

Session on Thematic Day 9 at the Water Pavilion COP27

Event title: “A Call to Action for Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Sanitation”

Summary

Climate change is drastically changing the world we live in. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report in 2022 confirms that global warming is projected to intensify the global water cycle, and in doing so, directly impact sanitation systems. Today, an estimated 3.6 billion people still do not have access to safely managed sanitation services at home. Many of these people also live in water-stressed or flood-prone areas, a number that is rapidly increasing as a result of climate change. Households that have gained access to basic or safely managed sanitation services risk losing them during climate-related disasters, unless climate resilience systems are in place that can adapt and minimize the impacts of these shocks.

Sanitation is a public good. It provides benefits across society in improved health as well as economic and social development. Making sanitation resilient is in the best interest of everybody. All relevant sector partners must unite to fight the devastating effect of climate change on sanitation.

Non-climate resilient sanitation services pose a substantial public health hazard. During flooding, damaged toilets and sanitation systems have been seen to spread disease across entire communities. In drought affected areas, non-resilient sanitation systems can exacerbate water stress or cease to function, causing families to revert to open defecation. Unless urgent actions are taken, the impact of climate change is set to undermine decades of progress in the sanitation sector. Systems and services must be made resilient to protect investments, promote public health and ensure universal access to sustainable, equitable and safe sanitation for all.

Multiple climate-resilient sanitation services and options for mitigation already exist around the world; however, most have yet to be taken to scale, largely due to gaps in capacity and resources. Billions, not millions, are needed for the sanitation sector to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Sanitation especially, is often underfunded at the country level and is failing to take advantage of climate funding opportunities, with less than 1% of major climate funding being allocated to the sanitation sector.

Sanitation systems are contributing to an estimated 2-6% of the global methane emissions, and between 1 and 3% of the nitrous oxide emissions, gases that are 25 and 300 times more potent than CO₂ respectively, yet projects to mitigate these emissions remain small in number. The sanitation sector in most countries has put less emphasis on climate adaptation and mitigation and the opportunities for building resilience or achieving mitigation goals are not being fully explored. There is an urgent need for the sector partners to mainstream adaptation and mitigation measures in our sanitation programming.

A better path exists for the sector if all relevant partners can unite in the fight against climate change. This session will showcase the status of sanitation sector and its challenges in the face of climate change. It will highlight countries cases of innovative work to future proof the sector. The session will conclude with a global Call to Action on Climate resilient sanitation.

Convenors of the event

WHO, BMGF, UTS, IDE, Water Aid; **BMZ, SuSanA, Resilient Cities Network**, SWA, and UNICEF

Event description

This event is planned to be virtual through the Water Pavilion Pathable platform and open YouTube live broadcasting. Presenters and Panelists will be able to participate in the session by joining either remotely, or at the Pavilion (in case they are attending in person to COP27).

The 75 minutes session is scheduled from 12.15 pm to 13.30 pm (time in Egypt) and is the second segment of discussion at the Water Pavilion on November 17th, which is the day dedicated to water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Following is the proposed agenda with notes for discussion.

Agenda (1,5h total)

Date: Thursday 17 November

Time: 11:00 – 12:15 (CET) or 12:00-13:15 (EET)

Time	Agenda item	Speaker/moderator	Notes and key messages
5 min	Welcoming and opening remarks	Brian Arbogast – Director of WASH, BMGF (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction – brief remarks on why climate resilient sanitation for all is essential • Frame the session focusing on the need for adaptation of essential sanitation services - needed for resilient cities, health and environmental protection and potential for resilience in other sectors (e.g. wastewater use in Ag) • Summary of the session – noting we will take participants through: • Overview of the global sanitation challenge • Risks and options to adapt to (and mitigate) climate change • Case studies highlighting promising approaches in the case of “too little” and “too much” water <p>the announce the call to action that will conclude the session</p>
6 min	Overview of global sanitation status	Kate Medicott, Team Lead - Sanitation (WHO) (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the World’s Sanitation (WHO/UNICEF) – summary of global status on sanitation, acceleration needed to reach SDG targets, cases showing it can be done and innovations needed and future proof sanitation services against climate risks
10 min	Keys risk and options for climate resilient sanitation	Juliet Willetts, UTS (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban sanitation and climate change - a public service at risk (UTS) • Presenting – highlights of recent global landscape study on urban sanitation and climate change

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation should be present risk but be solutions focused with CC audience in mind and repeat the “too little (drought/water scarcity)” and “too much (flooding/sea level rise)” water framing highlighting knock on effects to cities, pollution, health
7 mi		Elise Mann, WASH senior manager IDE USA (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMBODIA: Understanding the Impacts of Climate-Vulnerable Environments on Effective Sanitation and Faecal Sludge Management in Rural Cambodia (iDE) • Adapting Targeted Sanitation Subsidies for Climate Vulnerable Households (Ide)
7 min		Ibu Virgiyanti, Director of Housing and Human Settlements, National Planning Ministry (online) Alternate/backup: Martha Gebeyehu, WASH Manager, IDE Ethiopia (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDONESIA: Recent research on the impacts of climate change on urban sanitation in Indonesia. • Alternate/backup: ETHIOPIA: Adapting to Climate Change through Sanitation Marketing in the Amhara Region
7 min		Deepak Khadka, IDE Vice President- Asia (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BANGLADESH: Designing Climate Resilient Products for Sustained Behavior Change Solutions: A Case Study in Bangladesh (iDE)
7 min		Adam Garley, WaterAid Mozambique, Country Director (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOZAMBIQUE: – highlights of the report on impacts of climate on sanitation
7 min		Mathias Toll BMZ/SuSanA and Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, Resilient Cities Network (onsite)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NETWORKS: Collaboration is key: Highlighting the role of global networks in accelerating learning and implementation within the sanitation sector and among climate specialists.
up to 10 min	Q&A	Moderated by José Gesti, SWA Climate Advisor (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions to presented taken from audience
7 min	Launch of Call to Action	Bisi Agberemi, Urban sanitation, UNICEF (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Call to Action on Climate resilient urban sanitation (UNICEF – with WHO, World Bank, UN-HABITAT, BMGF, UTS, GGGI)
3 min	Closing remarks	Brian Arbogast – Director of WASH, BMGF (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks – wrap and reiterate main messages

Links

- Water Pavilion: [Water Pavilion at COP27 \(waterforclimate.net\)](https://waterforclimate.net)
- TD9– Climate, Water and Sanitation Solutions for Health and Sustainable Development [TD9:Climate, Water and Sanitation Solutions for Health and Sustainable Dev. \(zoom.us\)](https://zoom.us/j/9171241234)

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COP27

11:00–12:15
CET

17 Nov 2022

A Call to Action for
Climate Resilient and
Low Carbon Sanitation



The sanitation sector has been largely overlooked in the climate discourse. A joint effort is needed to draw public attention to the importance of sanitation for climate action. This session will highlight the innovative work of some countries and the role of global networks in the call to action.



Visit us at COP27 → 17/11/22 11:00–12:15 CET

