



Event Report

Building Resilient WASH Systems in Fragile Contexts

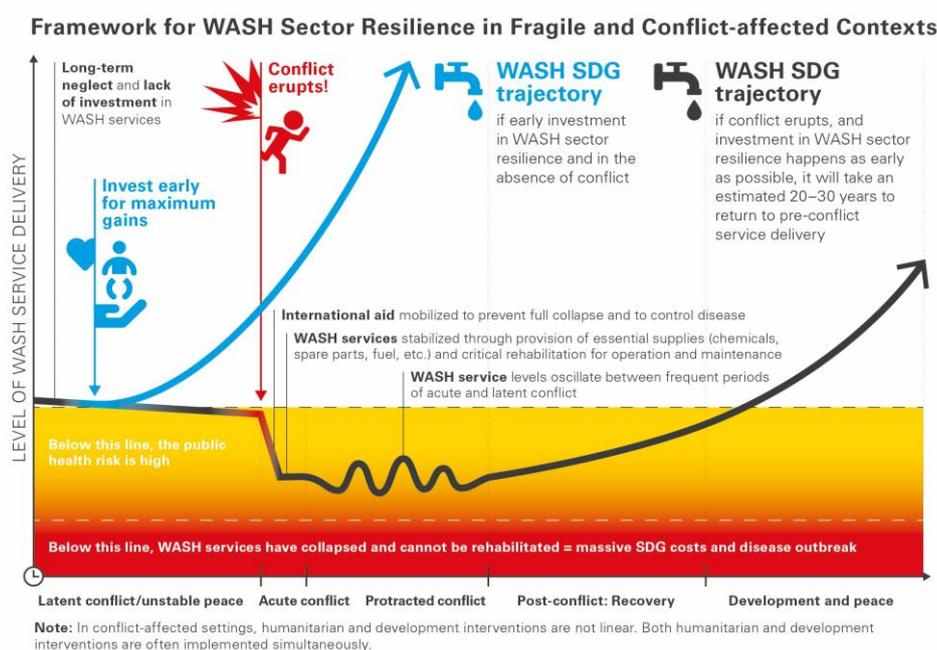
Geneva | 12-13 December 2019

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1 Event Background & Introduction

Currently, more than two billion people live in 58 fragile, including 15 extremely and conflict-affected contexts, and it is estimated that by 2030 approx. 80 percent of the world's poor will live in such contexts.¹ People in extremely fragile contexts are 4 times more likely to lack basic sanitation and 8 times as likely to lack basic drinking water services. With an annual financing gap of US\$ 60 billion² fragile contexts represent half of the world's financing gap to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 (total: US\$ 114³). On current trajectory the world will not meet the SDG targets in 2030, without a significant shift in thinking and practice. According to the new strategic framework of the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership (SWA), resilient WASH delivery systems, responsive to climate change, population growth and fragile conditions are a major challenge and at a same time a key to the world's success in achieving SDG 6. For a long time, development actors have avoided fragile states, partly to minimize failure and the risk of loss of their investments, partly because of their political mandates or dependencies, which made it difficult to work in conflict settings.



At the same time, the chronically underfunded humanitarian WASH system is being challenged by an increasing number of people in need of WASH assistance (98 million in 2018, with 70 million forcibly displaced) and by the need to respond to a growing number of complex and protracted crises. The Global WASH Cluster Meeting 2019 recognized that the sector is currently not meeting the required coverage and quality to meet the growing needs of affected populations. As there is already a lack of capacity to respond to the most urgent needs, the sector cannot contribute sufficiently to effective preparedness and localisation in fragile states.

In fragile context and protracted crises, the humanitarian WASH sector often finds itself in a situation where its rather short-term and standardized solutions generate high costs, dependencies and/or tensions between refugee populations and host communities in the long run. Different skills sets are required to

¹ UNICEF (2019) [Water Under Fire Report](#). New York, USA

² UNICEF calculation based on the capital costs of extending basic and safely managed services to the unserved within the 58 fragile contexts (as listed in the OECD States of Fragility Framework) over the 11 years to 2030. This figure assumes no decline in service coverage since 2015 due to war, conflict or disaster.

³ Hutton, Guy, and Mili Varughese, '[The Costs of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene](#)', WSP: Technical Paper, World Bank, January 2016.

expand WASH systems into areas where there are none, then to prevent existing system from deterioration. Building sector resilience is complex and “demands that humanitarian and development organizations align from the start, and consider the fragility and conflict dynamics in which interventions are taking place, to support interventions that are conflict-sensitive and to establish WASH sector resilience.”⁴

Above observations and conclusions are not new. The nexus between life-saving humanitarian responses to the development of sustainable water and sanitation systems for all, while taking opportunities to build peace (Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus), is well anchored in the Agenda for Humanity. The agendas build upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and links to the United Nations Sustaining Peace Agenda. The convergence of the core responsibilities under these agendas is particularly relevant in relation to SDG 6.⁵

