



all systems connect

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2023

2-4 MAY 2023 | WORLD FORUM | THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

— CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS —

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS, SYSTEMS AND SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Connect, learn, unite and make change with experts and activists, decision-makers and influencers from water, sanitation and hygiene, health, climate, economic development, education and social justice

See things through a different lens. Be a part of an unstoppable force for change.

GET INVOLVED TODAY

[Submit a session proposal](#) [Apply to be a speaker or presenter](#)

[Express interest in the Make Change design sprints](#)

POWERED BY THE D30 ALLIANCE

IRC +  water for people

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ALL SYSTEMS CONNECT 2023

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 will require game-changing, systemic, thinking and action: strong partnerships across disciplines and sectors, with governments at the centre. The All Systems Connect 2023 (ASC23) Symposium will build upon the October 2022 All Systems Go Africa event, which will acknowledge the need for strong systems and bring change-makers together in one space. ASC23 will take this one step further. It will reach beyond water, sanitation and hygiene to also connect people and ideas, systems and solutions from health, climate, economic development, education, social justice and beyond to achieve justice for all. It will follow hot on the heels of the UN Water conference in March 2023, providing the 'how' to the UN Conference's 'why'.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IN BRIEF

What are we looking for?

Proposals for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Learning, CONNECT (health, climate, economic development, education and social justice) and Make Change sessions, as well as individual contributions that will be combined into sessions to compile the ASC23 programme.

Who from?

Experts and activists, decision-makers and influencers from water, sanitation and hygiene, health, climate, economic development, education and social justice (anyone working in the field who has something to contribute, including people working on the ground in communities).

What is the deadline?

Submit your proposal or expression of interest by 15 October 2022

What do you need to do next?

Fill in the appropriate form: [Submit a session proposal](#) [Apply to be a speaker or presenter](#)
[Express interest in the Make Change design sprints](#)

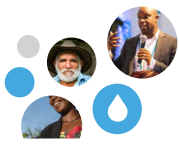
Help create this unstoppable force for change

To truly understand the connections and shared systems challenges between key SDGs that are impacted by water, sanitation and hygiene, we need as many perspectives as possible. That's why we're inviting you to organise a session at ASC23 or join as a contributor to spark the thinking and action that will mobilise the power of water and sanitation to act as a gateway to achieving the SDGs.

Participants will be able to engage and explore the event through four main fora: WASH Learning sessions, CONNECT sessions, Make Change sessions and All Together sessions. Each will provide a different focus on how we can take a systems approach to address challenges in water, sanitation and hygiene.

Through this call we are seeking proposals for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Learning, CONNECT and Make Change sessions, as well as individual contributions that will be combined into sessions. Each session will be 60-90 minutes and should fall under one of the themes listed in each category.

The All Together sessions are plenary-style events with keynotes and stories designed just for participants and are not part of the formal call for contributions.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) LEARNING SESSIONS

The WASH Learning sessions will present real-world cases, evidence and participant experiences in strengthening and changing water, sanitation and hygiene systems. We welcome individual contributions or full session proposals from the wider water, sanitation and hygiene community within five key themes. Each proposed session or contribution (such as a specific case study experience or tool) can speak to one or more topics within each theme. Annex 1 provides a list of possible topics but is not intended to be exclusive. We encourage the sharing of successfully scaled solutions, but also value the unpacking of failures and challenges in strengthening and changing systems

Theme 1: Safely-managed water and sanitation for all: financing and delivering

Countries with universal access to safely-managed water and sanitation services are largely dominated by utility models of service delivery. Those countries seeking to close gaps in these services are prioritising the growth and strengthening of such utility models in government policy, especially in water. The high costs of piped water supplies and sewerage systems require long-term visions, planning and sophisticated financing models. Increasingly utilities and other forms of professionalised water service delivery are also expanding into peri-urban and rural areas.

This thematic area focuses on the strengthening of systems for utility and other forms of professionalised water and sanitation services including examples of what works at city and local levels, and how to build up the national systems that enable utilities and other professional service providers to operate. It also considers the different service delivery models that make universal access a reality and how these are planned.

Key questions this theme will address:

- How are systems approaches supporting service authorities and providers to deliver better services that meet the needs of all citizens, and what are the key constraints and challenges they face?
- What are the latest frameworks, tools, mechanisms, examples, and experiences in strengthening the systems that enable the delivery of professionally and safely-managed services for all as demanded by the SDGs?

Possible topics are identified in Annex 1.

