

Provisional Side Event Programme for the 41th WEDC International Conference

Tuesday 10th July Afternoon

Africa Rocks: The latest groundwater and social science for more resilient water supplies

Convening organisations: UPGro Programme, Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)

Preferred room: Theatre 40-100

“Groundwater in Africa is a critical resource for water supply and agriculture for the majority of rural and urban citizens, but it is not well understood or monitored. In many areas, however, shifting patterns and intensity of rainfall looks likely to make aquifers increasingly important buffers against the worst effects of climate change. Nevertheless, improving access to groundwater does not automatically reduce poverty, and is the proliferation of self-supply private wells and boreholes a positive trend or danger to health and sustainability? This session brings together the latest in research and practice to discuss some of these complex social science, physical science and practical issues.”

Improving the Management of Small Drinking-water Supplies

Convening organisations: World Health Organization (WHO)

Preferred room: Cafe 30-40

The purpose of this event is to seek input on the revision of WHO’s new sanitary inspection package, and on the optimum management types for small drinking-water supplies.

The event promises to be engaging and interactive, with a combination of informative presentations, practical activities and experience sharing. The workshop will both enlighten participants on the development of WHO’s new guidelines for small drinking-water supplies and seek feedback on the current trajectory with regards to the development of WHO’s global guidance, to better support the sustainable management of small drinking-water supplies.

How Kenya can achieve universal access to water and sanitation – Lessons learnt from 16 years of sector reform

Convening organisations: Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Preferred room: Café 30-40

When looking at ways to achieve universal access, Kenya can learn from its ongoing sector reforms. In recent years, access to water and sanitation did not progress as expected. In decision making on what and where to finance and invest, lessons learnt are often disregarded. Available funds do not reach as many people as they could.

The regulator WASREB will present how access to water and sanitation has developed since 2002, which technical solutions have contributed to progress and what lessons can be learnt from 16 years of reforms.

Participants will actively develop an understanding of the best technical solutions to achieve universal access.

Assessing WASH sustainability in a Payment by Results context (tentative)

Convening organisations: South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP), led by Plan International UK

Preferred room: Café 30-40

Aimed at WASH implementers and policy makers, this side event will explore the assessment of WASH sustainability and the influence of Payment by Results funding on this. The event will draw on learning from the South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP) which is delivering sustainable access to safe sanitation and water and encouraging the adoption of basic hygiene practices at scale. With funding for the programme contingent on achievement of agreed outputs and outcomes, SAWRP has learned much about defining and measuring sustainability targets and indicators which is likely to be of interest and value to others in the sector.

Small Action, Big Results: Can WASH and Risk Reduction contribute to Health System Resilience

Convening organisations: University of Waterloo, United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), COHESU

Preferred room: Café 30-40

Health systems, including WASH services, need to be resilient to prepare for, withstand, respond to, and recover from disasters. This side event aims to engage participants interested in building WASH for resilient health systems.

A World Café will explore:

1. Components of WASH critical to healthcare facilities in times of disasters;
2. Minimum standards critical to health systems resilience; and
3. Current weaknesses and gaps in healthcare facilities in responding to disasters.

Contributions will be used to establish next steps for research and action, specifically implications on how WASH for healthcare facilities are conceived, built and upgraded.

Tuesday 10th July Evening

Blunders, Bloopers and Foul Up: A WASH Game Show

Convening organisations: University of Leeds, University of KwaZulu-Natal and Improve International.

Preferred room: Theatre 40-100

Shit happens, but it doesn't always have to! Through an interactive game show starring famous* WASH personalities, we showcase some "If only I had known..." moments to demonstrate that despite best intentions, things do go wrong in development and engineering projects. By sharing and understanding things that go wrong, sometimes at the expense of communities and often at the expense of donors, the WASH Community of Practice can learn from one another's mistakes and improve the way we operate.

*at least we think so!

Towards city wide sanitation: how can research drive sector change in Kenya?