Core Responsibility		Practical Actions for the WASH Sector
#1	Prevent and end conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act early and stay engaged - Apply conflict sensitive approaches - Understand potential stabilising impacts of WASH interventions
#3	Leave no one behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply a human rights-based approach - Inclusion of all vulnerable groups
#4	Change people’s lives: From delivering aid to ending need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the resilience of the WASH sector (e.g. using SWA building blocks) - Reinforce local systems (e.g. national coordination platforms) - Incorporate preparedness into policies - Deliver collective outcomes (joint planning, monitoring and review)
#5	Invest in humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convene new ways of working and partnership models - Shift from funding to financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk share by blending finance - Create service delivery models that attract financing (e.g. PPPs)

The following to presentation held during the welcome session provide additional background:

1	Topic Introduction: The Triple Nexus	Dominique Porteaud Coordinator, Global WASH Cluster	PDF
2	UNICEF Water under Fire Report	Kelly Ann Naylor Director of WASH section, UNICEF	PDF

2 Event Rational

How can we collectively strengthen the resilience of the WASH sector to ensure predictable emergency response while protecting SDG gains?

Although the WASH sector as a whole is not very advanced in building bridges between the humanitarian and development realms, there are currently many initiatives with good momentum:

In response to the current challenges the humanitarian WASH sector is facing, the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) collective has developed five overarching recommendations to refocus the sector in its strategic thinking. The recommendations called to build synergies between acute humanitarian situations, protracted contexts and development, to designing humanitarian WASH with a long-term perspective, and to engage in

⁴ UNICEF (2019) [Water Under Fire Report](#). New York, USA

⁵ The following table is based on proposed actions presented by Kelly Ann Naylor (UNICEF) during the meeting. Please note: The core responsibility #2 "Uphold the rules that safeguard humanity" is not part of the table. It is related, but not directly relevant to this discussion.

the broader discussions on reshaping humanitarian/Fragile States financing. A global roadmap is currently being prepared to implement these recommendations collectively.

The current reformulation of the Sanitation and Water for All-Partnership (SWA) strategy provided a window of opportunity to strive for a harmonization of frameworks between SWA and GWC, as the two main development and humanitarian coordinative platforms in the WASH sector.

Finally, an increasing number of organizations are developing a long-term vision for water and sanitation services and are looking in a more systematic way at how they work in fragile contexts. Following a working meeting on WASH systems in fragile contexts at ODI in 2018, an informal group of INGOs⁶ has been formed, which has held a workshop on the topic in the All Systems Go! Symposium in The Hague in March 2019 and will now write a working paper on the application of WASH systems approaches in fragile contexts (s. PPT 6).

As an active partner of the GWC and the SWA, which is also engaged in the wider discussions about WASH system strengthening, the German WASH Network has taken the initiative to advance this workstream and host this event. The network is consciously committed to the topic, as it has been a focus of its work since 2011. This has been proven by the 2014 publication "[Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development in the WASH sector](#)" and several dialogue events that were successfully convened at the World Water Week over the years with the aim of bringing together humanitarian and development actors and strengthening their complementarity.

The event was organised by the German WASH Network with kind support of the German Federal Foreign Office and hosted by UNHCR in Geneva. The event was co-convened by the Global WASH Cluster, SWA UNICEF and the IFRC. Participants included a balanced share of humanitarian and development WASH decision makers and experts from 16x INGOs, RC, 4x UN agencies, 3x global platforms, 1x development bank and 3x donor agencies. The objectives of the event were set as follows:

3 Event Objectives

- Strengthen the resilience of the WASH sector to ensure predictable emergency response while protecting Sustainable Development Goal gains
- Build synergies between acute humanitarian situations, protracted contexts and development
- Design humanitarian WASH with a long-term perspective (including preparedness, continuum, and transitions)
- Advocate for preparedness and localisation as a critical element of WASH policies and strategies (incl. system strengthening) in fragile contexts

To best contribute to the objectives the meeting was intended to be both a "learning event" with learning objectives and a "work meeting" with process objectives. The onboarding of new stakeholders and an alignment in understanding between actors from the humanitarian and development arenas was seen as crucial to creating higher quality process outcomes:

Learning Objectives

- 1) Building understanding for the importance and concept of the humanitarian development nexus
- 2) Aligning definitions, terminology and perspectives
- 3) Sharing experiences and case studies from different contexts

Process Objectives

- 1) Taking stock of current initiatives and progress
- 2) Identifying opportunities and challenges

⁶ Aguaconsult, Concern, German Toilet Organization, IRC WASH, Oxfam, Water for Good, Welthungerhilfe

- 3) Inputting to GWC Roadmap
- 4) Jump starting collaboration between SWA and GWC
- 5) Identify specific next steps

4 Exchange of Humanitarian and Development Nexus Perspectives

The first workshop session of day 1 was used to exchange perspectives on the Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN). Humanitarian actors were supposed to slip into the role of development actors, development actors into the role of humanitarian actors. From this point of view, each group should then formulate their expectations towards their actual role.

