

2022 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE BAROMETER

9<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM - DAKAR SPECIAL EDITION



# WATER SECURITY

ISSUES, CHALLENGES  
AND SOLUTIONS



**solidarités**  
international

# WATER: WE MUST SAFEGUARD THIS VITAL RESOURCE

"Water security for peace and development": that is the theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum set to take place in Dakar, Senegal. It's a noble idea, but it's going to take more than a conference slogan to make it a reality worldwide.

Many populations face water insecurity on a daily basis and know neither peace nor development. As victims of war, disaster or epidemics with scarce public services to turn to, these populations depend entirely on community solidarity and humanitarian assistance.

Considering the number of deaths linked to waterborne illnesses, but also the centrality of water to health, nutrition, livestock, energy and climate change adaptation, ensuring access to drinking water for all must be a global priority.

And yet, it is no secret that we are not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: Universal access to water and sanitation by 2030. To remedy this, we'll need to quadruple funding and set up a system of global water governance. The time has come for a change in both scale and pace. We need to step it up—and fast!

That is the challenge that awaits participants of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar, including host country Senegal and the World Water Council. We have a collective responsibility to show results.

Now more than ever, we need to think globally and act locally. Together, we must ensure that the Dakar Forum is the forum of concrete responses, and we must deliver clear political messages heading into the United Nations 2023 Water Conference—an intergovernmental event where decisions can be taken.

The 29% of the global population without access to safe drinking water and the 55% without sanitation ask this of us; they expect us to honour the commitment made in 2015 by 195 UN member states.



**By Alain Boinet,**  
**Founder**  
**of SOLIDARITÉS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



**And Kevin Goldberg,**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**of SOLIDARITÉS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

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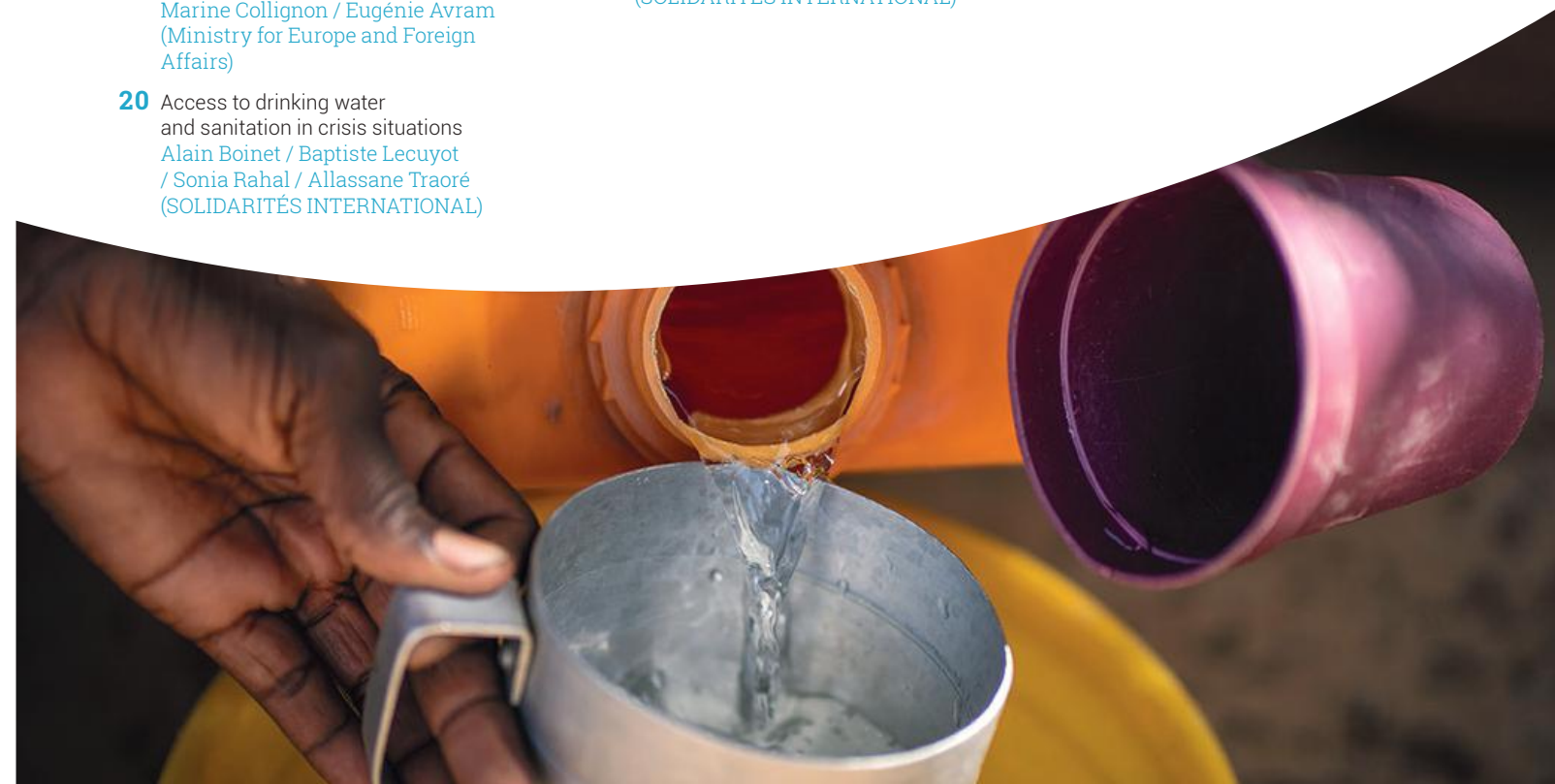
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# SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL

## SAVING LIVES, CHANGING LIVES

The NGO SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL assists populations affected by conflicts and violence, epidemics, natural or climate-related disasters and economic collapse. Our humanitarian teams are committed to helping people whose lives, health and security are threatened, by meeting their most vital needs: food, water, shelter and hygiene.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL responds to crises by distributing emergency aid in person and, in parallel, by implementing long-term solutions that enable affected populations to regain sustainable access to water, sanitation, hygiene, diversified livelihoods and safe housing.

The ultimate aims of SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL's action are protection, dignity and autonomy.

## MEETING COMPLEX CHALLENGES IN DIFFICULT CONTEXTS

Thanks to its extensive field experience and expertise, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is able to work in the most difficult-to-access areas and in particularly dangerous contexts.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL also demonstrates unique technical and social engineering capabilities, which we continue to perfect by building on the innovations and development efforts of our teams and partners.

## FOR 40 YEARS, AND FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL's commitment to assist populations affected by the most severe crises dates back to 1980.

We always provide aid at the request of the affected population or its representatives, in cooperation with our local partners, and we are fiercely determined to constantly uphold the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, impartiality and neutrality.

Our field teams mainly comprise locally hired staff, to help ensure that the aid provided fits the population's needs as closely as possible.

## SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL'S FIGHT FOR SAFE WATER

**Hundreds of thousands of people die every year** from diseases caused by unsafe drinking water or unsanitary living conditions. In response to this unbearable situation, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has been fighting relentlessly for over fifteen years to ensure that as many people as possible have access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

In the field, our teams do their utmost to deliver drinking water during emergencies, install water and sanitation facilities, build showers and latrines, and distribute hygiene kits. After a crisis, our NGO can also assist in building or rehabilitating basic infrastructure to help affected populations regain access to vital services. During protracted crises when humanitarian access is limited, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL works with local authorities and development organizations to consolidate public "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" services. (see SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL's "WASH" strategy, pages 6-7)

Our organization is also committed to taking part in and influencing national and international discussions, to help political leaders envisage appropriate action to combat the deadly scourge of unsafe

water. The only way to meet Sustainable Development Goal 6 by 2030 is for all local, national and international actors to make strong commitments. To this end, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL actively participates in major "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" events like the World Water Forum and is a committed member of specialized networks like the Global WASH Cluster, Coalition Eau, the French Water Partnership and Programme Solidarité Eau. Our NGO uses these forums to advocate for universal access to water and plays an active role in implementing concrete solutions.

Finally, every year, for World Water Day, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL conducts

an awareness raising campaign and publishes the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Barometer. Drawing on contributions from international experts, this publication takes stock of the current state of access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene worldwide, presents the key issues and showcases proposed solutions to this major challenge.

*"The first response to human suffering must be solidarity"*

ALAIN BOINET,  
FOUNDER OF SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL



# SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL'S “WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE” 2020-2025 STRATEGY

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To actively contribute to achieving SDGs 3 and 6 by systematizing “WaSH” & “Health” integrated approaches in degraded contexts and thereby providing high-quality, high-impact responses centred on the health, dignity and well-being of affected populations.



