

#### **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 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 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

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.

#### [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.

## Sessions at SWWW with Dutch contributions

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2021



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.