times in order to act.

Leading for Leaving No One Behind- it's time to reset!

Thursday 26 August 11:00-12:00

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Australian Water Partnership | iDE | Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney | **Plan International** | **SNV Netherlands Development Organisation** | Water for Women Fund

COVID-19 highlighted gendered and social inequalities like never before. Now is the opportunity to reset. Transformative leadership is key to leaving no one behind. Convenors will share examples of how transformative leadership, at all levels, can challenge inequalities and contribute to more inclusive and equitable WASH systems, structures and services.

Now, more than ever, the world relies on transformative leaders to drive the COVID-19 response and recovery. But how can we better enable transformative leadership in the water governance and WASH sectors to ensure more inclusive and equitable systems, structures and services?

Join the convenors in an engaging, open discussion on all facets of transformative leadership and explore how you can better support leaders to be more transformative in programming, research or policy-making to tackle challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change, head-on. Convenors will present program examples and research, sharing their pathways towards transformative leadership in many challenging contexts, including opportunities, barriers, lessons learnt and recommendations on how to better support transformative leadership in these sectors. These will be followed by an interactive panel whereby participants will have the opportunity to explore, in more detail, the emerging recommendations. Convenors will support participants to identify how they might transfer these learnings to their own areas of work. Through the session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the pathways towards transformative leadership together with exposure to a range of strategies and an increased motivation to support transformative leadership in programming and research.

Scaling bankable peatland projects for water security

Thursday 26 August 14:00-15:00

Global Peatlands Initiative | Greifswald Mire Centre | International Union for Conservation of Nature | IUCN UK
Peatlands Programme | South Pole | **Wetlands International**

Healthy peatlands are critical for water security as well as for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Moreover, peatlands generate important benefits for people, businesses and nature. Yet, these ecosystems are being lost at unprecedented rates. Collective action is needed to replicate and scale bankable projects in these important ecosystems.

Managing water sustainably in landscapes where businesses source and operate secures their social license as well as ensuring resilience and continued growth in the face of climate change. The goal of this interactive session is to harness support for solutions that reconcile peatland values with economic and social goals and to develop a path for replication and scale up.

Healthy peatlands provide multiple water benefits such as increasing water quantity and quality, as well as helping to store and regulate flows. These ecosystems are also vital for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and livelihoods. Competition for land is causing unprecedented loss of peatlands through drainage. Obstacles to scale finance include a lack of knowledge of the true value of peatlands and the perception that limited economic benefits can be derived from healthy peatlands. Existing efforts from business, civil society and governments of channelling innovative finance into peatland areas in South East Asia, South America and Northern Europe, will serve as practical examples to build pathways for replication and scale up.

Self-supply's potential for increased resilience and water security

Thursday 26 August 14:00-15:00

Ask for Water GmbH | International Water Management Institute | **MetaMeta** | Rural Water Supply Network | SKAT Foundation | SMART Centre Group | University of Technology Sydney | WaterAid

Self-supply means households taking charge of water provisioning as a rural and urban coping mechanism, often in response to inadequate supply. Self-financed access has potential to support improved health and nutrition, and generate income. This session shares experiences and recommendations on how this complementary solution strengthens resilience.

World-wide over 1 billion people have invested in water infrastructure at their premises for self-supply (Sutton, 2021) as a coping mechanism, often in response to inadequate supply and mainly through groundwater. This session will provide practical recommendations on how to support and further scale-up self-supply in a sustainable way. Based on different examples, it will show how self-supply complements other forms of water access for domestic and productive uses and discuss concerns including water quality and groundwater depletion.

Water at premises provides significant benefits to human development: in addition to improving health and hygiene, it contributes to reducing poverty and hunger, improving nutrition, and generating employment, among other benefits. Self-supply as a concept has cross-sectoral synergies with 'Multiple Use Systems' and 'Farmer-Led Irrigation', and this event seeks to foster a dialogue with people and actors from these sub-sectors.

Stimulating and supporting people to invest themselves is a powerful and complementary mechanism to reach SDG6 and to "leave no one behind" where other water-supply models are not applicable, considered too expensive or struggling to provide full coverage. Supporting selfsupply can have benefit-cost ratios in the range of 10-20 and where combined with rainwater harvesting, it can increase resilience to climate change.