Convening organisations: WSUP, WASREB, Ministry of Health

Preferred room: Theatre 40-100

This session will draw together key insights from the first phase of the Kenya Urban Sanitation Research Initiative. Participants will learn about diverse projects aimed at driving sector change in Kenya, from the potential introduction of a pro-poor sanitation surcharge to modelling willingness-to-pay, costs and the resulting financing gap for specific sanitation solutions. We will hear from the key institutional partners – WASREB and Ministry of Health – who have helped to shape research priorities, and who will now determine research uptake. This interactive session aims to stimulate debate about research and policy priorities for the sector: Participants will have the opportunity to propose research ideas and influence future programme design.

Sustainable WASH in Emergency Interventions

Convening organisations: Oxfam International

Preferred room: Cafe 40-100

In shaping the programming agenda for sustainable water and sanitation systems in its emergency WASH interventions, Oxfam has been conducting reviews and collecting case studies on how various countries are considering the sustainability issues in refugee programmes. This side event will provide an opportunity to share the findings in the form of presentations from the studies conducted in Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Iraq and Lebanon and have discussions around the emerging issues. The following are some thematic issues for the event:

- i. Installation of appropriate technologies
- ii. Engagement with communities, local authorities and private sector
- iii. Appropriate management structures

Experiences and opportunities for setting-up successful business models in FSM / RRR for small towns and cities

Convening organisations: GIZ, seecon, Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Water For People (WFP)

Preferred room: Cafe 30-40

Resource Recovery and Safe Reuse (RRR) offers potential business opportunities for utilities and small & medium sized enterprises through the up-cycling of faecal sludge into commercial products. Representatives from utilities, private sector and local authorities will shortly present key experiences and challenges in setting-up successful RRR business models in Kampala and in East African countries. One key question is on how can goals of private sector actors and governments or development organizations be aligned? This shall facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas across borders. After some brief inputs the attendees will be involved in focus group discussions to unlock business bottlenecks.

People centred partnerships: the critical role of women's and disabled peoples organisations in making WASH progress for all

Convening organisations: WaterAid and Simavi

Preferred room: Theatre 30-40

How should the WASH sector collaborate with representative groups to better achieve voice, participation, empowerment and benefits for all in WASH efforts? This side event will look at the lessons and principles for achieving better partnerships with both women's and disabled peoples organisations, networks and movements. We will discuss the collective benefit from more collaboration, learnings from where these partnerships have been successful, and some of the challenges (including funding, power, priorities) that might need to be addressed. We will learn what to do and what to avoid doing to make these partnerships meaningful and beneficial for all.

Wednesday 11th July Afternoon

Building cross-sector partnerships for Complementary Food Hygiene

Convening organisations: Great Lakes University of Kisumu; University of Malawi – The Polytechnic; SHARE Consortium/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Preferred room: Theatre

Food contamination is an important cause of enteric infections in low-resource settings, particularly for infants of weaning age. Complementary food hygiene, often considered part of food safety, is also important to the WASH sector. Cross-sector partnerships are key to reducing disease transmission through faecal-oral pathways. This session will provide an overview of latest evidence and implementation experiences of complementary feeding interventions on health outcomes across East, West and Southern Africa, and highlight how practitioners can integrate evidence into their programmes. We will encourage participants to engage with findings, discuss their implications and consider the importance of collaborations in their work.

Universal and equitable access to sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services for all by 2030: Can CSOs ensure that no-one is left behind?

Convening organisations: Simavi, Lead Watershed Programme Kenya together with other programme Consortium partners namely Wetlands International, IRC and Akvo Foundation. Included are also Kenyan CSOs involved in Watershed programme in Kenya namely; Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET), Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO), Neighbours Initiative Alliance (NIA), Centre for Social Planning & Administrative Development (CESPAD) and Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF).

Preferred room: Cafe 40-100

The SDG 6 targets for WASH calls for inclusive and sustainable access to safe and adequate services for all by 2030. Living no one behind in accessing WASH services is a governance challenge. We believe empowered CSOs in the WASH sector are essential in supporting the disadvantaged groups to raise a strong voice to policy makers and duty bearers to improve inclusivity.

This interactive session will share experiences from the Watershed programme and welcome participants from local government, CSO's and private sector to enrich the learning by sharing their experiences and challenges in ensuring inclusive services.