What do humanitarian actors expect from development actors?	What do development actors expect from humanitarian actors?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leave no one behind: take it seriously! - To improve targeting: prioritise risks - To mainstream preparedness, resilience, risks into planning - To focus more on system strengthening, rather than direct service delivery - To respect humanitarian principles - To break down funding silos between humanitarian and development - To create more flexible and multi-annual funding opportunities - To actively engage in humanitarian programme design and formulation of exit strategies - To build strong sector coordination platforms - To improve information management (e.g. make WASH & health data available and easily accessible for emergencies) - To create joint training opportunities and enable mutual learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve contextual understanding and self-awareness - To apply context specific approaches rather than default - To work more towards sustainability - To create market awareness and apply market-based approaches - To proactively involve development actors in humanitarian coordination (e.g. cluster discussion) - To not bypass local systems and governments - To build capacity of local actors - To involve development actors in designing and communicate exit strategies - To build back better - To better integrated peace building and conflict resolution in humanitarian action

5 Key Definitions and Concepts

5.1 Fragility

A uniform definition of fragility does not exist. Fragile countries are characterised by serious deficiencies in at least one of the following three dimensions: capacity (the state lacks capability to provide basic public services), legitimacy and authority. Three important country list have prevailed (OECD “Fragile State List”; World Bank “Harmonised List of Fragile Situations”; Fund for Peace “Fragile States Index”). All three list are based on the three dimensions, but they use different sources of information and differently weighted indicators, using different sub-categories to arrive to overall evaluations, which rely on different threshold values for dividing countries in fragility classes. The results vary considerably. Since the OECD uses the broadest definition of fragility, its list is also the most comprehensive (56 countries).⁷ What is striking is that only 18 countries were considered "fragile" in 2017 according to all three definitions / lists.

5.2 Resilience

According to UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Resilience is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the

⁷ KfW (2017): Development in Brief - Fragility: Dimensions and classifications

effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner. Evidence shows that the resilience of a society (or an individual) is closely linked to the degree of its poverty.⁸ Economic losses as a percentage of GDP were much higher in low- and middle-income countries and 90 per cent of deaths reported internationally were due to disaster events in these countries. For this reason, resilience is anchored in SDG 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” with its own target and indicators:

Target 1.5

By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Indicators

- 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people
- 1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)
- 1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

5.3 Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development. Disaster risk reduction strategies and policies define goals and objectives across different timescales and with concrete targets, indicators and time frames. A global, agreed policy of disaster risk reduction is set out in the United Nations endorsed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Under the Grand Bargain⁹ aid organisation and donors committed to significantly increase disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, which are concepts to manage disaster risks:

- **Preparedness** relates to the knowledge and capacities of governments, response organizations, communities and individuals to anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of disasters. It is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and includes such activities as set up of early warning systems, contingency planning, the stockpiling of WASH equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination and public information, and associated capacity building.
- **Prevention** aims to completely avoid potential adverse impacts of hazardous events. Examples include dams or embankments that eliminate flood risks, measures to prevent the contamination of water or the immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Mitigation** aims to lessen the scale or severity of the adverse impact of a hazardous event. Mitigation measures include engineering techniques and hazard-resistant construction (e.g. raised latrines in flood prone areas) as well as improved environmental and social policies and public awareness.

5.4 WASH Systems

A WASH system can be defined as “all of the behaviours, policies, processes, resources, interactions and institutions necessary for delivery of inclusive, lasting, universal access to WASH”.¹⁰ It involves actors (e.g. regulators, service providers, market actors, development partners) and factors (non-human components of the system, like technologies, norms, markets, aid mechanisms). Many conceptual frameworks have been developed to break down and simplify the complexity of WASH systems without losing the whole picture of the system (e.g. building blocks from SWA¹¹ / Agenda4Change¹² / IRC WASH¹³). These frameworks are intended to improve the contextual analysis and to allow assessment and to identify levers for change.

⁸ KFW (2016): Development in Brief – “What links poverty, vulnerability and resilience?”

⁹ [The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need](#) (2016); s. Commitment N°10

¹⁰ WaterAid (2019): [Glossary of key terms –system strengthening and empowerment](#). London, UK