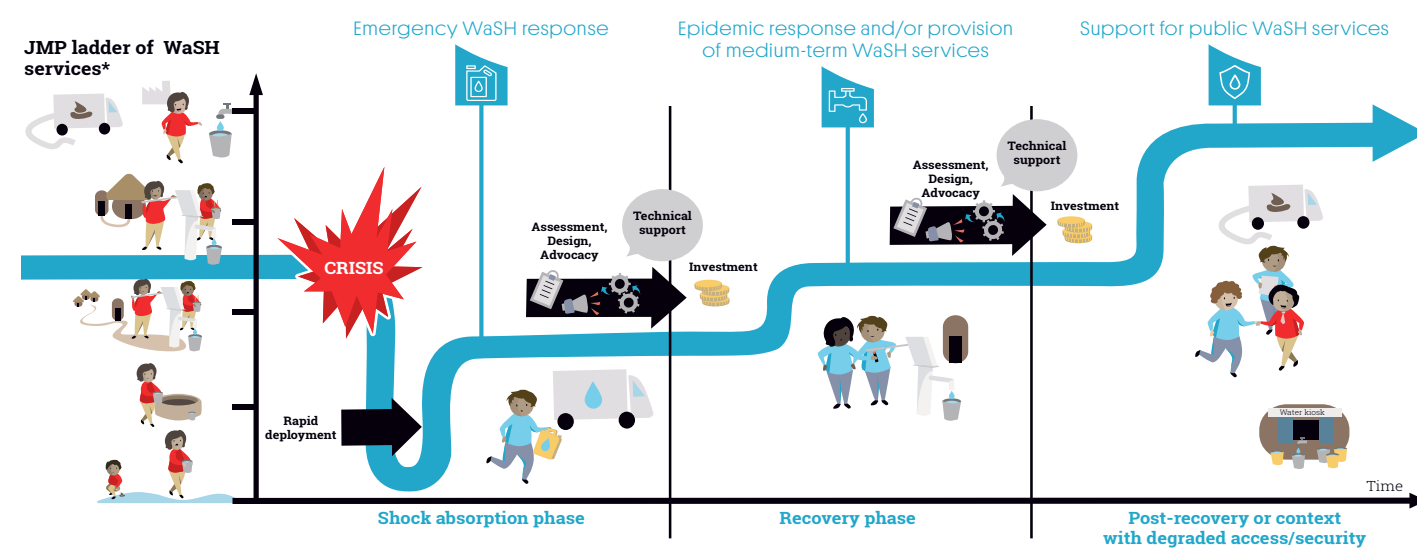
## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Deliver epidemic responses and tailored quality WASH services that **prevent health, environmental and social risks**.

Develop SI's expertise through **knowledge building and enhanced demonstration and innovation**.

Promote **knowledge sharing** among sector actors, **convey the voice of crisis-affected populations to decision-makers at the local, national, regional and international levels**.

## INTERVENTION LOGIC



\* The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme monitors national, regional and global estimates on progress regarding drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

## Principles of intervention



### Emergency WaSH response

- **Short preparation time**, which includes carrying out needs assessments
- Focus on the **technical aspects of solutions**
- Contain **health risks**



### Epidemic response and/or provision of medium-term WaSH services

- Emphasize **contextual knowledge**
- Develop **partnership strategies**
- Maximize **satisfaction and ownership among beneficiaries**



### Support for public WaSH services

- Promote **economic and organizational viability**
- Strengthen **governance and local capacities**

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR WASH PROGRAMMING

### AXIS 1

#### Intensify the fight against epidemics

- Strengthen WaSH & Health multisectoral coordination
- Strengthen local epidemiological surveillance systems
- Work to better predict epidemics and improve the quality of rapid responses
- Equip health facilities with WaSH services
- Strengthen WaSH services in cholera and Ebola hotspots

### AXIS 2

#### Strengthen the quality of WaSH interventions during the shock absorption phase

- Contain health risks and minimize negative environmental impacts
- Systematize protection measures against all forms of violence and violation of populations' dignity
- Promote beneficiary participation in the WASH services design process
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian coordination mechanisms

### AXIS 3

#### Strengthen public WaSH services in degraded contexts

- Promote knowledge sharing
- Boost capacity building and local technical assistance
- Implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Take steps to adapt to and mitigate climate change

## THE 6 PILLARS OF WASH INTERVENTIONS



### Public health

To more effectively combat and prevent waterborne diseases and epidemics.



### Continuous situational analysis

To allow for the adaptation of operational modalities.



### Capacity building

To transfer knowledge and build capacities of local actors.



### Beneficiary-centred approach

To maximize community ownership of services provided, to promote the sustainable adoption of adequate hygiene practices, and to protect beneficiaries.



### Carefully planned exit strategies

To develop tools to assist in the management, operation and monitoring of WaSH services.



### Support for coordination efforts

To contribute to the continuous improvement of coordination mechanisms.



# SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL IS TAKING PART IN INITIATIVE DAKAR 2022

To ensure that the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum is indeed the “forum of responses”, host country Senegal has teamed up with the World Water Council to create Initiative Dakar 2022, aimed at promoting and supporting innovative, high-impact water and sanitation projects. A call for proposals was opened in 2021. Winning projects will receive official “Initiative Dakar 2022” certification and benefit from international exposure, partnerships and potential funding from the Forum’s institutional partners. Here’s a look at the projects proposed by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL.

## FAECAL SLUDGE TREATMENT PLANT IN MYANMAR

Since 2013, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has been working alongside Oxfam to pilot a collective sanitation system at the Rohingya refugee camps in Sittwe (Myanmar), where over 90,000 people live in precarious conditions. The project has helped mitigate the environmental and health impacts of the camps, including contamination of the surrounding environment and groundwater with untreated faecal sludge.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s role is to collect and transport sludge from 13 camps to a nearby treatment plant. This system can treat 30 to 40 m<sup>3</sup> of sludge per day using cost-effective, low-maintenance technology adapted to the constraints imposed by camp conditions. One unique feature of the treatment plant is its monitoring system: developed with support from Veolia Foundation, it measures contaminant levels, thereby evaluating the effectiveness of the sludge treatment process. A plan to expand treatment capacity should be implemented by early 2022 in order to meet the camps’ growing needs.

In addition to its technical prowess, this project has placed participation, inclusion and gender considerations at the core of its quest to provide the entire population of the Sittwe camps and villages with a safer environment and reduced health risks. We have also worked to identify local partners who can take over operations and maintenance in the future. The next phase of the project will explore the feasibility of sludge reuse in agriculture.

This project has shown that sustainable sanitation is possible in humanitarian contexts and that it is likely to bring with it a number of long-term benefits for health and the environment. The pilot is set to be replicated across other camps in the country.

## PROJECT NEX’EAU IN BURKINA FASO

Amidst deteriorating security conditions in Burkina Faso, humanitarian needs are on the rise. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance currently stands at 3.5 million, including 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The influx of displaced persons to the region has posed serious challenges to the efficient and sustainable management of existing services, already severely hindered by an unfavourable hydrogeological environment, a lack of equipment and sometimes ill-adapted technological choices. The various actors responsible for providing water services—the National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA), municipalities and private operators—are generally unable to meet growing needs in a timely and adequate manner. On top of this, humanitarian responses do not currently allow for NGOs to integrate short-term emergency aid with long-term investments that could provide for universal, fair and sustainable water services.

This is where the NEX’Eau project, funded by USAID and the AFD, comes into play. Faced with the urgent need for responses to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, GRET, Groupe URD and ONEA have joined forces to develop and deploy an innovative integrated approach bringing together Humanitarian Aid and Development Aid to strengthen public water services.

The approach combines emergency responses with medium- and long-term operational assistance for institutional stakeholders, the private sector and water users in the aim of supporting and developing sustainable water supply services.

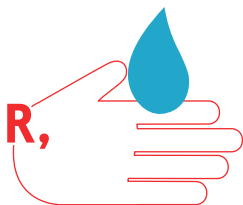
# KEY ISSUES



A growing number of epidemics, ever more devastating consequences of climate change... In this alarming humanitarian context, the challenges surrounding access to water, sanitation and hygiene are colossal. The safeguarding of water resources and basic water services should accordingly be deemed a priority and, as such, be met with concrete commitments at the local, national, regional and international levels. To this end, the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, which will be held in Dakar from 21 through 26 March 2022, can and must be the spark that ignites a collective will to action.



## ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



**2.2 BILLION PEOPLE** do not have access to safely managed domestic drinking water supply services\*.

**4.2 BILLION PEOPLE** lack access to safely managed sanitation services\*.

Source: Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply Report, WHO/UNICEF 2019

[“Safely managed” means that a given resource or service is administered in such a way as to provide for the population’s needs and at the same time to conserve available resources.]

**3 BILLION PEOPLE** do not have handwashing facilities with soap and water at home.

Source: “Lack of handwashing with soap puts millions at increased risk to COVID-19,” article by UNICEF, 14 October 2020



Despite all the efforts that have been made over the last twenty years,

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6,** access to sustainably managed drinking water and sanitation services for all, **IS STILL FAR FROM BEING ACHIEVED.**

## FOCUS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Only **24% OF THE POPULATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** has access to a safe source of drinking water.

**OVER 500 MILLION PEOPLE** do not have access to improved sanitation facilities.

Source: UN World Water Development Report 2019

**46% OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

only have basic access to water.

**19%** lack any water supply services.

Source: Global progress report on Wash in health care facilities – WHO/UNICEF 2020

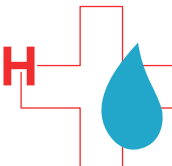
Almost **50% OF SCHOOLS** have no drinking water supply services.

Source: Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply Report, WHO/UNICEF 2019

In sub-Saharan Africa, **63% OF PEOPLE LIVING IN URBAN AREAS, OR 258 MILLION PEOPLE,** lack access to handwashing facilities.