[Can a business approach link sanitation & curative health care?](#)

Thursday 26 August 15:00-16:00

Amref Health Africa | Aqua for All | FINISH Society | WASTE

Scaling up health access by leveraging sanitation and hygiene marketing can address the 'double bind' of health versus economy. How can WASH marketing and a business approach contribute to healthier and socio-economically empowered communities? Interventions linking sanitation and curative health through telemedicine, universal health coverage and micro-health insurance are covered.

Linking sanitation and health can make economic sense for entrepreneurs and governments alike. Progress in universal health coverage can be made by cutting down infections. Savings from good health reduce out of pocket health expenditures for both households and the public sector. Marketing for scale at the sanitation-health nexus has potential to achieve this through public-private partnerships co-selling health insurance and improved sanitation.

Digital tools used to collect data are crucial, yet need multiple applications (i.e. geospatial intelligence, digital marketing, listenership, e-learning, entire package of m-health, communications, etc.). Conveners will share experiences with the sanitation-health nexus, focusing on:

- Digital solutions for demand and supply-side management of interventions.
- Economics of improved sanitation linked to health (i.e. co-selling with a business approach, utilizing digital tools and artificial influence).

Expected outcomes:

- Innovation: Rethinking sanitation programming to include health interventions and sustainable scaling
- Inspiration: Sharing best practices, novel ideas being piloted and facilitating workshop for cross-sharing of attendees' own successes and challenges
- Cooperation: Demonstrable possibilities for collaborative, multi-stakeholder, and public-private partnership approaches

This session is repeated live on Mon. 23/Aug @ 8.00-9.00 CEST.

[How Water Can Drive a Green, Resilient & Inclusive Recovery](#)

Thursday 26 August 15:00-16:00

Government of the Netherlands | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development | United States Department of State | United States Environmental Protection Agency | World Bank Group

The session will present key findings of new joint analytical work by the OECD and the World Bank distilling evidence on how water can contribute to a green, resilient and inclusive recovery and examples of transformational action on

the ground. We'll invite participants to share their perspective on and experience with the role of water in driving the recovery.

The session will present key findings of new joint analytical work by the OECD and the World Bank distilling evidence on how water can contribute to a green, resilient and inclusive recovery and examples of transformational action on the ground. We'll invite participants to share their experience with the role of water in green, resilient and inclusive recovery.

We will exploring several dimensions:

- Promoting water-related investments in recovery initiatives at regional and national levels and providing evidence on the value of such investment to contribute to a green, resilient and inclusive recovery.
- Exchanging practical examples of how water-related investments feature in recovery packages and the potential role for financiers and investors
- Sharing practical insights on how to drive transformational action on the ground, drawing on specific examples and related analytical work on intermediaries and blended finance

NL: What If Businesses Understood Their Role in Systems Change?

Thursday 26 August 15:00-16:30

Government of the Netherlands | 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. The Government of the Netherlands will hold an invitation-only roundtable that covers key aspects of storytelling, communicating impact and return on investment, and understanding and influencing behaviours across a variety of channels and geographies. To meet our growing water challenges, we need systemic transformation; incremental change is no longer sufficient. Drawing on showcases from a range of sectors and geographies, this roundtable will discuss the pivotal role that businesses can play to accelerate transformation.

Investing for change through the World Water Quality Alliance

Thursday 26 August 17:00-18:00

European Commission - Joint Research Centre | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education** | UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology | UN Environment Programme | **Wageningen University & Research** | World Bank Group

The World Water Quality Alliance Ecosystem workstream will mobilise policy, investment and public support for ecosystem based choices in the protection and restoration of inland waters. This interactive session will develop the concepts and practice for future protection and restoration of waters at local, regional and global scales.