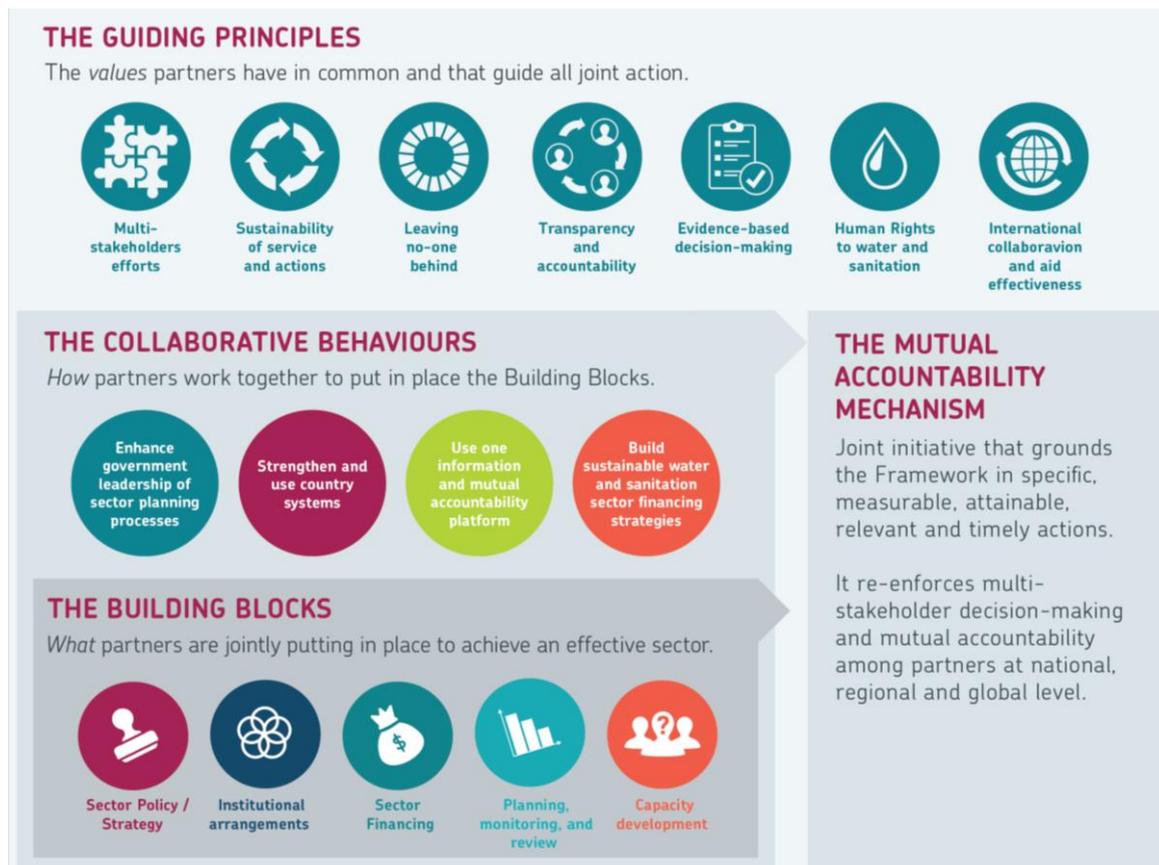
¹¹ SWA Framework: sanitationandwaterforall.org/priority-areas/swa-framework/

¹² The Agenda for Change (2018): Moving from principles to action - Building Blocks for Sustainable Services

¹³ IRC WASH (2018): [Working Paper: Understanding the Wash System and its Building Blocks](#). The Hague, NL

5.5 WASH System Strengthening

System strengthening refers to building a holistic understanding of a WASH system as well as identifying and working on the barriers that block the realisation of an inclusive, sustainable and universal access to WASH. The SWA framework is an example for a framework for system strengthening (s. graphic below).¹⁴ The five “Building Blocks” capture the key elements that the sector must have in place in order to be able to deliver sustainable services and progressively eliminate inequalities in access. The four “Collaborative Behaviours” define how partners can best work together to deliver the building blocks. The framework is anchored in the “Mutual Accountability Mechanism”, which empowers partners to hold each other accountable for progress towards the SDG targets. It provides the platform to break down the collaborative efforts into SMART actions and reinforces a country-level multi-stakeholder planning and review processes. The whole process is guided by the overarching SWA “Guiding Principles”.



The following to presentation held during the second session provide additional information:

3	Definitions and Concepts: Fragility and the Humanitarian Development Nexus	Johannes Rück Network Coordinator, German WASH Network	PDF
4	Definitions and Concepts: WASH Systems	Will Tillett Consultant, AguaConsult	PDF

6 Rapid Fire Presentations

The event aimed at facilitating cross learning between key players of the humanitarian and the development realms. The topics and speakers represented a great variety of the WASH sector. According to the results of the participants feedback survey the inputs were considered relevant and useful.

N°	Title	Speaker	Download Link
5	GWC Initiative: Strengthening Country Coordination Systems	Franck Bouvet Deputy Coordinator, Global WASH Cluster	PDF
	<p>The Global WASH Cluster is running an initiative aiming at strengthening national coordination systems, with ultimate objective that a country / government is capable to lead and coordinate a humanitarian response. The approach is to develop a country specific roadmap to increase capacity and preparedness, based on an analysis of bottlenecks and drivers for government led coordination. For the analysis the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT)¹⁵, was adapted to the needs of the programme and used. To make a case and create the link to the SWA development agenda, only fragile SWA countries with a particular risk of recurring disasters and/or public health risks relate to WASH were selected for the piloting. Initial experience has shown that (a) there is a need to discuss whether the approach should be implemented in isolation from other sectors, (b) the BAT criteria and approach need to be simplified and (c) the focus should be on cluster functions. The conclusion was shared that strengthening national systems require time and lasting commitments and should therefore be part of the development agenda. Humanitarian actors should support and bring in their expertise.</p>		
6	Discussion Paper: WASH System Strengthening in Fragile Contexts	Will Tillett Consultant, AguaConsult	PDF
	<p>An informal group of INGOs is currently developing a paper on “Applying Systems Strengthening Concepts and Approaches in Fragile Contexts”. Presenting diverse examples and learnings from different contexts and organisations, the paper aims to showcase the potential of WASH system strengthening in fragile contexts and to help to adapting existing system approaches to be more applicable. Input to the paper was collected during the last workshop session of the event (s. 10). The group aims to have a first draft by end of February. Partners interested in contributing with case studies or other contributions can send their proposal to the lead author Will Tillett: W.Tillett@aguaconsult.co.uk</p>		
7	KFW: Development Knowledge in Fragile Contexts	Dr. Thomas Gietzen Project Manager Stabilisation and Reconstruction Middle East, KFW	PDF
	<p>Over the last 5 years the German development bank KFW has experienced an incremental shift in its portfolio towards fragile contexts. The use of German government budget funds in fragile contexts has more than doubled between 2014 and 2018, exceeding for the first time in 2018 the funds used in non-fragile contexts. This can be attributed to high-level political will and increasing demands, especially in fragile contexts in the Middle East region. At the same time, KFW is an example of a trend that can also be observed in some of the world’s largest development banks. Together with the World Bank, KFW is today one of the major donors of the Yemen Social Fund for Development, which today also provides emergency funding. Many programmes show clear synergies between KFW's development knowledge and humanitarian assistance. The financing and implementation of major infrastructure programmes, such as the connection of households to deep wells with underground pipes or the electrification of Camp Zataari with a solar power plant, are examples.¹⁶</p>		
8	HD-Nexus in Practice: Perspectives from the GIZ Water Project in Yemen	Jennifer Kohel Advisor, GIZ (Yemen)	PDF
	<p>Since 1969 the water sector has been a priority area of the German Development Cooperation in Yemen. As part of the German-Yemeni Water Sector Programme, GIZ has been working closely with the Yemeni water sector institutions for more than four decades. Over this period, high levels of trust and sector expertise were developed. With the outbreak of the armed conflict in 2014, GIZ had to evacuate all its international staff from Yemen. Due to trustworthy and competent local staff, GIZ managed to maintain operative by restructuring its mode of operation. This included changes in the organizational structure (e.g. new entities, roles and responsibilities), the management structure (e.g. remote steering, new plans and policies), a crisis-related adjustment of project measures (e.g. no political partner, focus on institutional resilience) and new ways of cooperation (e.g. with NGOs and the UN Cluster System). In the water sector, the local urban utilities (LCs) are responsible for the provision of water and sanitation services to most of the country’s population. An institutional collapse would be a threat to the survival of many people. Therefore, GIZ shifted its focus towards keeping them operational during the crisis. To promote institutional resilience and to encourage</p>		