Theme 2: Markets and behaviour change: how people invest and driving to scale

The demand and use of water, sanitation and hygiene services are powerful drivers of the systems that provide these services. Market-based approaches are a means of stimulating, growing and regulating the systems that get products and services into the homes and hands of consumers. Market systems and behaviours are what ensure that the combined presence of water and sanitation lead to hygienic living that transforms health and domestic livelihoods. Understanding and influencing behaviour is also essential for driving large-scale change in the mass population, where individual choices form collective trends. This theme will focus on public and private sector roles when it comes to creating an enabling environment for scaling markets and influencing behaviour.

Key questions this theme will address:

- How are we making decisions as consumers in lower/middle-income countries, and how are markets expanding the provision of safely-managed water and sanitation services in urban

and rural contexts; what are the key constraints and opportunities for different actors in scaling markets?

- How are individuals and households making decisions to invest and change their behaviour? How are providers of products and services and other actors responding to these demands?

Possible topics are identified in Annex 1.

Theme 3: Water resource management: finding systemic solutions

While the supply of domestic water is often not the highest volume consumer of water (apart from in the biggest cities) it is usually recognised as the most important and the most demanding in terms of water quality. It needs to be prioritised and managed alongside other uses such as agriculture, industry and ecosystem services. Within catchment or river basin boundaries the theme will address the systems how stakeholders are working to manage risks and trade-offs across society. This theme will focus on managing water as both a source and a sink for pollutants, including those resulting from human excreta or solid waste production. It will also consider how climate change and technological innovation are reframing the challenges but also creating new opportunities for multi-stakeholder water management.

Key questions this theme will address:

- In the context of climate change and other threats, how are improvements in water resources management rising to the challenge of sustainably meeting all needs and protecting valuable water resources?
- What are the best approaches to manage risks and sustain drinking water and sanitation services in the face of new and worsening threats?

Possible topics are identified in Annex 1.

Theme 4: Governments, politics and systems change

The nature of water and sanitation services, as public services and human rights, demands national governments to lead and harness the power of the private sector and civil society. However, sector reform can be challenging when local and national governments come in a wide range of shapes and sizes and services are being transformed by different kinds of administrations. This theme will focus on how governments are rising to the challenge of putting in place the conditions to deliver sustained progress at scale, harnessing and coordinating the power of all WASH actors. It will discuss the threats that undermine progress including deficits in integrity and good governance and how these can be tackled.

Key questions this theme will address:

- What can we learn to replicate successes and overcome recurrent constraints?
- How do we need to adapt our approaches, as sector professionals or policy influencers, to different types and styles of government?

Possible topics are identified in Annex 1.

Theme 5: Systems change and collective action

Systems are defined by the boundaries we give them. This thematic area will focus on how change is being made in specific places and parts of the WASH system to address the needs of key communities, and how we can rethink or redefine those boundaries. This includes, but is not limited to, WASH in fragile states/humanitarian settings, WASH services in schools, health care facilities and other institutional settings, as well as WASH contexts in specific countries and regions.

Key questions this theme will address:

- How can we take collective action?
- How can we identify transferrable lessons and insights from a unique context for application in other areas?

Possible topics are identified in Annex 1.



CONNECT SESSIONS

Deep-rooted problems and complex challenges need fresh thinking and new ways of working: connecting systems and services beyond silos and across sectors. These sessions go to the heart of the purpose of ASC23 – to build new allies in wider sectors, understand and explore the interrelationship of water and sanitation with **health, climate, economic development, education and social justice**. Critically the sessions will be convened by experts, activists, decisions-makers and influencers from organisations and networks from those sectors and themes. They are a chance to see the world from new perspectives, to create new fora for understanding the shared system challenges between key systems and WASH and to drive change in services utilising the impacts of safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Why CONNECT? Without wider systems, services, experts and activists championing WASH, we will fail to achieve the political backing, investment and systems change that is required to achieve SDG 6. We also believe that all systems connect and that many failures are from not understanding this and not acting together. For example, is a lack of safe WASH in health care facilities a WASH failure or a health system one, or both? If we're to change this, we must forge new alliances and partnerships and to do that we need to see the world from each other's perspectives and act together to solve our biggest challenges.

We are keen to receive expressions of interest in key themes from experts and activists, decision-makers and influencers (anyone working in the field who has something to contribute, including people working on the ground in communities). We're interested to hear from you regarding:

- 1) General interest in sharing experiences and contributing insight from the perspective of driving systems improvements in these services and themes
- 2) Contributing specific systems development research, change programmes and people development – especially (but not exclusively) where there has been an interrelationship with water and sanitation.
- 3) A desire to run a workshop or session on a specific aspect of the key themes

CONNECT Health

Water, sanitation and hygiene are critical for the protection of human health. Despite the interconnectedness, a divide has grown between the two sectors in recent years. Though experts from both sides agree they share common goals, in practice, WASH and global health activities operate largely independent of one another, with separate strategies, policies, budgets and programmes. How can we more effectively achieve health and wellbeing for all by better promoting the role of water, sanitation and hygiene? What are the systems challenges for the health sector that need to be addressed for water, sanitation and hygiene to be prioritised?