Source: “Lack of handwashing with soap puts millions at increased risk to COVID-19,” article by UNICEF, 14 October 2020

## WATER AND HEALTH



Every year, **361,000 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE**

die from diarrhea caused by inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Source: Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply Report, WHO/UNICEF 2017

Children under the age of 15 are **3 TIMES MORE LIKELY** to die of a diarrheal disease due to poor-quality access to water and sanitation than as a result of war-related violence.

Source: Water under Fire, UNICEF report, 2019

**1.5 MILLION PEOPLE** die every year from diarrheal diseases alone.

Source: WWF, 2021

## WOMEN



IN AFRICA, women and girls often spend **6 HOURS PER DAY** FETCHING WATER.

Source: Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply Report, WHO/UNICEF 2017

**13% OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WORLDWIDE** have no access to toilets to relieve themselves and manage their periods. For these women, **THE RISK OF EXPERIENCING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS 40% HIGHER** than for women who have access to toilets, according to a study carried out in 2018 in the Mathare Valley slums, Kenya. In India, the risk is even higher (50%).

Source: ideas4development.org

## CLIMATE CHANGE & WATER STRESS



**90% OF ALL NATURAL HAZARDS ARE WATER RELATED.**

Source: UN World Water Development Report 2019, “Leaving no one behind”

Since the year 2000, **THE NUMBER OF DISASTERS INVOLVING FLOODING HAS INCREASED BY 134%** in comparison to the two previous decades.

Source: IPCC Assessment Report 2021

IN 2020, **1.2 BILLION PEOPLE** were living in agricultural areas where droughts are very frequent.

Source: State of Food and Agriculture 2020, FAO

By 2050, **GLOBAL DEMAND FOR WATER IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 30%.**

Source: UN World Water Development Report 2018, “Nature-based Solutions for Water”

## FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES



**LESS THAN 1 COUNTRY IN 6** that has developed costed “WASH” plans has enough funding to implement them.

**LESS THAN 14%** of these countries have sufficient human resources to carry out these plans.

Source: coalition-eau.org

Overall funding for the sector has been falling since 2018. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6, **INVESTMENTS MUST INCREASE 4-FOLD WORLDWIDE AND 23-FOLD FOR FRAGILE CONTEXTS**



# THE DAKAR WORLD WATER FORUM IN MARCH 2022: TIME FOR CONCRETE RESPONSES

By **Abdoulaye Sene** and **Patrick Lavarde**,  
Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

**The World Water Forum**, set to take place in Dakar from 21 through 26 March 2022, will focus on the theme “Water security for peace and development”. The event represents a major milestone on the road to the 2023 United Nations Midterm Review Conference, which will assess progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation.

As the first Forum to be held in Africa, the continent lagging the farthest behind in terms of access to water and sanitation, the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum will shine a light on the gaping chasm between objectives and reality, which is nowhere more drastic than in sub-Saharan Africa, a region with one of the world’s lowest rates of access to drinking water and sanitation. And a lack of access to water also places health, hygiene and food security in jeopardy, a problem that weighs on the day-to-day life of populations facing water insecurity and that poses a major obstacle to development. This is why the Forum is placing special emphasis on issues surrounding access to drinking water and sanitation.

Over half of the world’s cities are experiencing water supply difficulties amidst ever-increasing urban concentration. The Forum will, of course, consider the urban situation, though its primary focus will be on rural areas, which are often overlooked, if not outright forgotten. The imbalance between rural and urban areas must be corrected and the living conditions of rural populations improved via massive investment in rural water and sanitation services, following the example of Senegal’s Community Development Emergency Program (PUDC).

Thanks in no small part to the preparatory contributions of SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, the Forum will also address specific issues surrounding access to water and sanitation in humanitarian emergencies in order to meet populations’ needs with concrete responses.

On a broader level, a number of countries are plagued by water scarcity, particularly those in the Sahel region where water is vital to both security and development. In rural areas, conflicts arising from extensive population movements are intensifying, as are conflicts among various types of water users, such as breeders and farmers. The combination of rapid population growth and devastating climate change calls for urgent action.

The Dakar Forum will, accordingly, be action-oriented: because the time has come to start implementing solutions and delivering responses. Despite significant disruptions to the preparatory process due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a diverse group of some thousand institutions has worked on the Forum’s four priorities (water security and sanitation; water for rural development; cooperation; means and tools), each corresponding to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals. These multi-stakeholder working groups have identified a number of concrete responses which will be presented over the course of roughly one hundred themed sessions. The Forum will also highlight the hundred or so projects that have received “Initiative Dakar 2022” certification.

A wide-ranging group of stakeholders from around the world has stepped up to take part in this collaborative effort. As important as it is for us to showcase responses implemented in specific contexts, the ultimate goal is to adapt these responses for rapid, wide-scale replication. Cooperation will be critical to achieving the water-related SDGs, because no one stakeholder can do it alone. Solid governance and adequate funding will also be needed.

Lastly, political will is essential. As the first member state to formally engage the United Nations Security Council on water issues, Senegal is particularly well-positioned to stand alongside the World Water Council and make the case for water issues to move up political agendas at every level. This will be the main objective of the Heads of State and Government Meeting, and of meetings of elected officials, local authorities and regional water authorities.

We look forward to seeing all water stakeholders in Dakar next March.





## “THE COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO WATER IS A SELF-EVIDENT HUMAN RIGHT”

Interview with Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council

### Loïc Fauchon, could you tell us what makes the upcoming World Water Forum in Dakar unique?

This Forum differs from previous editions for a number of reasons. For one thing, it's being held in sub-Saharan Africa, a part of the world where water access remains inadequate and inequitable. African communities, who have a major stake in the issue, will be able to bring to the table their familiarity with the field and its realities, allowing for a much more hands-on, pragmatic approach. The Forum is also being held in the wake of the 2020 COVID-19 shockwave, which highlighted the importance of water not only for preventive hygiene but also for food self-sufficiency, something that was made clear during the extended closures of some ports and many borders.

### This Forum bears the tagline “the Forum of concrete responses”. Will it deliver on that promise? What kind of responses do you hope to see?

After the Forum of Solutions in Marseille in 2012, we and our Senegalese colleagues decided that Dakar would be the Forum of Responses: “responses” being the application of solutions in the field and among populations. Because it is these responses

that are going to improve the day-to-day life of populations most in need. So long as we remain fiercely determined to move from talk to action, we will succeed in bringing these responses to the fore.

### In the past you have said that “water is political”. What do you mean by that?

Yes, for over a decade we have been hammering home the idea that water access is ultimately a matter of political decisions—of national and local leaders making it a real priority through laws, regulations and budgets that serve to safeguard water resources, while also ensuring that they are shared sustainably and, above all, equitably.

### A Heads of State and Government Meeting will be held at the Forum. What might this meeting yield for water and sanitation security?

The presence of heads of state and governments at the Forum is nothing new. This time, given that Senegal will be chairing the African Union and that President Macky Sall has expressed a will to act, our call for strong, tangible commitments on water and sanitation will undoubtedly resonate all the more loudly.

### How does the Forum tie into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Goal 6 specifically? What role might the Forum play leading up to the International Water Conference at the United Nations in March 2023?

The Dakar Forum is one step—without a doubt the most important one—on the road to March 2023. If responses are delivered in Dakar, that will be our best proof that going forward, water has a new role to play in promoting peace and development.

### Any final thoughts to conclude?

For years the World Water Council has been working to drive home two strong priorities. The first is that the international community—every government, every human community—must safeguard this resource and ensure that it is used fairly: that is, equitably and economically. The second follows from the first: the collective and individual right to water is a self-evident human right which must be respected and enforced universally for the survival of the planet. That is what we are fighting for, peacefully but purposefully.

## “THE DAKAR FORUM MUST BE A MAJOR POLITICAL MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE”

By Jean Launay, President of the French Water Partnership

“In 2020, around one in four people lacked safely managed drinking water in their homes and nearly half the world's population lacked safely managed sanitation. COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent need to ensure everyone can access good hand hygiene. At the onset of the pandemic, three in ten people worldwide could not wash their hands with soap and water within their homes.”

This alarming statement is how the WHO/ UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme<sup>1</sup> report summarizes last year's global WASH statistics. The French Water Partnership (FWP) had these observations in mind, along with the findings of the World Conservation Congress<sup>2</sup> (e.g., 90% of wetlands have dried up over the last 100 years) and the 6th IPCC Report<sup>3</sup>, as we rolled up our sleeves in 2021 and set out to plan the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

The Dakar Forum is the first to be held in sub-Saharan Africa. Postponed from 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will now take place while its host country, Senegal, holds the Chairmanship of the African Union. The international water community is sure to make a solid turnout at this long-awaited event. Thousands of specialists, professionals and elected officials typically attend, and it is our hope that, despite the current context, as many of them as possible will be able to come together and forge vital partnerships. Because it's time to step up the pace. But don't take it from me: that is the United Nations' call to speed up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on Water and Sanitation. For this to happen, the UN is calling for: 1. optimization of new and existing funding channels; 2. enhanced data; 3. global capacity building; 4. innovation;

5. intersectoral and, where applicable, cross-border governance with clearly defined roles for stakeholders and institutions directly or indirectly involved in water management.