There is no doubt about the magnitude of continuing global decline of water quality. The causes are known, but the solutions remain largely elusive. The newly formed World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA), under the auspices of UN Water provides a new approach to mobilise the global expertise, policy and business communities to identify and develop regional solutions. The 'know how' to deliver significant water quality improvements, for example, through nature based solutions, across sectors and scales is available, and many of the solutions provide multiple benefits that are underrepresented in existing policies. Too often the silo mentality persists, with development policies continuing to drive further pollution. The challenge now lies in mobilising policy makers, investment and public support for change leading to ecosystem based choices, and supporting communities in the protection and restoration of the ecosystems on which they rely. This can only be achieved through an international Coalition of the Willing, inclusive of multiple interests and disciplines to share experience through an informed community of change. This session

provides another building block for global collaboration in recognising the negative social and economic effects of ongoing water quality decline, and mapping out the solutions for better protection and restoration.

Laying the Groundwork for a Water Conscious Private Sector

Thursday 26 August 17:00-18:00

ACTIAM | Ceres | Government of the Netherlands | Manulife Investment Management | Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

This session addresses the problem of valuing water in the private sector. Using interactive elements of polling and word clouds, participants will engage with key findings from research projects and how leading institutional investors and banks are approaching the development of a set of corporate expectations on valuing water.

What would the world look like with a water-conscious private sector? What is needed to encourage the corporate sector to truly value water as a systemic risk? How can investors help to advance research and tools to make today's vision for a water-secure future a reality for all? To engage with these questions, dive into this session where Ceres, partnering with the Valuing Water Initiative and financial sector leaders, will share their progress towards laying the groundwork for a future where financial sector leaders set out a clear set of corporate expectations for valuing water.

Participants will be treated to a preview of cutting-edge research on corporate water risk, to be released in late 2021, along with the opportunity to provide direct feedback to help shape the future direction of this work in advance of the launch of a global private sector initiative in 2022. Join this session and become part of the solution!

Result-Based Financing: Addressing bottlenecks and unlocking finance for WASH

Thursday 26 August 17:00-19:30

ACTIAM | Amref Health Africa | Aqua for All | Government of the Netherlands | WASTE | Water For People

Attracting novel financing mechanisms is needed for scalable uptake of sanitation. Reducing costs translates to lower funding requirements and ultimately greater reach. Join us to learn the HOW of a result-based financing journey to scale household sanitation financing and attract commercial parties. Who benefits and at what cost?

Would you like to be part of making history?

Through bottom-up result-based financing (RBF) initiatives, we will reveal the real costs of sanitation, from business to construction. Sanitation market development is more than just hardware, it is about systems change. Convenors will explore how costing insights could be linked to public sector RBF. Furthermore, knowing the costs and having a track record can attract commercial investors into this underfunded sector.

For sustainable scale of such initiatives, we will answer: *Who pays for this and how? What role can private fund managers play?*

Participants will have the chance to experience lessons learned in innovative financing, future ambitions and join us for a mini-hackathon to address some key challenges in novel RBF ventures: As we have begun to link the RBF approach to the conversion of human waste, we are uncovering how to make every kg of upcycled human waste into a payment for sanitation entrepreneurs. Participants will also witness the prelaunch of the first ever series of sanitation impact funds. Main players in this initiative will answer audience questions and workshop new ideas toward developing the series.

Strengthening systems without silos: Structuring partnerships for collective action

Thursday 26 August 18:00-19:00

Environmental Incentives | IRC | Tetra Tech Inc. | United States Agency for International Development
University of Colorado

Collaborative approaches, including collective action, are increasingly applied in the WASH sector, despite thin evidence about the conditions and factors that influence success. Addressing this gap, this session will summarize findings from 11 independent efforts implemented in four countries through USAID's Sustainable WASH Systems (SWS) Learning Partnership.

This session will describe how SWS greatly expanded the evidence base on collaborative approaches in the WASH sector, especially on more intensive approaches such as Collective Action and Collective Impact over the course of four years of research and implementation. Participants will hear from researchers, WASH experts, and practitioners about how the findings might be applied to other organizations and contexts.

Leverage business structure and governance to create stakeholder value

Thursday 26 August 18:45-19:45

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.