¹⁴ Another example is the framework of the Agenda4Change. See presentation 4

¹⁵ The [WASH BAT](#) is a tool developed by UNICEF that can be used to analyse gaps, challenges and successes relating to the Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviours at country level.

¹⁶ S. also <https://www.kfw.de/stories/society/social-cohesion/water-supply-zaatari-jordan>

humanitarian actors to support the LCs, GIZ provides technical assistance plans and investment packages that facilitate the collaboration. As the only remaining international development actor GIZ also joined the WASH Cluster to coordinate its activities with the cluster members, to share sector knowledge, conduct trainings, and promote sustainable approaches (e.g. by leading the technical working group on sanitation and introducing pilot projects for potential up-scaling). Examples like Yemen change the way GIZ thinks about its role in fragile contexts and help to establish new ways of working in an increasingly fragile world.

9	UNICEF: PPPs and WASH utility partnerships (north/south and south/south)	Jamal Shah, WASH	PDF
<p>Through innovative PPPs (incl. privately operated water kiosks) and WASH utility partnerships UNICEF found a way to effectively transition from water tankering to piped water household connections in Somaliland and Somalia. The drivers were a strong engagement with the government at national and state level in establishing a regulatory framework, the creation of employment opportunities and significantly lower price of water in comparison with water trucking. Household connections brought a significant improvement on wellbeing of the communities including the household hygiene practices. The long-term investment in water utilities is not only a sign of their recognition, but also an opportunity for stabilisation and peace-building. Although companies are making reasonable profits, cost recovery systems are still reliant on external support (i.e. CapEx). A re-structuring of the tariff or blended financing (grant + loan) are possible ways forward. In order not to undermine the business model and create new dependencies, companies should not be pressured into offering free services to the poorest. Instead, the government should support the household with cash or vouchers.</p>			
10	The IFRC experience in (fast-track) transitioning form humanitarian response to development	Robert Fraser Senior Officer WASH in Development, IFRC	PDF
<p>Through the national societies of the RC/RC, the IFRC is able to work across the whole continuum of resilience and thus to experience the challenges and opportunities of all types of transitions. The effective level of localisation and the available national capacities built on the basis of a long-term commitment of the IFRC, are important success factors, especially in small scale emergencies that do not receive much attention and support from the global level (resources, surge etc.). The majority of disasters or crises we have to respond to usually occur in low income / fragile countries where WASH access and coverage is low, which also means that there is an added value of responding to a disaster or crisis serving the immediate needs of affected populations while at the same time addressing their long-term needs. A fast track transition to development can minimize the cost, as short-term solutions are expensive to maintain, as well as the dependencies we create by providing free services or bypassing the government, which may not have the capacity or resources to take over the services. Thus, a greater flexibility to holistically operate in the resilience continuum is needed, particularly in protracted crisis. This require a significant mind shift, because to some extent we are kept within rigid structural (institutional divide), financing models (compartmentalised / project based / short-term) and conceptional distinctions (humanitarian principles vs. sustainability; SPHERE vs. national standards etc.), which reduces our capacity to address needs holistically.</p>			
11	The DRC WASH Consortium learnings from developing and applying innovative economic approaches	Franck Flachenberg , Senior WASH Advisor, Concern	PDF
<p>The purpose of the DRC WASH consortiums intervention was an attempt to move away from the classic humanitarian assistance (focus on delivering WASH facilities with a pinch of hygiene promotion around them) and to build the community resilience in the long term. The consortium developed an innovative economic approach based on the life cycle cost analysis tool. Business Plans were developed for sustaining the short, medium, and long-term functioning of the new water services established and to set-up revenue streams to be prepared to cover these costs. The programme has shown that interventions that focus on long-term services can be successfully implemented in fragile states. Key success factors were a user centred design of WASH facilities (no design without consultation), the recruitment of a team specifically in charge of O&M (feedback exchange with users, maintenance trainings etc) and the systematic analysis of the financial viability of the service.</p>			
12	Searching for the humanitarian-development nexus: Providing sustainable and resilient WASH services in CAR	David deArme y Director international Partnerships, Water for Good Evita Rozenberg Project Officer, IRC WASH	PDF
<p>Water for Good (WFG) developed a circuit-rider preventative maintenance program of local professionalized technicians who have been servicing close to 2000 water points in CAR across half of the country. The digital collection of water point functionality, has created over time a consistent monitoring system across the large</p>			