The 200 members of the FWP are mobilized on all of these fronts from within their respective panels: government and public institutions; NGOs; regional authorities and elected officials; economic stakeholders; research and training institutes; and private individuals. Our members have made their ambition clear in joining the FWP, an organization dedicated to promoting the water agenda at the international level. Now, to fulfill the FWP's mission, we have approached planning the World Water Forum with the same resolve we displayed heading into the other major conferences: the COP26 Climate Change Conference, the COP15 Biodiversity Conference, and so on. We have held regular information sessions to help get French stakeholders on board and promote their expertise.

In addition, the FWP team has been involved in all aspects of the preparatory process and has set the following expectations: the Dakar Forum must end on a powerful plea for the operational achievement of the 2030 Agenda's water targets and for the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more broadly, the aim being to make recommendations ahead of the United Nations 2023 Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade, “Water for Sustainable Development”. Two Heads of State and Government Meetings—one African and one global—are on the agenda in Dakar; both are an opportunity to further

champion these ambitions and to pave the way for the 2023 conference. To ensure no one is left behind, messages must be grounded in a pragmatic progress report on the 2030 Agenda's 20 water-related targets and a political commitment to move more quickly towards achieving these and all other 2030 Agenda targets, while also taking into account those territories subject to crises and vulnerabilities.

Set to take place on the continent lagging the farthest behind in terms of access to water and sanitation, the Dakar Forum must be a major political milestone. Every aspect of the 2030 Agenda must be promoted there. The FWP and its members will stress this urgency, advocate a cross-cutting approach to sustainable development issues and call on all stakeholders to take an active role.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/billions-people-will-lack-access-safe-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-2030-unless>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/about/about-iucn-congress>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wgl/>



## WHEN ARE WE GOING TO DECIDE TO MOVE FULL SPEED AHEAD?

By **G rard Payen**, Vice President of the French Water Partnership and former Water Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations (UNSGAB)

In September 2019, UN member states aiming to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 decided to speed up their efforts and dubbed 2020–2030 “the decade of action and results”. Their resolve to pick up the pace did not concern water-related actions. On the contrary, citing relatively optimistic reports from UN agencies, states even patted themselves on the back for their progress in the area of drinking water.

Since then, however, UN-Water has made great strides in statistical reporting. Sector knowledge has improved, with reports—notably those from mid-2021—providing quantitative estimates on nearly all 10 SDG water indicators. This new data highlights more clearly than ever the vast extent of needs and the slow pace of progress. The days of downplaying and denial are over.

UN agencies have finally reacted. At a High-level Meeting in New York on 18 March 2021, they publicly hammered home the message that states need to “quadruple the current rate of progress” on water issues. “Quadrupling” these efforts is no small feat. We’re not talking a 5–10% change. We’re talking a drastic acceleration on a scale rarely seen in government actions. For this to happen, states will have to rethink existing public policies, draw up action plans with clear objectives and intermediate steps and, of course, deploy targeted resources on a much larger scale.

Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, since the SDGs were adopted in 2015, public policies governing water resources, access to water and sanitation, and water pollution management have seen only marginal changes. No one seems to be stepping it up. Global statistics point to slow and quite relative progress.

In 2020, the number of people with no access to safe water stood at 2.0 billion, a decrease of less than 0.2 billion over 5 years. If things continue at this rate for the next nine years, 1.4 billion human beings will still be without safe drinking water in 2030, the target date for “universal” access, meaning access for all to truly safe drinking water. Worse still, access to safe drinking water is declining in some parts of the world, including urban areas and sub-Saharan Africa.

Moreover, not a single country seems to be doing its part towards the collective goal of cutting pollution flows from urban wastewater by half between 2015 and 2030.

### SO, WHO’S GOING TO STEP IT UP AND WHEN?

Water-related actions are, of course, implemented at the local level and thus often fall to local authorities. But in our interconnected world, these local actions must fit into a broader vision that transcends even national borders. Because global interdependencies are everywhere: from catchment areas to commercial imports, many countries profit from the water available

in other countries. Accordingly, states have a key role to play, both within and across their borders. At the international level they occasionally convene to discuss one specific aspect of water, but these meetings very rarely cover the full scope of water-related issues. As a result, for one thing, states have not yet found time for a serious discussion of progress towards the 20 water-related SDG targets.

However, as I wrote in last year’s Barometer, an exceptional sequence of diplomatic events that began in late 2019 is leading up to the landmark UN Water Conference to be held in March 2023. States have already convened twice—in New York City in March 2021 and in Bonn, Germany, in July 2021. Next, they will meet in Dakar for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and then at least another 3 times prior to March 2023. When are they going to decide to move full speed ahead? Clearly not during these intermediate stages which don’t allow for decision-making. In March 2023, they will be at the UN conference—an event that *does* allow for decision-making. Will they seize this rare opportunity to move into action and hit the many accelerators within their reach? For that to happen, all water stakeholders and governments taking part in the Dakar Forum need to wake up to the need for drastic acceleration and specifically request that actions to “quadruple” progress be decided at the March 2023 UN Conference.

## WATER IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: INCREASING PRODUCTION TO MEET HIGHER DEMAND

By **Luc Soenen**, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Shelter Coordinator, European Commission, Africa Regional Office

**Water needs are constantly increasing in West and Central Africa** and exploding in certain regions. Luc Soenen from the European Commission’s Africa Regional Office highlights the importance of increasing water production.

Insecurity in West and Central Africa has caused massive population displacements towards safer areas, with over 8.5 million refugees and displaced persons in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic and Chad. As a result, water, sanitation and hygiene needs and demand have escalated beyond the capacity of existing infrastructure—when such facilities are actually available.

As a rule, public health risks increase significantly as population density rises, hastening the spread of diseases and epidemics.

Larger and often rapidly growing numbers of people end up sharing water and other resources, placing an excessive burden on facilities that are either undersized or cannot handle such demand. This heightens the risk of tensions between host communities and displaced populations.

In such situations, conditions often fall short of minimum humanitarian guidelines, i.e., the minimum, essential targets defined by the humanitarian community to achieve acceptable conditions that safeguard public health and human dignity.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance projects all too often suffer from implementational shortcomings. The worrying fact is that this only seems to

be getting worse over time, which is both abnormal and unacceptable. This trend is all the more concerning since funding is also often insufficient. The WASH sector has lost the obvious, automatic first place that it held in the past; it must win it back since WASH forms the foundation for almost everything. Without it, everything falls apart.

ECHO funding for WASH in West and Central Africa grew from 5 million euros in 2016 to 18 million euros in 2017, before falling to around 11 million euros. This figure encompasses both single-sector WASH<sup>1</sup> programs and a multisectoral humanitarian approach that primarily supports health and nutrition.

In this context, the priority should be to increase supply and production—this is probably the greatest challenge for humanitarian actors, to demonstrate their added value. In practical terms, water points with potential for expansion should be further developed and better harnessed. It is also important to prioritize and pay greater attention to improving knowledge, bolstering management and monitoring water resources—especially groundwater resources—more closely. Coordination between humanitarian, transition and development programs means that more extensive, improved outcomes can be achieved. Finally, all due attention must be paid to the environmental aspects of projects.

*“The priority should be to increase supply and production.”*

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/water-sanitation-and-hygiene\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/water-sanitation-and-hygiene_en)



# THE 9<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM: PAVING THE WAY TO 2023

By Marine Collignon, **Head of the Water, Pollution and Transversal Affairs Unit,**  
and Eugénie Avram, **Policy Advisor for Water, Sanitation, Integrated Water Resources Management  
and Transboundary Waters at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs**

**The World Water Forum**, held every three years, is a major event on the global agenda. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition, hosted by Senegal and set to take place in Dakar in March 2022, will be particularly important: the results of the Forum will lay the groundwork for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, the first such conference to be hosted by the UN since 1977.

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Water Forum is unprecedented in more ways than one. As the first forum to be held in sub-Saharan Africa, it provides an opportunity to highlight the specific challenges facing African countries and to identify appropriate solutions. This edition will also take place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic which has made all too clear the consequences of a lack of access to hygiene, sanitation and drinking water—a problem afflicting 30% of the global population, 70% of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, this Forum is part of a multilateral sequence of events paving the way to the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade, “Water for Sustainable Development” (New York City, 22-24 March 2023), the UN's first conference devoted to water since 1977.

The 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum represents the second of five milestones on the road to the UN Water Conference, co-hosted by Tajikistan and the Netherlands<sup>1</sup>: it follows the Bonn Water Dialogues hosted by Germany in July 2021 and will in turn be followed by the Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Japan), the High-Level Symposium on Water set to take place during the UN Ocean Conference (Portugal, June 2022), and the Dushanbe High-Level International Conference (Tajikistan).

One of France's main challenges will be to ensure that the international community adopts the accelerated timeline to achieve Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) launched in 2020 by

UN-Water, particularly by further developing and operationalizing messages drafted during the Bonn Water Dialogues. The success of the upcoming UN Water Conference hinges on cross-coordination and complementarity among the various events leading up to it. Bearing that in mind, the theme Senegal has chosen for the Forum—water security for peace and development—and its focus on field solutions seem particularly suited to tackling the full spectrum of water and sanitation issues, which the international community will need to step up and address with appropriate commitments. Because that is the objective of the UN conference: assess progress, make commitments and take action to achieve universal access to water and sanitation, and sustainable resource management by 2030.