This is an open invite for colleagues in the health and medical fields to share with us their experiences in integrating water, sanitation and hygiene issues into their efforts to improve health and wellbeing.

Possible topics:

- Robust, high-quality health systems
- Disease prevention (including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Green, climate-resilient health systems
- Championing SDG 6 as a health response to systems failures, prevention and addressing the climate crisis

CONNECT Climate

What are the interconnections between water used by people and the climate crisis? How can the water, sanitation and hygiene sector better respond to strategic opportunities arising through national and global responses to the climate crisis – from growing investments in adaptation to the rise of mass citizens movements? This is an open invite for climate colleagues around the world to share with us their knowledge and experiences. We are interested in these key themes not only from the perspective of climate experts but also activists and citizen movements seeking to drive change, notably young people (many of whom are citizen experts).

Possible topics and questions include:

- **Climate adaptation will be central – why, how and what's the latest?**
 - A key question: water is at the heart of climate change, but is it at the heart of policy development in climate, notably adaptation strategies?
- **What can climate activism and movements teach the world about driving systems change?**
 - A key question: can mobilizing climate activists, especially the young, to champion safe water as a robust systems response to the climate emergency be a game changer for the WASH sector?
- **Financing and climate adaptation investments**
 - A key question: how can we drive financing through climate adaptation investments to secure safe drinking water services and wider social and health benefits?
- **Climate justice impacts the vulnerable first and most**
 - A key question: climate justice for people living in vulnerable and marginalised circumstances also means water justice – how can this be a priority?
- **National climate commitments are central, how can they positively impact all systems and services?**
 - A key question: What is the role of water and sanitation for people in national climate debates, commitments and action?

CONNECT Economic Development and Social Justice

We also welcome suggestions for sessions from the perspective of wider economic development and social justice. For example:

- What is the value and opportunity of water and sanitation development in supporting wider economic development and how can its role be better prioritised with national government and the private sector?
- Social justice is a key impact of safe water and sanitation provision – what are the impacts on girls, women, individual wellbeing, community resilience and social cohesion? How can social justice movements better champion water and sanitation to achieve their goals?



MAKE CHANGE DESIGN SPRINTS

The Make Change design sprints will follow an adapted 'design sprint' format, reimagined to find solutions to the most pressing challenges in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector with the help of allies beyond it. Each design sprint team will be curated by IRC and partners and comprised of diverse experts selected to bring their unique backgrounds and creative drive into the professionally facilitated process. Starting in the weeks leading up to the event, a successful three-day sprint will lead to a shovel-ready prototype solution that can be incubated, further tested and scaled up after the event.

We welcome expressions of interest related to the following sprint themes.

SPRINT challenge 1:

How can we build an alliance of young water and climate activists be built to drive greater public awareness and more urgent national and global policy responses to prioritise 'water for people' at the heart of climate narratives and adaptation?

SPRINT challenge 2:

The 'Making It Real' sprint will take forward the commitments coming out of the 2023 UN Water Conference. In particular, the design sprint team will be tasked with developing a concrete proposal for how to rapidly launch the establishment of 'presidential compacts' for SDG 6 across the globe.

SPRINT challenge 3:

How can donors and financiers best support national systems strengthening, and what support do national governments need to invest and succeed? This sprint seeks to form influential alliances for joint action around this critical theme.



SESSION AND CONTRIBUTION FORMATS

Submit a proposal for a full session on one or more topics within the WASH Learning themes, or express interest in one of the CONNECT themes or Make Change design sprint challenges. Alternatively, you may propose an individual contribution that will be combined with others to form a complete session. We will use your submissions to compile the ASC23 programme.

See below for a short description of possible session formats. Please note that if your session or contribution is accepted, you may be asked to change formats or to be merged with another session.

Full sessions

- Presentation and discussion session: traditional presentation by one or more speakers, with the opportunity for questions from the audience.
- Panel discussion (60 or 90 minutes): a conversation among three to four experts facilitated by a moderator.
- Participatory session (60 or 90 minutes): interactive workshops that actively engage the audience on a topic.
 - World café: multiple rounds of small group discussion, followed by the key points from each table being presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.
 - Campfire: a 10-minute introduction to a topic, followed by facilitated group discussion and peer-to-peer learning.
- Debate
- Workshop/capacity-building session
- Game show/performance

Theme leaders will work with the session leaders to define the most suitable final format.