geographic area. In 2017, WFG decided to focus on one prefecture and on all the building blocks of lasting WASH services. A baseline assessment to determine what it would take to provide SDG6 levels of access for all was carried out and used to design a prefecture wide roadmap together with local authorities. Since building the roadmap, WFG have been working with the regional director of the ministry of hydraulics on every single aspect with regards to implementation, community engagement, diversification of technologies, and tackling governance issues at a prefecture level. While WFG provides the technical, financial support, the roadmap is owned and led by the regional office of the ministry. There has also been more coherence in how other organizations have been working together, with them plugging in their short-term funded projects into the larger roadmap (incl. UNICEF aligning part of its program to the roadmap). WFG is in the process of building a roadmap coordination platform that will be allowing to discuss long-term monitoring schemes, maintenance, accountability, regulation and proper mechanisms to incorporate short-term actors. The entry point for WFG has been the long-term engagement in monitoring and the experience in being a proxy-private sector actor, and the transfer of knowledge to local actors.

7 Input into the Global Roadmap for Humanitarian WASH

The Global WASH Cluster (GWC) has the primary mandate of strengthening system-wide preparedness and coordination of technical capacity to respond predictably to humanitarian emergencies, and provide clear leadership and accountability in the main areas of humanitarian response. The “global roadmap” process is the final outcome of sector-wide discussion on the capacity of the sector and its capability to deliver a predictable, timely and high-quality humanitarian response. This discussion process was kicked off with two MSF reports¹⁷ and a WASH meeting in Brussels in 2017 titled "Where now for the WASH sector’s response in emergencies?", leading into a larger study on the capacity of sector commissioned by the GWC. Based on the results, the GWC developed five concrete and actionable recommendations at the GWC annual meeting, which were later presented to and endorsed by emergency directors¹⁸:

1. Reposition WASH as core to survival and protection”. Get our fundamentals right!
2. Quality WASH responses should be timely and efficient and reach the most inaccessible and difficult places. Create and implement a transformative capacity development plan.
3. WASH responses are predictable and effective when robust protocols are in place. Give priority to preparedness and surge at all levels for WASH and keep it simple!
4. The predictability of the WASH response depends on the timeliness and flexibility of the financial resources. WASH sector to engage in broader discussions on reshaping humanitarian/fragile states financing.
5. Build synergies between acute humanitarian situations, protracted contexts and development. Designing humanitarian WASH with a long-term perspective.

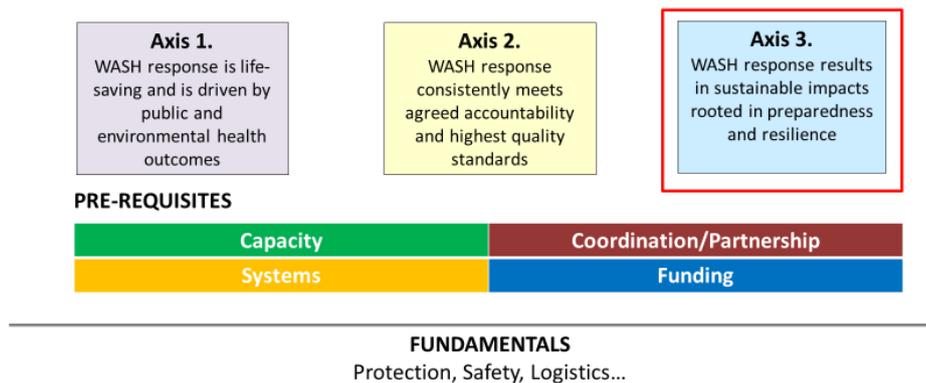
Since then a roadmap consisting of the five pillars (recommendations) is being developed, supported by the GWC and partners from the Inter-Agency Working Group. The aim of the roadmap is to provide a strategic framework that outlines how we will build the capacity of the humanitarian WASH sector. The consolidated draft of the roadmap will be available for your review in January 2020 at the latest. This creates a window of opportunity for this event to directly contribute to recommendation and roadmap pillar 5, although recommendations 3 and 4 are also directly related to the issue. More sustainable impacts, rooted in preparedness and resilience are an axis for achieving the overall objective of the draft results framework (s. graphic below):

¹⁷ MSF (2014): Where is everyone? MSF (2017): The Evolution of Emergency WASH in Humanitarian Action

¹⁸ The five recommendations were presented to 15 Emergency Directors, representing UN, INGOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC, ICRC) as well as donors and other observers.