Beyond Hygiene Education: Achieving Behaviour Change in Emergencies

Convening organisations: CAWST, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Action Contre La Faim

Preferred room: Café 30-40

What are the unique challenges and opportunities related to WASH behaviour change in emergencies? How can we improve programming in these settings? In this session, we will explore these questions. As well as contributing your own thoughts and experiences, you will have the opportunity to hear the opinions of humanitarian actors and crisis-affected populations in other countries and learn about new research on WASH-related behaviour change in emergencies.

Stimulating the market for FSM in Kisumu: lessons for urban Kenya

Convening organisations: WSUP, Practical Action

Preferred room: Theatre 40-100

As Kenya's third largest city, Kisumu offers significant market potential for FSM businesses. In this session we will outline how a coordinated set of activities are now underway in Kisumu – with the engagement of both Kisumu County Government and the utility, KIWASCO - aimed at creating the conditions for safe and professional FSM services to thrive. These activities extend along the service chain, ranging from the development of new regulations to stimulate fair competition and raise standards to demand creation using urban CLTS methodologies. The session will leverage audience perspectives to explore the implications of this work for Kenyan counties facing similar FSM challenges.

Safely Managed drinking water services: monitoring accessibility, availability and quality

Convening organisations: WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

Preferred room: Theatre 40-100

The SDGs set an ambitious new benchmark for drinking water services: the JMP baseline report found that an estimated 2.1 billion people lacked “safely managed” services in 2015. Many countries, however, do not yet have sufficient data to track this higher level of service. Effective monitoring of safely managed services requires strengthening of national systems for the collection and analysis of data from multiple sources, and this side event will present some of the challenges that this poses, along with the opportunities for enhanced monitoring of drinking water service delivery and progressive harmonisation and alignment of national and global monitoring efforts.

The side event will focus on SDG baselines for drinking water services and efforts by countries to fill data gaps on the quality, availability and accessibility of drinking water services. Countries that have recently integrated water quality testing in household surveys (e.g. Ethiopia or Sierra Leone) or generated estimates for safely managed drinking water services based on regulatory data (e.g. Zambia or Kenya) will present these results. Through group discussions, the side event will encourage reflection on the implications of these emerging data for research, policy and programming and opportunities to strengthen sector monitoring.

Wednesday 11th July Evening

A Safe Pair of Hands: Reducing Child Mortality and Malnutrition through Promotion of Hand Washing and General Hand Hygiene

Convening organisations: Practical Action

Room: Theatre 40-100

In this participatory session, Practical Action will launch its new nutrition focused project. This session will provide an opportunity for the organization to share the project’s objectives and anticipated outcomes. By providing insights into malnutrition and its link with unclean water, Practical Action hopes to engage multi-stakeholders in the debate and solution. Delegates are invited to share their experiences and practical solutions for learning and integration into the project delivery including different roles they could play in its outcome.

Container Based Sanitation: Safe, sustainable services for low-income urban communities

Convening organisation: Container Based Sanitation Alliance (CBSA) comprising Clean Team (Ghana), Loowatt (Madagascar), Sanivation and Sanergy (Kenya), SOIL (Haiti), and x-runner (Peru), potentially Rebecca Scott from WEDC (to present some WEDC CBS research)

Preferred room: Café 40-100

Since 2010, Container-Based Sanitation (CBS) has evolved as an innovative and sustainable full-chain approach for sanitation service delivery in low-income urban communities; it does not rely on waterborne sewerage, reduces health risks compared to pit latrines, and is logistically more feasible than other faecal sludge management (FSM) approaches. This participative event will focus on sharing different CBS operational models from around the world. It will advance audience understanding of the CBS business model, demonstrate how it works in different contexts and generate interest in collaborative research between CBS providers and WEDC participants.