We know that the strategies deployed thus far are insufficient. Nearly 2.2 billion people are still without drinking water; over half of the global population lacks access to adequate sanitation services and has no handwashing facilities (WHO, UNICEF). Likewise, some 3.6 billion people—nearly half of the global population—are affected by severe water shortages, a number expected to climb to 5 billion by 2050 (UN). This being the case, the UN considers that investments in the sector will need to quadruple in order to achieve the 18 water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda on which so many other issues hinge: peace and security, public health, food and nutritional security, energy, economic development, fighting climate change and

protecting biodiversity. Faced with these facts, it seems vital that the international community and all stakeholders step up.

Which is why France, in line with its international water and sanitation strategy (2020-2030)<sup>2</sup>, is lobbying the international community to seize this unique opportunity to strengthen multilateral dialogues, and is encouraging political decision-makers and all stakeholders and sectors to commit firmly to (a) making the human right to water and sanitation a reality and (b) strengthening integrated and cooperative resource management at the catchment-area level, including cross-border catchment areas. Improving sector governance at every level, safeguarding resources against climate change, and strengthening sector-specific knowledge and resources are some of the key objectives that France is committed to championing at the 2023 conference and beyond.

<sup>1</sup> See Resolution A/RES/75/212 adopted on 21 December 2020 by the UN General Assembly.  
<sup>2</sup> [https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/eau\\_ang\\_cle0ac2e1.pdf](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/eau_ang_cle0ac2e1.pdf) (in English)





# ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

By Alain Boinet, in collaboration with Baptiste Lecuyot, Sonia Rahal and Allassane Traoré,  
SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE

**“Water security for peace and development”:** The theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum remains an intention, not a reality, for populations deprived of water as a result of conflicts, disasters or epidemics. Session 1A1 of the Forum will showcase some concrete, replicable responses.

For impoverished, crisis-affected populations, the consequences of inadequate access to drinking water and sanitation are as abundant as they are deadly: waterborne illnesses, child mortality, food insecurity, tensions among water users, forced population movements and stymied development. These are what we generally refer to as “humanitarian crises”.

In such cases, specialized humanitarian organizations deliver emergency aid to meet immediate, day-to-day needs. After this initial intervention, they then must provide ongoing assistance during the crisis, working with populations and local, national and international actors to find sustainable solutions. This is what we call “the humanitarian-development nexus”. This “double nexus” is critical to safeguarding populations’ access to basic services.

Need we mention that, as we write these words, 2.2 billion human beings are without access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion without access to sanitation? Need we also point out that nowhere is the threat to human life greater than amidst the crises unfolding in the world’s poorest countries?

Session 1A1 of the Dakar Forum will draw on ongoing or completed projects to highlight the various phases of the humanitarian-development nexus.

For the emergency phase, we will look to the example of the cholera epidemic that struck Haiti following the earthquake of January 2010. A rapid, coordinated response was needed to stem the outbreak before it could take hold. Thanks to a multi-stakeholder action plan that mobilized health actors, Haiti’s National Drinking Water and Sanitation Administration, humanitarian NGOs and financial backers, mobile rapid response teams were able to quickly isolate and treat those infected, and gradually eradicate cholera from the country.

The next phase is at the very core of the nexus: long-term assistance. This phase will be illustrated by the interventions currently underway in Burkina Faso, where insecurity is spreading. Some 47,000 people were displaced in 2018; today, the number stands at 1.3 million, out of a population of 21 million. In all, over 2.5 million people require assistance in accessing water and sanitation. In order to meet their needs, a pro-active project dubbed “Nex’Eau” is being implemented to strengthen public services. The project brings together complementary partners: the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the National Office for Water and Sanitation, local communities, GRET (a development NGO), Groupe URD (an organization that evaluates and helps optimize NGO programs), and humanitarian organization SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE, which is overseeing the three-year, 10-million-euro project, funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and USAID. The Nex’Eau project will be spotlighted at the session.

Session 1A1 will also provide the opportunity to showcase innovative solutions and joint research projects. And lastly, to get as concrete as possible, we will address inadequacies in the areas of funding, coordination mechanisms, and tools and protocols for action.

We know that funding levels need to quadruple in order for us to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. We also know that, as it stands, funding lacks both flexibility and long-term sustainability.

The collaborative efforts of the Global WASH Cluster and the sector’s Water Sanitation and Hygiene Road Map 2020-2025 (spearheaded by 35 organizations) will feature prominently at the Forum. This promising road map is built around sixteen initiatives, including the WASH Severity Classification (WSC), a mechanism that provides sector actors with tried, tested and validated tools and protocols for action.

We invite you to join us at Session 1A1 of the Dakar Forum—and be sure also not to miss Sessions 1A2 and 1A3, as well as the special session devoted to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Road Map 2020-2025.

See you in Dakar!

# CHALLENGES AHEAD



**Organizations working in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector are confronted with many challenges: water scarcity, climate disturbances, natural disasters, fast-spreading epidemics, increasing needs, escalating risks. Studying the various facets and implications of these challenges can help actors prepare for and respond to them.**



## “DELIVERING A CONCRETE, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE TO POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN MALI”

Field report by **Mahamadou Ayouba Maiga**, **WASH Program Manager** for **SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL** in Mali

I am a rural engineer with a degree in Humanitarian WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) from the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Having already worked as a WASH infrastructure project manager and technical advisor for various organizations, I recently joined SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL as the NGO's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program Manager in Mali. This mission gave me the opportunity to coordinate and monitor the construction/rehabilitation of Improved Rural Hydraulic Systems (SHVA) in the Timbuktu and Ségou regions of Mali. These projects are funded by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

An SHVA is an installation designed to supply rural areas with drinking water and water for animals. It generally consists of a pump-operated borehole connected to a power supply (solar and/or electric), a reservoir and a small standpipe distribution system (it can also include animal troughs).

To illustrate the feasibility and benefits of constructing/rehabilitating these systems in Mali, allow me to draw on a real-life example. The village of Boumodi, located in the commune of Nampalari (less than 30 km from the Mauritanian border), counts about 1,500 inhabitants, most of whom are Fula and large-scale livestock farmers (small and large ruminants). Prior to SOLIDARITÉS

INTERNATIONAL's intervention, the village only had one large-diameter pastoral well equipped to meet the population's needs in terms of drinking water and animal watering. The NGO carried out a pre-assessment of water points in need of rehabilitation, at which point the WASH team observed the presence of a nonfunctional abandoned borehole at the site. Taking into account the size of the population and number of livestock, SI decided, with the consensus of local authorities, community leaders and hydraulic technical services, to select this installation. It then underwent airlifting, pump testing, and bacteriological and physico-chemical analyses. The results of these analyses, combined with the borehole's technical

features, revealed an installation with impressive potential (25m³/h flow), of high enough quality to support an SHVA.

Working alongside its partners, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL fitted the borehole with a solar pump, a 20m³ water tower, four standpipes and two rectangular troughs, the objective being to meet the acute needs of populations and facilitate water access for animals.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL also helped set up a water point management committee. The infrastructure has remained in good working condition thanks to routine maintenance. Users abide by the payment method determined by the committee's general assembly.

This project was made possible by the active involvement of direct and indirect beneficiaries, as well as the mobilization of community leaders, local authorities, and local and regional technical services. A formal

collaborative framework helped define the roles and responsibilities of each party to ensure an effective intervention.

It bears noting, however, that SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL and its partners faced their share of challenges during this project—first and foremost, the deteriorating security situation. Given its proximity to the Mauritanian border, Nampalari often has to contend with incursions from armed groups. Dialoguing at the local level with field actors and relying on a strong local team with deep roots in the area enabled SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL to mitigate security risks.

We also had to contend with deteriorated roadways which hampered the transport of materials and equipment to Nampalari. However, through anticipatory planning and

close collaboration with local contractors, we were able to overcome these constraints.

These efforts enabled us to deliver a concrete, effective and sustainable response to populations affected by conflict in Mali.





“WHEN SECURITY CONDITIONS ARE VOLATILE, IT IS A REAL CHALLENGE TO SUPPLY DRINKING WATER AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE SANITATION SERVICES”

Interview with **G. Frédéric François Kabore, Managing Director of the Burkina Faso National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA). ONEA's mandate is to create, manage, protect and improve water and sanitation facilities in Burkina Faso.**

**Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to achieve universal, equitable access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. Can you give us some noteworthy examples of projects that ONEA has carried out over the last five years to help achieve this target?**

Over the past five years, many investments have been made in infrastructure, and various projects and programs have been implemented for urban populations. One example is the “water for urban areas” project. The overarching objective of this project is to help build infrastructure to improve the rate of access to drinking water and sanitation in Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso, Koudougou and Dédougou. Thanks to this project, the network has been extended by 145 km, 25,000 subsidized connections have been installed, public water fountains have been built, 18,000 latrines have been rehabilitated or built, and sumps have been created and connected to laundry tubs or showers.