Road Map

By 2025, the humanitarian WASH sector has the capacity and resources to deliver in emergencies, everywhere and at any time



The presentation on the current status of Pillar 5 titled “Humanitarian Development Nexus” of the roadmap provides a situation analysis, lists current challenges and missed opportunities and first conclusions for the sector (s.PPT). Further questions were raised about a) the structure of the global humanitarian WASH system (too many actors? too much competition?), b) the restrictive funding models and c) the lack of cost recovery in humanitarian WASH, especially when operations become protracted. Potential solutions to overcome these challenges included:

- To establish a **Global WASH Entity** alongside the GWC with multi-partner buy-in for WASH Emergency Operations and Development Programming, aiming to fill the gaps in localisation, preparedness, climate change adaption, surge and to strengthen the complementarity between response, recovery and sustainable development.
- To establish innovative funding models, like a pooled **Global WASH Fund** covering the whole resilience continuum, possibly attracting non-conventional funding sources, like development banks (e.g. blended finance) or institutional and private investors (e.g. impact funds/bonds).
- To improve **Cost Recovery** in protracted crisis (e.g. refugee operations) by charging for services from the affected population, using a phased approach that initially involves the provision of cash or vouchers to pay for services. In situations where we have to establish conventional WASH service providers, we must also encourage the affected population to recognise that services cannot be free over time.

The last workshop session was used to identify and prioritize recommendations and tangible actions and to input into the Global Roadmap for the humanitarian WASH. The recommendations and specific actions are listed in the table below:

Recommendations / Entry Points	Specific Actions	Who	When	Tally
Dialogue on WASH Sector Reform	- To host event in 2020 with a strong south-south component (possibly linked with WWW and theme climate?)	GWC IFRC UNICEF	Aug/Sept 2020	14
Dialogue on Pooling of Resources Covering the Resilience Continuum (Global WASH Fund)	- To facilitate a dialogue / host an event with institutions like GAVI, OCHA, development banks on how to set up this type of mechanisms (incl. blended finance, impact bonds)	German WASH Network Germany GC (?) IFRC	2020	12
Cascade funding to countries	- To identify taxonomy of WASH sectors	GWC UNHCR UNICEF	Q 1 2020	4

Strategic Engagement in SWA	- To identify a champion	IFRC	ASAP	3
New ways of working	- To collect and develop case studies (e.g. GIZ Yemen)	IRC WASH UNHCR	2020	2
Global humanitarian WASH roadmap	- To set-up a performance framework and mechanism to monitor engagement of partners against the roadmap	GWC	2020	2
Cost recovery in humanitarian WASH	- To facilitate a discussion about cost recovery	IFRC	2020	1
Strengthen national WASH coordination bodies	- To define the scope for better linkages / coordination between humanitarians, government and development partners.	IFRC	2020	1
Engagement with development actors / Collective action	- To demonstrate joint sector planning, financing, coordination, capacity development	IFRC		1
Become more attractive as a sector	- To carry out an asset inventory(ies)	UNHCR (+ all Wash agencies)		1
Harness domestic funding	- To set up a speak and start fund			

The following presentation held during the 5th session (day 2) provide additional information:

13	The Global Roadmap for the Humanitarian WASH Sector	Franck Bouvet Deputy Coordinator, Global WASH Cluster	PDF
14	Global Roadmap - Pillar 5: Humanitarian Development Nexus	Robert Fraser Senior Officer WASH in Development, IFRC	PDF

8 Kick-starting collaboration between SWA and GWC on the HD-Nexus

The second group of the final workshop session aimed to jump start the collaboration between SWA and the GWC, as the two main coordination platforms of the humanitarian and development WASH sector on global and also country level.

Created in 2010, SWA is a partnership of governments and their development partners, including civil society, the private sector, donors, UN agencies and research and learning institutions. The strategic objectives of SWA are (1) to build and sustain political will to prioritize the elimination of inequalities in WASH, (2) systematically use multi-stakeholder approaches to achieve WASH for all, and (3) to rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments. The SWA framework is based on government-led, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder decision-making processes and mutual accountability.

The current SWA strategy process provides another window of opportunity to strive for a harmonization of frameworks. The draft vision of the new strategy includes for the first time a humanitarian as well as a resilience dimension:

“Always – Realizing the sustainable management and use of climate resilient water and sanitation services and ensuring human rights to water and sanitation are respected at all times, including during and after natural and human-made disasters.”

Furthermore, the strategy sets the objective to continue to expand high level political dialogue for WASH in to a range of broader contexts, including humanitarian response. This is not surprising, since an analysis of the Fragile States Index 2019 shows that 19 of the 25 most fragile countries and 18 of the 25 most disaster-prone countries (cyclones, droughts) are SWA partners.

Entry points are the SWA high-level meetings, the mutual accountability mechanism, which provides a platform for countries and partners to table and track commitments get support from others, or the SWA briefing papers and webinars, that enable peer to peer learning. Key 2020 campaigns are the 10th anniversary of the recognition of the human rights to water & sanitation, as well as financing and climate change.