Putting People First: Citizen-Centric Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Water

Thursday 26 August 19:00-20:00

Government of the Netherlands | International Union for Conservation of Nature | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency | WaterAid | World Bank Group

The scale of the climate crisis demands collaborative solutions and new tools to fully engage and empower the most affected citizens who are often excluded from decision making. The session will unpack how to accelerate different levels of citizen participation and voice in climate-affected watershed and river basin management.

This session will highlight how whole-of-society approaches in which tools are decentralized, coalitions are formed, and knowledge is both granular and democratized, are central to addressing climate challenges and its impacts on water. The session will span approaches in which citizens engage with each other, with the private sector and with governments and politicians to address issues of water insecurity in a participatory manner, ranging from bottom-up to top-down interactions, and will explore how these efforts can be accelerated and taken to scale. Specifically, the session will focus on examples of citizen-led initiatives in the management of watersheds, spanning topics such as community-level participatory groundwater accounting and allocation, civil society work to advocate and lobby decision-makers to address contaminated rivers, and farmers' reciprocal agreements to align incentives for sustainable management of watersheds under climate change. It is expected that the experiences and challenges faced by these initiatives will trigger a discussion during the session on how efforts to protect, sustain and better manage water resources can be opened up more broadly to citizens and how to address issues of more effective voice for less advantaged groups in this process.

This session is repeated live on 27 August at 08:00-09:00

Mobilizing private sector investments for water security

Thursday 26 August 21:00-22:00

Anheuser-Busch InBev | Cargill Inc | Danone | FEMSA Foundation | **HEINEKEN International** | Inter-American Development Bank | PepsiCo | The Nature Conservancy

Projects supported by companies do not often move beyond the pilot phase nor reach the scale needed to ensure significant impact at the watershed level. The session will present innovative cases where companies have identified inadequate financial resources as a key barrier and are mobilizing investment in the water-food-climate nexus

Long-term financing is a key challenge for multisector projects aiming to contribute to water security. In addition, projects supported by corporations do not often move beyond the pilot phase nor reach the scale needed to ensure significant impact at the watershed level. This session will explore new pathways through six innovative case studies where companies have mobilized investments from public and private entities and committed resources to create science-based and financial solutions in the water-food-climate nexus in the search for scale and positive impact to ensure the health of an entire

Cases to be showcased will represent different geographies from Latin America, USA and South Africa. We will have a panel of experts who will have limited and equal amount of time to present their cases and at the end we will open a space for moderated questions that will identify lessons learnt and promote interaction with participants at the session.

Preparing for an inclusive and action-oriented UN Water conference 2023

Thursday 26 August 21:00-22:00

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.

Catalysing sustainable futures for sanitation? Innovative financing and planning tools

Thursday 26 August 21:00-22:25

Aqua for All | Athena Infonomics | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Container Based Sanitation Alliance | EY | Government of Haiti | Water Services Regulatory Board Kenya

Current investment in sanitation is inadequate, complex and fails to consider climate impacts. Better data, tools and new financing are needed. This participative session will look at the potential of three approaches for catalysing

progress on climate-positive sanitation: cost-effectiveness analysis and the CWIS SAP tool, results-based financing and carbon offsetting.

The capital investment required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals for urban sanitation alone has been estimated as at least US\$46 billion every year. At the same time, the shift in urban sanitation to citywide inclusive sanitation (CWIS) and more contextual, sustainable and equitable solutions is a complex undertaking. Adding further complexity is the urgent need for the sanitation sector to consider its climate impact as a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. What mechanisms are there to address these issues and navigate this complexity?

This session will explore the value of costing data and the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Services Assessment and Planning (CWIS SAP) tool for supporting decision making on sanitation investment and driving the movement for more and better data. It will consider the potential of two forms of innovative financing that are currently breaking new ground in sanitation. Could payment metrics for results based financing incentivize increased access to safely managed sanitation? Can carbon credits drive improved climate impacts in sanitation? In the water sector, carbon credits have been around for more than a decade and at least USD4.5bn have already been invested. What can be learned for sanitation?