We also implemented the second phase of the Ouagadougou Drinking Water Supply

Project, fed by the Ziga dam, to meet demand for drinking water in the capital city by 2030 and extend drinking water access to suburban areas. The final outcomes of the “Ouaga Ziga” Drinking Water Supply Project may be summarized as follows: a 7,500 m³/hour increase in drinking water production capacity from the Ziga dam, 18,000 m³ of additional storage capacity, around 91.2 km of additional water supply pipes, extension of the distribution network (30.6 km of primary networks, 688 km of secondary and tertiary networks), an increase in network users through the installation of 52,200 subsidized connections and 160 public water fountains, capacity building within ONEA, and hygiene promotion activities.

We would also like to call attention to the creation of a biogas production plant in

Ougadougou. This methanation plant generates biogas using a sludge digestion process. The system runs on 400 m³ of sludge per day (100 m³ of concentrated sludge), mixed with 9 tons/day of co-substrates (slaughterhouse waste, jatropha press cakes, discarded fruit and vegetables and other organic waste). The biogas produced is converted into electricity and heat using two co-generators (100 KW and 1 MW).

Lastly, we would like to mention that twenty-two deep, high-flow boreholes have been drilled in the Hauts Bassins, Boucle du Mouhoun and Cascades regions.

**What are the main challenges and consequences of the current crisis, and how has this affected the implementation of ONEA's activities?**

For over five years, humanitarian needs in Burkina Faso have increased significantly due to a major deterioration in security conditions. Massive numbers of people have been displaced within the country –1,368,164 in total<sup>1</sup>. They have mainly settled in urban centres in the Sahel, Nord, Centre Nord and Est regions, resulting in diminished drinking water and sanitation services in these cities (drops in pressure, lengthy stoppages in water supplies, queues, etc.), which already face infrastructure challenges due to their predominantly unfavourable hydrogeological environment.

<sup>1</sup> CONASUR figures, July 2021

**Which technical or organizational solutions has ONEA implemented to respond to this crisis?**

When security conditions are volatile, it is a real challenge to supply drinking water and provide adequate sanitation services. ONEA has therefore launched various emergency programs, with support from its partners, to meet this unanticipated increase in water needs. One such program has entailed the construction of the new treatment plant in Dori, as part of the “Water and Sustainable Economic Growth in the Sahel” Project, which has improved the availability of drinking water in Dori and thirteen connected villages.

The “subsidized connections” project in nineteen ONEA centres in the areas bordering Mali and Niger has also provided 7,243 households with access to drinking water.

**Which measures is ONEA currently taking and/or planning to take to adapt to (or mitigate) climate change or natural hazards within the country?**

As is the case for all water agencies in sub-Saharan Africa, ONEA has to contend with the consequences of climate change. The water resources used to supply drinking water to urban and semi-urban populations are growing scarcer, mainly as a result of surface waters drying up prematurely under the combined effect of evapotranspiration and human activities, and due to falling levels and flows of groundwater extraction installations.

Since our country is very vulnerable to the effects of climate change, ONEA has

incorporated nationally defined mitigation and adaptation measures into its activities. These mainly include:

- mainstreaming the use of wastewater treatment and sanitation systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to wastewater;
- mainstreaming the use of integrated water resources management methods;
- developing appropriate monitoring systems;
- planning new investments that take into account climate change;

- maintaining and rehabilitating systems to ensure that everyone has access to drinking water and to secure water supplies;
- managing sewage emptying activities;
- opening solar plants currently under construction;
- building a biogas production facility;
- using biological agents to control algae;
- utilizing high-performance engines to reduce energy consumption.

**Data on access to drinking water and sanitation in the 58 areas of Burkina Faso covered by ONEA**

|   | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rate of access to drinking water          | 91%     | 91.7%   | 91.10%  | 92.88%  | 93.30%  |
| Rate of access to sanitation              | 37%     | 38%     | 38.2%   | 38.4%   | 38.61%  |
| Number of end users [private connections] | 361,475 | 395,744 | 396,796 | 414,602 | 449,239 |

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND “WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE” SERVICES

By Florent Lavie-Derande, Program Officer - WASH in Fragile and Conflict-affected Contexts, and Alexandre Alix, Program Officer - Water and Climate, French Water Partnership

The climate transformations currently taking place threaten both water supply and sanitation services, as well as the sustainability of water resources. WASH services must therefore adapt to the challenges of global warming and the resulting natural and climate-related disasters.

It is now an indisputable fact that human activities have a major, catastrophic impact on planet Earth. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre recorded over 30 million<sup>1</sup> displaced persons in 2020 due to natural disasters, in comparison to 9 million displaced by armed conflict.

The impact of climate change on a given population depends on that population's vulnerability and exposure to risk. This of course means that people living in developing countries, who already suffer from inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, are automatically affected to a greater extent by climate change. It is worth emphasizing, however, that the majority of greenhouse gases are generated by the so-called most-developed countries; economically fragile countries undoubtedly share less responsibility and need external assistance to cope with climate challenges.

Global warming has disrupted the water cycle, causing increasingly violent and frequent weather events and rising sea levels. Due to higher temperatures and the ensuing droughts and storms, water is now a central issue; climate factors must therefore be taken into account when planning assistance for populations affected by armed conflict and/or natural disasters. According to the World Health Organization, climate change is projected to claim up to 250,000 additional lives every year from 2030 onwards as a result of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress.

The consequences of climate change pose many challenges to the management of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects, which mainly focus on fighting waterborne diseases.

First, access to good quality drinking water is deteriorating due to saltwater intrusion in coastal areas (a consequence of rising sea and ocean levels) and also due to the contamination of water sources by surface water runoff as a result of recurrent rainstorms and poor wastewater management.

Second, the quantity of water available is decreasing as prolonged droughts and increasing water abstraction to meet human, agricultural and industrial needs leave water tables partially depleted. Water shortages are already driving population displacements, with people moving towards urban centres, but they also heighten the spread of waterborne diseases (diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, hepatitis, etc.). Moreover, overcrowding and informal housing have given rise to a new set of problems in urban areas, where there is a higher risk of disease outbreaks due to inadequate access to drinking water and sanitation. The same obstacles hindering access in densely populated areas are also observed in camps for refugees and displaced persons, especially during protracted crises.

Rising temperatures and the destruction of ecosystems also result in zoonotic diseases, heightening the risk of epidemics like Ebola,

dengue fever or malaria, which require appropriate, integrated (WASH and health) responses.

WASH responses to current crises (conflicts and natural disasters) are already constrained by difficult access and insufficient funding to address the needs of growing numbers of people faced with longer-term crises. Climate change places these interventions under additional pressure, affecting both their quality and sustainability.

Overall, the humanitarian sector and public policies must take climate-related risks into consideration so as to mitigate their impact on populations at risk. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures must therefore be incorporated into intervention strategies, including the development of intersectoral synergies, since water, sanitation and hygiene are all linked to the overall water cycle.

<sup>1</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). "Global Internal Displacement Database" Data (2020). <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>





## FIGHTING THE CALAMITY OF FLOODING IN AFRICA

By Baptiste Lecuyot, with Alassane Traoré and Laminou Amadou Chaïbou, **SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL**

In recent years, many regions of Africa have been afflicted by particularly violent, torrential rains, which have devastated whole areas and affected hundreds of thousands of people. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL provides affected populations with emergency relief and long-term assistance.

Torrential rains and flooding wash away crops and food stocks, decimate livestock, devastate homes and infrastructure, displace populations and increase food insecurity, making prospects even bleaker for affected countries like Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, or South Sudan. Floodwaters also contaminate water points and destroy sanitary installations, creating the conditions for epidemics to emerge and spread rapidly. Other significant consequences include severed social ties and disrupted schooling, since schools are often destroyed or a long way from temporary resettlement sites.

With resettlement comes another array of risks: overcrowding, unsanitary conditions and lack of access to basic services. Aissa Hima, who was affected by the 2020 summer floods in Niger told us: "The government asked us to move into schools [editor's note: schools were closed for the summer break]. There were 3000 families in one school. The latrines didn't work properly, there were mosquitoes. I got sick. We stayed there for two months. When the school term started on 15 October, we were moved to the Hippodrome site."

### PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is already active in most of the countries stricken by these disasters and can therefore rapidly respond to the population's emergency needs. In Niger, the NGO has implemented "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" activities

to reduce the risks of waterborne diseases and epidemics. Our teams provided the affected population with drinking water, distributed hygiene kits, and assisted with waste management and latrine emptying at temporary resettlement sites.

Emergency support can also include distributing food and/or food vouchers, shelters and essential household items (mosquito nets, mattresses, clothing, etc.).

The NGO also carries out long-term activities to ensure that populations retain access to these services over time. In Niamey, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has built a small-scale water distribution network and installed a 50 m³ storage tank that is directly connected to the national water company (Société d'Exploitation des Eaux du Niger), in order to provide a continuous supply of drinking water. The success of projects like these hinges on close collaboration with local authorities and operating partners.

### TAKING PROACTIVE STEPS TO MITIGATE RISKS

More frequent and violent rainfall events are a consequence of rising temperatures around the globe. Although global warming must not be seen as inevitable, its effects are nonetheless very real and require immediate mitigation and adaptation measures. To this end, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is carrying out disaster risk reduction programs that enable our teams to work with affected populations to prepare for, prevent or mitigate potential impacts.

