

[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.