Accelerating Utility Performance Through Innovative Financing and Technical Assistance

Friday 27 August 08:00-09:00

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | **Directorate-General for International Cooperation, The Netherlands** | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany | Global Water Leaders | Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance at UN-Habitat | KfW Development Bank | **WaterWorX**

Water utilities are the key to safe and resilient water and sanitation services in cities. However, many of them are stuck in a “low-level equilibrium” of low service quality and coverage, insufficient revenue, limited cost recovery and underinvestment. These challenges are exacerbated by climate change, urbanization, population growth, and COVID-19. Strengthening water and sanitation service providers is thus critical for resilient cities. In this interactive session led by experienced representatives of utilities, financiers, government, and civil society, participants learn about technical assistance modalities (e.g. water operators’ partnerships, WOPs) that can be employed towards a successful utility turnaround in support of the sustainable operation of infrastructure and cost recovery. Attendees will examine financing mechanisms that incentivize systemic change in reform-oriented utilities. For example, the Urban Water Catalyst Fund (UWCF) is an innovative funding model conceptualized to increase both the performance and resilience of utilities, allowing them to expand access to and improve the quality of sustainable and safely managed water and sanitation services. Thus, this session showcases technical assistance modalities as well as innovative financing approaches that are especially relevant in the context of COVID-19, which has affected both the financial viability and performance of urban water utilities.

Gender-transformative WASH to build resilience to climate and environmental degradation

Friday 27 August 08:00-09:00

Plan International

Women and girls bear the greatest burden from lack of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services – and these inequalities are exacerbated by climate change. Plan International will share examples of gender-transformative WASH solutions and strategies designed to strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of women and girls and their communities.

Climate change is the greatest global, intergenerational, gender and social injustice of our time. It impacts the rights of the most marginalized and magnifies gender inequalities, specifically the WASH related workloads and burdens of girls and women. Climate change and extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding and erratic rainfall provide significant risks to the sustainability of WASH services. .

Due to societal expectations and social norms, women and girls are typically responsible for managing domestic water supplies and sanitation and as a result, are disproportionately affected by poor WASH services. Extreme weather events often compromise local water supplies resulting in women and girls having to walk further to collect water. This can increase their vulnerabilities and is often at the cost of critical opportunities such as education.

But girls and women also play a role in solving the problem. Gender transformative and climate-smart WASH solutions can help increase climate change and disaster resilience while also empowering girls and women.

In this session, Plan International will provide insights into its approaches and strategies for gender transformative and climate-smart WASH solutions, by making the voices heard from the field.

[Ambitious Nature-based Solutions are the key to accelerating adaptation](#)

Friday 27 August 10:00-11:00

African Development Bank | Anheuser-Busch InBev | Aqua Publica Europea | **Delta Alliance** | **Deltares** | World Wide Fund for Nature

Vast amounts of money are being pledged for adaptation. But where is the pipeline of projects? This session will showcase large-scale, collaborative Nature-based Solutions in Africa, Asia and Europe, which will enhance the health of freshwater ecosystems, accelerate efforts to achieve SDG6 and build more resilient societies and economies.

This engaging 60 minute session will include:

- High profile speaker to kickstart proceedings with a call for greater ambition and accelerated investment in NBS for adaptation (5 mins)
- Short presentations on ambitious, large-scale NBS initiatives (15 mins)
 - Lukanga swamps: Water and energy security for Zambia + Kigali wetlands: urban resilience (Blue Heart of Africa initiative lead)
 - Opportunities under the Resilient Asian Deltas initiative (Deltares)
 - Ecological flood protection in Europe (German State Authority / Living European Initiative lead)
- Panel discussion with OECD, African Development Bank, AB InBev and WWF (20 mins)
- Q&A (20 mins)

[Keeping Economies above water: Water resilience as National Economic Strategy](#)

Friday 27 August 10:00-11:00

Alliance for Global Water Adaptation | Asian Development Bank | **Deltares** | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK | Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, The Netherlands | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development | World Bank Group

How can we plan for national economic resilience? In most countries, we lack effective, coherent, and credible strategies for economic resilience across sectors, regions, and levels of governance. Water resilience is one approach to negotiate tradeoffs and avoid traps, even under climatic, pandemic, and economic change and uncertainty

Over the past decade, many institutions have developed powerful risk and economic assessment tools for investments in infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities that can guide us towards greater local-scale resilience. Recognizing the special roles and risks associated with the water resources embedded within those investments has been key to this progress. We know that resilience has a cost, and that different approaches to resilience will vary in efficacy, reach, coherence, and their resilience dividend. We have choices in how we pursue resilience.