Individual contributions

- Presentation in a discussion session or panel
- Pecha Kucha: 20 slides, 20 seconds each, for a total of 6 mins 40 seconds
- 'Low voltage' talk: a presentation without digital slides – using just your voice, a flipchart or other non-digital props
- Other: make your own suggestion for something creative

Session leads will work with you on deciding on a final format.

CRITERIA FOR SESSIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

All successful proposals will demonstrate a strong systems connection. We will also prioritise contributions that consider or bring in the perspectives of wider perspectives beyond water, sanitation and hygiene experts or professionals. We will prioritise sessions and contributions that include a variety of perspectives, including a balance of gender, Southern voice and youth.

Please note that we will not accept any contributions that do not show a perspective of scale or uncritically claim success.

Finally, please be aware that submitting a proposal for the All Systems Connect 2023 Symposium does not guarantee acceptance, nor does it cover the costs associated with attending the event, including registration.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Late August 2022 | Call for contributions opens |
| 15 October 2022 | Call for contributions closes |
| Early December 2022 | Proposers will be informed about the final status of their contributions |
| 2-4 May 2023 | ASC23 Symposium |

YOUR COMMITMENT AS AN ASC23 CONTRIBUTOR

Submitting a proposal for a full session or individual contribution at the All Systems Connect 2023 Symposium indicates your agreement with the following:

- If accepted, you are available to join the All Systems Connect 2023 Symposium in The Hague, the Netherlands from 2-4 May 2023.
- You can cover your own costs to participate (see ticket prices). Please note that any additional contributors are also expected to cover their own costs.
- You will collaborate with the ASC23 Content committee and theme leaders around the organisation of your session (with the understanding that you may be asked to change formats or be merged with another session).
- You are well-versed in the subject matter and will deliver a high-quality session or contribution that actively engages the audience.
- You will adhere to our principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.

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— ANNEX 1: WASH LEARNING THEME TOPICS —

Theme 1: Safely-managed water and sanitation services: financing and delivering

Possible topics may include:

- Improving utility performance
- Financing utilities
- The role of public development banks in lending (to utilities)
- Regulation (and monitoring) and other dimensions of the enabling environment (including service authority functions) for utilities and professionalised service delivery
- Tariffs and affordability
- Planning and leaving no one behind
- Accountability, consumer engagement and citizen voice
- Operator partnerships (e.g. WOPs) as a mechanism for utility strengthening
- Rural utilisation
- Sanitation business and safe water enterprises
- Models for operation and maintenance/professionalisation of community-based management

Theme 2: Markets and behaviour change: how people invest and driving to scale

Possible topics may include:

- Technical innovation in sanitation including faecal sludge management (FSM)
- Enabling environments for market-based sanitation
- Public private partnerships (PPPs) to scale market-based sanitation
- Financing of business and consumer purchases, including inclusive/smart subsidy
- Supported self-supply and small water schemes
- Handwashing/hygiene/behavior change
- Menstrual hygiene management
- Citizens and societal demand and interest in services

Theme 3: Water resources management: finding systemic solutions

Possible topics may include:

- Risk management including climate-induced hazards (extreme weather events: drought and flood risks, and resilient infrastructure)
- Managing multiple water uses
- Alternative water sources: wastewater reuse, desalination etc
- Water quality management
- Climate-resilient WASH
- Groundwater management, recharge, protection zones, source water protection
- Nature-based solutions
- River basin and catchment institutions, policy and instruments
- Innovative financing mechanisms: payment for ecosystem services
- Mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and stewardship
- Water footprints, supply chain management and sustainability
- Ecological and conservation principles: balancing the right to water with ecological impacts

— ANNEX 1: WASH LEARNING THEME TOPICS — (continued)

Theme 4: Governments, politics and systems change

Possible topics may include:

- Advocacy and lobbying to influence governments and other stakeholders
- Sector reform
- Evidence-based policy influencing
- Financing
- Multi-stakeholder platforms
- Political economic impact on systems strengthening
- Civic space and role in strong systems/citizens demand/accountability
- Evidence including monitoring services, systems and change
- Planning
- Capacity building
- Collective action
- Global partnerships

Theme 5: Systems change in specific contexts

Possible topics may include:

- WASH in fragile states/humanitarian settings
- Education: School WASH
- Health care facility WASH
- WASH in other institutional settings
- WASH contexts in specific countries and regions (e.g. Latin America, Africa, Asia/Pacific)
- WASH in high-income country contexts