Sustaining WASH practices and behaviours in healthcare settings

Convening organisation: Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP), Medentech, Tufts University, Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), World Vision, and Amref Health Africa (Amref)

Preferred room: Café 30-40

WASH services and behaviours are essential to combat infection, antimicrobial resistance, and related mortality in healthcare settings. This session will convene an active discussion among practitioners, researchers, and policy makers on sustaining behaviours and practices to ensure that WASH in healthcare settings improves patient safety and quality of care. The session will begin with three short framing presentations on evidence related to key WASH practices; research and interventions to increase handwashing among healthcare workers; and perspectives on how to achieve WASH services and behaviour change at scale. Speakers will facilitate a discussion on best practices, opportunities, and barriers, drawing on participants' experiences and ideas.

Putting Sanitation First: Action and Research in Evidence Based Advocacy for three counties in Kenya

Convening organisations: SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Centre for Population Health Research and Management (CPHRM)

Preferred room: Theatre 30-40

How can research enhance advocacy for better sanitation service delivery? This session presents the findings of a study (2018) in Kenya on the effects of poor sanitation on the health and wellbeing of communities in three counties, and how the findings were used for policy advocacy. The session will feature a discussion on the findings, and the advocacy processes and products that were used to advocate for improved sector coordination, increased budget allocation, policy review and development. Round-table discussions on evidence-based advocacy will be used to draw out recommendations and examples to enrich the continued advocacy agenda in Kenya.

NGOs/development workers in the WASH sector: are we really doing the right thing to improve water services delivery in marginalised areas?

Convening organisations: Caritas Switzerland, Oxfam, WASREB, WSTF, WIN, KEWASNET

Preferred room: Café 30-40

'Why does community management rarely work?' is a favourite topic for development workers. Often, we find reasons that are intrinsic to communities instead of asking ourselves if we have done our best to make it work. This session will be a debate on the role of development workers in services provision to marginalised areas. It will also present some measures and tools developed by Kenyan water sector stakeholders, from the National Regulator (WASREB), to the governmental institution financing water and sanitation infrastructures in marginalised areas (Water Sector Trust Fund) and NGOs to address this.

Thursday 12th July Afternoon

Revolutionizing water access through innovation in Tanzania

Convening organisations: Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF); the Department for International Development (DFID) Catholic Relief Services Tanzania; Nelson Mandela and WEDC Loughborough University, UK.

Preferred room: Café 30-40

This interactive session will showcase innovative approaches to improved water access from the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) in partnership with, Catholic Relief Services Tanzania (CRS) and Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology NM-AIST. The session will share initial findings from a recent evaluation of pre-paid solutions to improving rural and peri-urban water supply and provide insights from other water access innovations currently being piloted in Tanzania through HDIF. Following short presentations to set the scene, the partners will host group discussions that explore challenges and lessons learnt on achieving inclusive, sustainable, and scalable water access.

Can't find your faecal sludge management solution in emergency context? Let's do it together!

Convening organisations: Solidarites International, BORDA

Preferred room: Café 30-40

You've reviewed a multitude of existing guidelines on faecal sludge management, consulted your WASH advisor with no response? What you need is context specific guidance on tried and tested solutions, collaboratively developed by sanitation experts and practitioners. Join us to learn more about the ongoing faecal sludge disposal and treatment practices in Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh, and how this practice is currently being developed into guidance. Through brief presentations and interactive discussions, participants will be engaged in exploring and sharing experience on how the guidance emerging from Cox Bazaar could relate and be extended to other emergency contexts.

Practical Rapid Action Learning for Rural Sanitation

Convening organisations: CLTS Knowledge Hub at the Institute of Development Studies

Preferred room: Café

Rural sanitation poses complex and often intractable problems, and the momentum and scale of sanitation programmes across much of the world is unprecedented. The speed of implementation means that rapidly identifying what works, filling gaps in knowledge, and finding answers that provide practical ideas for policy and practice can have exceptionally widespread impact provided they are timely, relevant and actionable. This presents unique and urgent challenges which require new approaches to innovation, learning and sharing. The session will review the innovations, methods, experience and lessons learnt, and their relevance for other countries and contexts. The session will be highly interactive with lots of time for participants to ask questions and engage in discussions.