However, these lessons have not scaled up to national levels, even though the global pandemic has provided both global and national stress testing for economic resilience comparable to other extreme threats such as ongoing climate change.

This session will explore how countries can develop national economic resilience strategies that reflect the insights gained from the practice and policy of water resilience, building upon insights from the Dasgupta review on the economics of biodiversity. Organized by the Water Resilience for Economic Resilience (WR4ER) partnership, we will discuss the merits of and need for developing an evidence-based quantitative framework to guide economic planners and decision-makers as they manage social, climatic, economic, and pandemic change and uncertainty.

Transition the financial system to create water resilience

Friday 27 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.

Reconnecting water management with nature: Upscaling Nature-based Solutions

Friday 27 August 11:00-12:00

Geographical Information Systems International Group | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education** | International Union for Conservation of Nature | Norwegian Geotechnical Institute | University of Bologna

Three EU Horizon2020 projects present their work on Nature-based Solutions for hydro-meteorological risk reduction. New case studies and research will be shared, including new tools to assess, identify and replicate NbS interventions at scale for climate change mitigation and adaptation agendas.

Developing the evidence on implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) at scale can bring new potential for climate change mitigation and risk reduction. Through EU funding, the RECONNECT, Phusicos and Operandum projects are developing and implementing the scaling up of NbS for hydro-meteorological risk reduction.

New tools are being put into practice that help assess and identify the potential for NbS interventions at scale while at the same time analyzing the barriers to upscaling, including sustainability of financing mechanisms, social acceptance, geomorphological conditions and governance and policy.

Through interactive panel discussions and guided Q&A, the session will pull on examples from Serbia, the Netherlands, Poland and Croatia to help share lessons for further uptake, as well as project results from sites located in South East Asia.

The session will also be an opportunity to explore the possibility of a new network of practitioners focusing on large scale NbS, how this aligns with existing initiatives, and how it can further increase upscaling and uptake of NbS for climate risk reduction.

Why collaboration matters: lessons from partnerships for WASH and IWRM

Friday 27 August 11:00-12:00

Blue Deal consortia | **Government of the Netherlands** | **WASH SDG Consortium** | **WaterWorX**

Hot of the press! This dynamic session will share key lessons learned from three long-term WASH/IWRM partnerships, based on their recent mid/end-term reviews. It will explore how long-lasting partnerships and inter-organizational collaboration are an important accelerator to build resilient and adaptive societies with sustainable water and sanitation, leaving no-one behind.

In what way does inter-organization collaboration influence the enabling environment of WASH & IWRM? How to build partnerships that contribute to holistic water and sanitation plans? And how to ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in the development and implementation of these plans? This session draws from the experience of three Dutch programmes (WASH SDG, WaterWorX, Blue Deal) that aim to help build resilient and adaptive societies leaving no-one behind. These programmes focus on, amongst other issues, inter-organizational collaboration for WASH and IWRM. They are implemented by water-operators, water-

authorities, governments and NGOs in close collaboration with a variety of stakeholders throughout Africa, Asia and Latin-America.

The three programmes have recently concluded their mid/end-term reviews. Drawing on lessons learnt, the audience is invited to:

- 1) Jointly reflect how long-term effective inter-organizational collaboration can strengthen the institutions responsible for WASH and IWRM. For example, through joint development and implementation of holistic water and sanitation plans that pay attention to water resources protection, resilience building and
- 2) Better understand how collaboration towards good governance can also contribute to ensure a more participatory and inclusive approach to

Join us in an interactive discussion about inter-organizational collaboration as accelerator!