But although solutions do exist, their implementation is often a complex process. In South Sudan, which was devastated by flooding in October 2021, rising floodwaters have made it extremely difficult to access populations: SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL's teams have to travel seven hours by canoe through tall vegetation to deliver water purification tablets to certain communities. In addition, there is a severe shortage of financial resources. In certain countries, funding available for humanitarian assistance decreases every year, while these same countries are increasingly affected by natural disasters. These extreme events undermine the health and livelihoods of populations that have often already suffered from multiple shocks; they are the on the front lines of climate disruptions that they have done very little to cause. Providing agencies and organizations with the capacity to sufficiently prepare for and effectively respond to climate hazards is essential to ensure fair, sustainable development.

## IMPROVING GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA

By Tom Heath, Kannan Rangaiya and Mohammed Liman Kingim, **Action Against Hunger**

Following the scaling-up of the humanitarian response in north-east Nigeria in 2016, concerns have been raised over a knowledge gap and the overexploitation of groundwater resources in the country. Action Against Hunger and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency recently launched an investigation to help achieve better groundwater management in the area.

After more than a decade of conflict, the humanitarian crisis in north-eastern Nigeria remains one of the most serious in the world. Part of the response to this crisis is to increase water supply, mainly using groundwater. In 2019, the United States Development Agency raised concerns over a knowledge gap and the overexploitation of groundwater resources. A large number of new boreholes are being drilled, abstraction from the underlying aquifers is increasing, and no hydrogeological models of the region's aquifers are available to support the sustainable management of groundwater resources.

Action Against Hunger (AAH) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency contracted a consultant (Geo 9) to investigate. The project found that groundwater levels have been in decline for over 60 years. It also identified a range of water quality issues, including salinity and high levels of nitrate, fluoride, thallium, arsenic and sulphates, due to various rock formations. These issues were caused by the diversion of flood waters from aquifer recharge zones, increasing levels of urbanization in the area, intensive water exploitation and high pollution in Maiduguri. In addition, the study identified a range of human resource, governance and regulatory issues, including poor enforcement of drilling

standards, limited availability of operation and maintenance services, gaps in groundwater monitoring records, modernization of water borehole drilling and groundwater pumping systems, and increasing extraction.

The project concluded that a groundwater monitoring strategy was required to address the above issues. First, the project consolidated all available hydrogeological information and groundwater measurement data (covering 3,300 water points). Using this database, the project identified locations to install groundwater monitoring stations. This monitoring network will help understand future changes in the groundwater system. Going forward, the strategy identified the need to improve routine monitoring processes and data, and to resample water points in relation to historical data. The project also reviewed the institutional environment and identified linkages with the new Water Resources Bill (2020). To bring together key stakeholders, the project supported the establishment of a Technical Working Group. Following this project, if the new measures are implemented, it is hoped that this will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's groundwater resources.

The project has highlighted the inherent challenges of groundwater management in humanitarian crises, especially with regard to information systems. It has shown that there is a difference between users that understand the principles of hydrogeology and those that can analyze and interpret data. Since groundwater management is a complex science with inherent uncertainties, information must be packaged for use. The project's recommendations are now focusing on how to strengthen the science, provide access to data for all partners and demonstrate the importance of collecting and analyzing data. This is based around three key pillars – Science, Systems and Protocols. For the last pillar we are still reviewing how to use the information to provide policy and operational recommendations to humanitarians at the micro level. For example: how deep to drill, which geophysical surveys to undertake, which aquifers to screen and overall policy such as longer-term groundwater supply. Lastly, the project highlights the importance of having a single data point now and the need to increase groundwater records (the few data points from the 1960s provide significant insights into longer-term trends).



## EFFECTIVENESS OF CASE AREA TARGETED INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO CHOLERA OUTBREAKS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS: A REMOTE STUDY IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

By the **Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health**

**The Center for Humanitarian Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHU)** has been conducting a prospective observational study to assess the effectiveness of Case Area Targeted Interventions in response to cholera outbreaks and identify factors that may improve future interventions. Northeastern Nigeria is one of the cases studied.

Cholera represents a major public health threat worldwide. Recent estimates suggest there are 2.9 million cases and 95,000 deaths annually in endemic countries worldwide<sup>1</sup>. Cholera is a marker of inequality and poverty, as it reflects the lack of access to basic water and sanitation infrastructures. Humanitarian and fragile settings with deteriorating infrastructure are especially vulnerable to major outbreaks.

Mass interventions to contain cholera outbreaks are not resource efficient. Preventive interventions targeting cholera case households and neighbours have been found effective in past outbreaks<sup>2,3</sup>. Referred to as Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATIs), these interventions are spatially and temporally focused: they are delivered to the case household and immediate neighbours within a defined radius as soon as possible after case identification. Although the CATI approach almost always includes WASH activities, neither its name nor its core set of interventions are standardized<sup>4</sup>.

The Center for Humanitarian Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHU) received support from the Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs to conduct a comparative analysis across different humanitarian and fragile settings, to assess the effectiveness of CATI responses and determine factors that support optimal delivery mechanisms to inform future guidance. This four-part project consists of a technical review, landscape analysis, retrospective and prospective case studies.

JHU is currently conducting the prospective study in Nigeria, working in separate partnerships with two international humanitarian non-governmental organizations, Action Contre La Faim (ACF) and SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE, who are both responding to the largest cholera outbreak affecting Northeastern Nigeria since 2018<sup>5</sup>. With SI, the CATI study started in Borno in early September and then moved to include Adamawa and Yobe. Due to access constraints, JHU can only provide remote support.

Observational in design, the study's primary objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of the CATI approach in reducing the incidence of new cholera cases during an outbreak, namely by characterizing the relationship between CATI activation time and cholera incidence in the area covered by CATI.

Data collection is performed in two phases. In Phase 1, data is collected about the implementation of the CATI response at case and neighbour households. Phase 2 occurs 10-14 days later when case and neighbour households within the CATI ring are visited a second time for a follow-up survey. Household level GPS coordinates are taken to enable geospatial analysis.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE receives notifications of cholera cases admitted to Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) throughout the day and activates its teams to implement the CATI response around the case and neighbour households.

These response teams are coordinated by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE's Emergency WASH Team and consist of community-elected individuals whom SI has trained in the CATI strategy and data collection. Using community-elected individuals to implement CATIs increases community acceptability, facilitates household identification and enables increased access in regions currently affected by violence and insecurity.

Data collection on CATIs is complex and even more so in humanitarian settings. In our case, the remote aspect makes it more challenging (versus in-person) to identify the nuances behind the CATI strategy and provide real-time supervision (e.g., selection of neighbour households, data linkage across phases and GPS capture). That said, we are thankful for the efforts and commitment of both the SI and ACF field teams and HQ staff. We believe the findings from this study will provide valuable insights to inform future CATI responses.

**1** Ali, M., Nelson, A. R., Lopez, A. L. & Sack, D. A. Updated global burden of cholera in endemic countries. *PLoS Negl. Trop. Dis.* 9, (2015)

**2** Michel, E. et al. Estimating effectiveness of case-area targeted response interventions against cholera in Haiti. *Elife* 8, (2019)

**3** Bompangue, D. et al. Description of the targeted water supply and hygiene response strategy implemented during the cholera outbreak of 2017-2018 in Kinshasa, DRC. *BMC Infect. Dis.* 20, 226 (2020)

**4** Spiegel, P.B. et al. (2021). Retrospective case studies on case area targeted interventions for cholera epidemics. Johns Hopkins University Center for Humanitarian Health. Retrieved from [http://hopkinshumanitarianhealth.org/assets/documents/RRT\\_CaseStudy\\_Report\\_2021.pdf](http://hopkinshumanitarianhealth.org/assets/documents/RRT_CaseStudy_Report_2021.pdf)

**5** Nigeria Center for Disease Control (Mar 15, 2019). Cholera. <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/info/C>

## CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT THE GLOBAL WASH CLUSTER ROAD MAP 2020-2025

By **Tineke Hooijmans and Karine Deniel, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education**

**IHE Delft Institute for Water Education** offers a consolidated, scaled-up approach to respond to capacity development challenges in the humanitarian WASH sector.

During the 2019 Annual Meeting of Global WASH Cluster (GWC) Partners and the subsequent High-level Meeting with Emergency Directors, education and training gaps were identified as a crucial step towards achieving the GWC Road Map goals. Firstly, there is a need for 'critical, creative and independent thinkers and effective professionals' to lead, work in teams and connect diverse disciplinary views from social sciences and engineering.

Secondly, humanitarian challenges and responses increasingly require technical specialists from the private sector and academia; however, these professionals lack an understanding of the complexity and nuances of the humanitarian sector. Thirdly, there is a need to support local education and training organizations in mainstreaming and making humanitarian education accessible for local staff.

### COOPERATION BETWEEN UNICEF AND IHE DELFT INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION

As part of the efforts to fill these gaps, UNICEF and IHE Delft started a cooperation framework, for which a steering committee composed of CDC, ICRC, GWC, IFRC, IHE Delft, MSF, Oxfam, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE, Save The Children and UNICEF was established at the beginning of 2020.