Reaching the hard to reach: WASH research for vulnerable groups in peri-urban areas

Convening organisations: SHARE Consortium/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia; Great Lakes University of Kisumu, WaterAid

Preferred room: Theatre

While access to WASH infrastructure is improving globally, progress in urban areas lags behind. Urban settlements have grown at such a pace that these populations now face a different set of WASH challenges to their rural counterparts. To achieve universal access, we must focus our efforts on hard-to-reach vulnerable communities, often including women and migrants, as well as those living in low-income informal environments.

Bringing together research and practitioner perspectives, speakers will discuss new research and resources that contributes to the evidence base for vulnerable peri-urban groups. This interactive session will stimulate dialogue around peri-urban WASH research in low-income countries.

Thursday 12th July Evening

From cost recovery to sustainable financing of rural water services: Evidence from FundiFix & Water for Good

Convening organisations: University of Oxford Smith School on Enterprise and the Environment, FundiFix, and Water for Good

Preferred room: Theatre 30-40

This side event convenes two innovative models for enterprise-based rural water services in Sub-Saharan Africa: FundiFix in Kenya and Water for Good in the Central African Republic. Researchers from the University of Oxford Water Programme will present novel analyses of their respective levels of cost recovery and will review the critical contribution that external financial and institutional support has made to their success. Breakout discussions and a panel Q&A will provide a forum for participants to draw lessons from these models and discuss the barriers and opportunities to finance and scale rural water services.

Regulated private sector led service delivery in urban waste and sanitation - Some experiences, challenges and opportunities

Convening organisation: Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), GIZ

Preferred room: Café 30-40

Rapid urbanization in developing countries provides an opportunity for social-economic transformation but also induces pressure on key basic services from urban authorities. Private sector participation/partnership have been identified as an opportunity to bridge service gaps and levels at multiple scales. In particular the sub-sectors solid waste management and sanitation services offer service synergies with a common interface to the low-income customers. KCCA is preparing such an approach for Kampala. The event will enable the participants to discuss and share private sector development enabling aspects such as policy, coordination, regulation, capacity building and financing frameworks that can leverage private sector participation.

The format would be a mix of short input presentations and then debate.

Accountability and rights-based approaches in the WASH sector: What works and what doesn't?

Convening organisation: RWSN, WaterAid, Simavi, End Water Poverty, Water Integrity Network, Water Witness International, ISF-UTS

Preferred room: Café 40-100

Come and share your experiences, challenges and questions about using social accountability and human rights to increase WASH coverage. Discuss how to strengthen the engagement between communities and duty bearers. Look at ways to empower communities - especially the voiceless, and to strengthen government-led accountability mechanisms, making them effective; Consider how to use human rights to help clarify roles and responsibilities of duty bearers and rights holders. Recent research on accountability will be presented followed by group discussions that enable participants to focus on the specific issues relevant to them. A short report will capture the main outcomes.

Improving Access to WASH in Health Care Facilities

Convening organisation: WaterAid Ghana

Preferred room: Theatre 30-40

The WHO –UNICEF study “Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities Status in low- and middle-income countries and way forward” reminds us that WASH is often underprioritized in health care facilities. According to the study, 38% of facilities do not have access to safe water and 19% do not have safe sanitation. This can be changed. Therefore, the critical question driving this interactive session is: how do we enable access to WASH services in Health Care Facilities and ensure that these services are safe and sustainable? This session will convene experts from health, finance, and local government to share insights.

From research to policy and practice: experience from East and Southern Africa

Convening organisation: Ministry of Health, Kenya; WASHTED Centre, Malawi; SHARE Consortium/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Great Lakes University of Kisumu.

Preferred room: tbc

Research uptake is increasingly recognised as an essential component of research programmes. It's not just results that are important, but how they are used, when they are used and by whom. Effective research uptake strategies can facilitate the use of evidence to inform and improve WASH programmes and policies at multiple levels, from local communities to national governments. This session will offer a range of perspectives, from academics in an international research consortium to implementing agencies, to national government. It will stimulate discussion on engaging stakeholders with evidence to improve WASH programmes and policies. It will enable WASH practitioners to consider how they use evidence and to apply research uptake strategies within their work.