20 litres per person per day - interactive

Friday 27 August 13:00-14:25

Grundfos Foundation | **Oxfam** | **Plan International**

To get the full benefit of access to clean water, a person needs around/minimum 20 liters high quality water per day. Not only for drinking and cooking purposes, but also for personal hygiene. That is the default quantity we try to dimension water systems for, but data from a number of projects shows that consumption is significantly lower. In this session, we therefore invite community development specialists and WASH programme managers to discuss what it takes to bring sustainable WASH practices to a community

The session will take its starting point in a general problematic outlined by the Foundation, followed by two cases from Togo and Nepal, both addressing how the project secures the availability of water (access, WASH promotion, affordability).

In Togo, Plan International and the Foundation are providing access to solar-powered drinking water through community tap stands.

In Nepal, the Foundation works with Oxfam to build a new business model providing household connections serviced through a public-private partnership, also using solar-powered pumping technology.

Based on the presentations, the session will invite participants to discuss and exchange best practice and experience.

People, systems and change: using master plans to achieve SDG6

Friday 27 August 13:00-14:25

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation | **IRC** | Millennium Water Alliance | Water For People

Long-term master plans help build partnerships, drive change and raise investments. This session draws upon best practices in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Uganda to show what is possible. It will look at the challenges and the “how to” of focusing on district-wide planning to achieve SDG 6 at scale.

When the Sustainable Development Goals launched in 2015, at any given time, 30% of infrastructure for rural water supply in Africa wasn't working. What's more, much of the water being consumed wasn't safe to drink.

To address this challenge, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Safe Water Strategy initiated an ambitious approach: government leadership at all levels, innovative service delivery models that can be scaled, adequate funding for district-level systems change and coordination of multi-sector partnerships.

Since 2017, as a result of collective action, 6 districts in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda have created and are implementing visionary master plans that set out how they will achieve their goals by 2030. In Rwanda, Water For People is accelerating progress towards SDG6 through implementing the Everyone, Forever model.

In mid-2021, a District Master Planning Facility will be launched to provide an on-demand mechanism to support districts to plan and raise finance.

At this session we will look at the challenges and the “how to” of district-wide planning for achieving SDG6 at scale. We will also focus on the resources developed as part of the new facility so participants can leave with tools for applying aspects of master planning in their work.

Priority-setting, commitments and accountability: keys to better water governance?

Friday 27 August 13:00-14:25

IRC | Sanitation and Water for All | Stockholm Environment Institute | Stockholm International Water Institute
| United Nations Children’s Fund | University of Technology Sydney

The session will explore how national priority-setting processes (e.g. WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool, Mutual Accountability Mechanism) can shape government commitments and accountability. After presenting the concepts and tools, interactive sessions will discuss country experiences and merit of tools in priority-setting, commitments and accountability as interlocking keys to better water governance.

The aim of this session is to explore how national multi-stakeholder partnerships, platforms and tools can contribute to improved water governance. Using the concepts of priority-setting, commitments and accountability, the session will explore to what extent tools, such as the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool, the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism, and sector progress reviews, can contribute to an improved enabling environment for WASH service delivery, using examples from countries which have used one or more of these tools.

After an initial plenary session presenting the key concepts and related tools, the participants will join break-out groups, where the concepts will be discussed in more depth using country examples. A moderated discussion with country representatives and the participants around the concepts and how the tools can contribute to improved water governance processes will be held, also using an interactive whiteboard where participants can include their thoughts, comments and questions. Each group will get the chance to discuss at least two concepts and related tools. After a short final plenary summarizing the key insights from the groups, participants will leave with an increased understanding of priority-setting, commitments and accountability and how various tools can complement each other in improving water governance.

RISCOPE project: A Risk-based Early Warning System for Coastal Flooding

Friday 27 August 14:30-15:55

Antea Group | French Geological Survey

Join us to get an overview of the RISCOPE project, which is developing a risk-based method for forecast, early warning, and prevention of coastal flooding risks. You will discover the powerful bottom-up approach of a method that takes as starting point key circumstantial factors for decision making (e.g. ‘will this road be flooded?’). It allows to produce targeted warnings but also to identify all the scenarios that may lead the flood to exceed given thresholds, integrating the complexity of coastal flood processes (e.g., overtopping, cascade effects like coastal defense failure).