The following presentation held during the 5th session (day 2) provides additional information on SWA

15 SWA & the Humanitarian/Development Nexus **Alexandra Reis** Advocacy Officer, Sanitation and Water for All [PDF](#)

To inform and build on the SWA strategy the last workshop session was used to identify and prioritize recommendations and tangible actions, all listed in the table below:

Recommendations / Entry Points	Specific Actions	Who	When	Tally
Get Country Focal Point Buy In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify “pilot” countries with a strong SWA Focal Point and WASH Cluster - To trigger dialogue and identify common priorities (e.g. Cholera) 	UNICEF GWC		8
Publish SWA Briefing Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build on existing papers (UNICEF/ SIWI/ Agenda for Change) and develop a Briefing paper - Call to action (Zambia: UNICEF; Burkina: IRC; CAR: Water for Good; ETH: IFRC, IRC) 	UNHCR UNICEF		7
Make use of the SWA Tools Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify relevant tools and include it in the portal (e.g. revised WASH BAT, or papers from UNICEF, SIWI, A4C) - To include a course with a focus on fragility in the IRC WASH academy 	UNICEF SIWI IRC	2020	6
Humanitarian Input into new SWA strategy (Roadmap, Results Framework)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To get UNICEF to lead a humanitarian input into global Roadmap - To identify entry points 	UNICEF? GWC	January 2020	4
High Level Champions in SWA (SC?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To Inform the SWA SC about outcomes of this meeting (e.g. convene a SC member call) - To identify a champion in the SWA SC - To identify a high-level ambassador (e.g. Dutch king) 	UNHCR GWN		4

Harmonize SWA Framework (Collaborative Behaviors / Building Blocks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To integrate humanitarian indicators in Framework Monitoring - To get observer status for the cluster 	GWC CAST SWA	2020	3
Table Mutual Accountability Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To table Cluster Commitments (?) (Cluster looks at country committees to see if they can contribute) - To identify HD-nexus commitments by countries or other partners 	GWC SWA UNHCR		2
Convene a SWA webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To convene a nexus webinar in Q3/4 2020 (e.g. building on Cholera case studies) - speak to Sitali - To “bring your cluster counterpart” 	SWA Sec ?		2
Engage in the SWA High Level Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWA to send template (e.g. innovating funding for humanitarian WASH) 	IRC WASH UNHCR		1
Communications Joint Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To carry out a joint messaging workshop (example message: “break silo of financing”) 			

9 Informing the Paper: WASH System Strengthening in Fragile Contexts

During the workshop session there was also the possibility to give input on the paper on “WASH System Strengthening in Fragile Contexts”. The results of the group work are available as [download here](#). The group aims to have a first draft by end of February. Partners interested in contributing with case studies or other contributions can send their proposal to the lead author Will Tillett: W.Tillett@aguaconsult.co.uk

10 Way Forward

The results of the event will inform the GWC Global Roadmap for Humanitarian WASH and can feed into the SWA strategy process. Many tangible actions to be carried out by the two global platforms and its partners have been identified and compiled in the two tables above.

The formation of an ad hoc working group aiming to follow up the meeting and drive the humanitarian development nexus agenda was recommended by a majority of participants. Both global platforms indicated that there is interest to establish a dedicated working group or TWIG.

Interested partners were invited to express their interest and to participate in an initial conference call in early 2020.

The participant feedback indicated that this event was relevant, timely and well implemented. The produced recommendations and next steps were clear and useful. Over 90 % of participants indicated that the event should be repeated in a year to effectively track the follow up of results.

Please download the results of the participant feedback or the

16 Download: Results of the Participants Feedback Survey

[PDF](#)

Download Folder: Complete Presentation Package

[ZIP](#)

11 Group Picture



12 Participants

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Kelly Ann	Naylor	UNICEF
Dominique	Porteaud	GWC
Franck	Bouvet	GWC
Jovana	Trevor	Oxfam
Johannes	Rueck	German WASH Network
William	Carter	IFRC
Robert	Fraser	IFRC
Thilo	Panzerbieter	German Toilet Organization
Arjan	Ottens	Welthungerhilfe
Jennifer	Kohel	GIZ Yemen
Will	Tillet	Agua Consult
Evita	Rozenberg	IRC WASH
David	De Armey	Water for Good
Franck	Flachenberg	Concern
Sandra	Fürst	SKAT
Antoine	Delepiere	SIWI
Ryan	Schweitzer	UNHCR
Eva	Barrenberg	UNHCR
Manuel	Krähenbühl	SDC
Jamal	Shah	UNICEF
Sarah	Hermon-Duc	Humanity for Inclusion

Justine	Haag	Water Integrity Network
Yasmine	Zaki Abdelaziz	IOM
Mohamed	Ali Ahmed	GREDCO
Peter	Maes	MSF
Monica	Ramos	UNICEF
Peter	Felten	GFFO
Thomas	Gietzen	KFW
Patrick	England	WSSCC
Tom	Heath	ACF
Federico	Properzi	UN WATER
George	Massey	Plan International
Paul	Johnston	Tearfund
Fanni	Zentai	GIZ
Kevin	O'Callaghan	Kersia Group
James	Ray	MedAir

Contact

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