The aim of RISCOPE project is to develop a user-based method contributing to forecast, early-warning, and prevention of coastal flooding risks. The method should be robust, fast, and integrate the complexity of coastal flood processes. To build such coastal flooding models, the explored solution relies on meta-models, i.e., mathematical functions. They estimate with good precision and at a negligible computational cost (<minutes), the results obtained with the numerical model.

In this session, the participant will discover the powerful bottom-up approach of RISCOPE method, which takes as a starting point key information for decision making. It allows to produce targeted warnings but also to identify all the scenarios that may lead the flood to exceed given thresholds, integrating the complexity of coastal flood processes.

At the end of the session, the participant will be aware of the benefits that this tool can provide to local communities, stakeholders, and the scientific community, as it tackles the challenge of flood risk forecasting from a different perspective: it does not focus on forecasting risks on the coast, but rather directly on the priority targets of the community area, e.g., hospitals, traffic routes, electrical networks, etc.

Strengthening water governance for resilient communities

Friday 27 August 14:30-15:55

Conservation International | HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation | **IRC**

This event will use gameplay to navigate examples from Bangladesh, and South Africa that used advocacy to enhance the resilience of communities and their water resources. These examples demonstrate how people's voices and actions facilitated locally led decision making and planning for climate justice through increased resilience.

Come and play games to learn about approaches for improving local climate justice and community resilience in Africa and Asia. Conveners aim to share knowledge on how to leverage water governance to strengthen community resilience through looking closely at examples from Bangladesh and South Africa. Participants can anticipate ending the session with an increased understanding of how advocacy can build partnerships among multi-stakeholder partners (local communities, Civil Society Organizations, and government institutions). We hope participants will be inspired by these real-life demonstrations of how local voices effectively influenced changes in policies, practices, or planning of water governance.

Stakeholder training materials to assess freshwater health

Friday 27 August 15:00-16:00

Conservation International | **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education**

This session highlights the value of considering freshwater health at the ecosystem level, and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. Participants will learn about the Freshwater Health Index (FHI), a platform that assesses ecosystem vitality, services, and governance. They will be introduced to a new online course on the FHI.

This session focuses on processes to assess the health of freshwater at the ecosystem level and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. The session is designed to provide guidance for decision-makers on how to critically assess the status of their freshwater ecosystems and resources in terms of their ecological health; their capacity to provide the full possible spectrum of ecosystem services that can benefit the

landscape and the people dependent on it; and the way in which these water resources are governed. We will take a specific model of management, the Freshwater Health Index, and show how it has been applied in various geographies to address these challenges of sustainable management and conservation. A panel of colleagues who have applied the Freshwater Health Index in basins around the world will also discuss their experience, and the ecological and socio-economic value of such an approach. We will review the new online course, co-developed by Conservation International and IHE-Delft, that outlines what is needed to more effectively understand and manage freshwater ecosystems. The session will include a live demonstration of how to use the Freshwater Health Index and will invite discussion of the application of this Index.

[Transition the financial system to create water resilience](#)

Friday 27 August 18:45-19:45

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

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[Public Development Banks role on accelerating WASH access to all](#)

Friday 27 August 17:00-18:00

CAF - Development Bank of Latin America | European Investment Bank | French Development Agency | IRC

A Water Coalition launched by AFD, CAF, EIB and the WB together with SWA, has the aim, along with domestic development banks, to improve financing to achieve SDG6 and the Paris agreement goals and on biodiversity protection, by sharing knowledge, lessons learned and ways to increase co-financing.

A Call for Action towards a Water Finance Coalition has been jointly launched by AFD, CAF, EIB and the World Bank, in coordination with Sanitation and Water for All, in the framework of the Finance in Common Summit. It has the aim to gather international and domestic public development banks (PDBs) with a common vision to contribute in the achievement of SDG6, the Paris agreement goals and biodiversity protection, by increasing financing and ways of cooperation.

As a follow up, the session will share experiences, best practices, tools and instruments developed by PDBs to accelerate financing in the Water Sector, as well as the enabling environment needed to mobilize innovative sources of financing, such as blended finance, climate funds, green/blue impact bonds, in accordance with the SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework that comprises optimized financing, capacity development, innovation and governance.