As a first outcome, four online courses have been co-developed with humanitarian actors: Governance in Humanitarian Contexts; Public and Environmental Health in Emergencies; Water and Sanitation in Urban Humanitarian Contexts; and Building Resilient Systems in Fragile Contexts. The courses are graduate level, their content is in line with identified learning needs, and they are based on evidence from academic and practitioner fields. The courses are accredited under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and are taught according to the University Teaching Qualification system, a quality certificate for lecturers implementing aligned learning methodologies. Together, the four courses form the Graduate Professional Diploma Program (GPDP) in Humanitarian WASH. The first course was launched in May 2021 with 28 students, demonstrating the interest of WASH professionals and humanitarian organizations.

### LOCALIZATION AND CONTEXTUALIZATION OF COURSES

Another key aim of the GPDP in Humanitarian WASH is to transfer the curriculum, methodology and educational material to other academic organizations, in order to provide more courses worldwide and to support and supplement local capacity-building initiatives and partners with accessible, relevant, accredited materials and expertise. Four academic institutions have been identified to pilot the transfer

based on their willingness and capacities to join this initiative: Universidad del Valle, Meru University of Science and Technology, German Jordanian University and 2iE. These institutions are based in different regions of the world and can provide the courses in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, thus increasing access to humanitarian workers.

### ALLIANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The further ambition is to create an alliance of academic institutions specializing in graduate humanitarian WASH programs, in order to increase, diversify and localize educational offerings, reinforce the link between the humanitarian and academic sectors, and increase global and local learning through operational research, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation. The alliance will be supported by humanitarian actors both globally and locally. A two-year pilot phase (2022 and 2023) with the above mentioned four academic institutions will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the model, providing the necessary insights to expand it to new institutions and networks.



# PARTICIPATION: A KEY COMPONENT OF PROTECTION

By Jérôme Regnier, **Protection and Accountability Advisor, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL**

“The Participation Revolution” is the sixth pillar of the Grand Bargain, the 2016 agreement signed by some of the humanitarian sector’s biggest donors and organizations with the aim of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action. This particularly ambitious title makes clear that there is both a will and an urgent necessity to ensure that people affected by humanitarian crises have meaningful input in the decisions affecting them. Because participation is a key component of protection: it is vital to ensuring that crisis-affected people receive adequate, safe and dignified access to emergency response activities, and to human rights in general.

In spite of this commitment, several studies have shown that humanitarian actors still have significant work to do in order to reach this objective. According to a 2018 survey conducted by ALNAP (the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance), of 5,000 people affected by a humanitarian crisis, only 39% reported that humanitarian organizations had communicated well about their activities, and only 36% reported that they were able to give opinions, make complaints and suggest changes<sup>1</sup>. It also bears noting that people who were able to give feedback were three times more likely to say they had been treated with dignity than people unable to give feedback. The connection between participation and protection is thus clear.

This issue is also highlighted in the 2020 Humanitarian Accountability Report, published by the CHS Alliance<sup>2</sup>: despite substantial efforts towards improving communication and participation over

the past few years, Commitment 4 of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability<sup>3</sup> has yet to be achieved. Indeed, even with a growing number of mechanisms available to ensure feedback and communication, very little of the data collected seems to be incorporated into the development or adjustment of interventions. Similarly, the solutions offered aren’t always adapted to the specific needs of the different subgroups that make up a population.

The Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) sector is no exception when it comes to insufficient participation, whether the issue be involving future users in the development and continuous improvement of services or prioritizing public health issues. Case in point: recent studies have shown that on average 40% of women don’t use the latrines provided by humanitarian organizations<sup>4</sup>. The primary reasons given: lack of lighting, fear of sexual harassment, and lack of privacy and security. These reasons reflect a blatant lack of consideration for the needs and concerns of a whole portion of the population and for the specific risks women face.

Part of the solution to these problems can be found in a groundbreaking initiative that forms part of the WASH Road Map: the Quality Assurance and Accountability System, helmed by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL and Oxfam in collaboration with the Global WASH Cluster and Tufts University. This initiative aims to place participation, satisfaction, inclusion, security and accountability back at the centre of WASH interventions via the systematic implementation of a collective monitoring framework that uses coordination platforms

to guarantee a people-centred approach based on the “Do No Harm” principle.

To this same end, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL Lebanon has developed a solution called the SOLIS WhatsApp Bot: an instant, free, 24/7 communication channel between the organization and the people concerned by its actions<sup>5</sup>. This innovative tool, which is still in its testing phase, can be used in a number of ways and is designed to place people back at the centre of humanitarian action by giving them the opportunity for meaningful, inclusive participation.

<sup>1</sup> ALNAP (2018) *The State of the Humanitarian System*. ALNAP Study. ALNAP/ODI, London. Note: 24% responded “partially” to the question about communication, and 22% responded “partially” to the question about feedback  
<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian Accountability Report, CHS Alliance, 2020, p. 41  
<sup>3</sup> Commitment 4 of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability is as follows: “Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements, have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them.”  
<sup>4</sup> SaniTweaks, *Best Practices in Sanitation*, Oxfam, online  
<sup>5</sup> Learn more about this innovative solution: <https://www.solidarites.org/en/live-from-the-field/innovation-a-whatsapp-chatbot-to-communicate-with-the-people-who-benefit-from-our-actions>

# SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS



**In this ever-changing world with its increasingly complex challenges, humanitarian and development actors must reinvent their approaches and work together to help affected populations over the long term. By mobilizing resources, developing new methods and tools, sharing knowledge, and engaging in research and training, they can devise effective, appropriate solutions.**



## THE WASH SEVERITY CLASSIFICATION, A NEW APPROACH TO ANALYSE THE SEVERITY OF WASH NEEDS

By the **REACH Initiative**

**The WASH Severity Classification** is a new set of analysis tools and protocols to classify the severity of WASH conditions in a standardized way and thus enable the prioritization of interventions in the areas of greatest need.

The absence of a recognized and standardized framework to transform complex data into actionable information has become a major bottleneck in decision-making for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. This has prevented the sector from effectively delivering evidence-based planning, response prioritization, optimal resource allocation and advocacy. Although progress has been made on the availability of WASH data, analysis of this data is currently conducted on an ad-hoc basis, with limited consensus on key findings and follow-up actions by key stakeholders.

### THE WASH SEVERITY CLASSIFICATION AS A SOLUTION

To address this issue, development of the WASH Severity Classification (WSC) commenced in late 2019, at the request of Global WASH Cluster (GWC) partners. Initiated by the GWC's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), the WSC is a partnership between UNICEF, the GWC and the REACH Initiative, is part of the WASH sector's 2020-2025 Road Map and was presented by UNICEF for endorsement by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in November 2020.

The WSC is a set of tools and protocols to classify the severity and identify the drivers of WASH needs and vulnerabilities based on established standards. The WSC uses a five-phase approach to quantify the number

of people in need by severity level while assessing likely situational changes and monitoring key risk factors. This is achieved by combining an array of data from different sources with the contextual expertise of practitioners on the ground through joint analysis workshops. The WSC can be seen as the WASH sector's equivalent of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system used by the food security sector.

The aim is for the WSC to serve as a system-wide benchmark, paving the way for global recognition. This "game-changing" approach provides the WASH sector with the agility to predict and respond to WASH crises, through robust needs monitoring and early warning systems. By identifying a range of risks and vulnerabilities, the WSC will achieve greater benefits and maximize results, driving decision-making for investment and mitigating emerging crises for the entire humanitarian community.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

Following the inception research completed in early 2020—which focused on the overall direction and scope of the WSC and identified the specific challenges it should seek to address—significant progress has been made on developing the WSC's analysis tools and process. These were first tested in small-scale pilots held in Afghanistan and Burkina Faso in late 2020, before being revised and

consolidated into the first version of the WSC's analysis protocols in April 2021.

These protocols were applied in the first nationwide WSC implementation in South Sudan in May 2021, with subsequent implementations taking place in Niger and Iraq in August and September 2021 respectively. While further areas of technical development and improvement have been identified, these initial implementations have produced promising results and demonstrated the broader impact that the WSC has the potential to deliver. WSC findings have been used for response targeting and prioritization, to inform anticipatory action for climate-related contingency planning and to feed Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) analyses.

With further research and development work scheduled for late 2021 and early 2022, including a technical review of the methodology by Tufts University, the WSC is aiming to build on these early successes and roll out in more countries in 2022. In doing so, the WSC not only seeks to strengthen and harmonize the evidence base for WASH programming globally, but also to provide a platform to build greater analytical capacity across contexts.

## USING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE: PROGRESS UNDERWAY IN THE NIAYES REGION, SENEGAL

By Hamet Diallo, Emmanuel Durand, Maurice Ngor Sarr and Valérian Juillet, **Gret**

The Niayes region is a coastal strip of land between Dakar and Saint-Louis in Senegal. One notable characteristic of this area is that almost all water resources are found underground. Niayes is not only the main horticultural area in the country but also a primary source of drinking water for the capital city. On top of this, mining companies have moved into the region to extract phosphates, then more recently zircon and other heavy minerals.

All these activities indisputably overexploit the area's aquifers, resulting both in the salinization of the deep aquifer (due to seawater intrusion) and a drop in water table levels (estimated at around 45 cm per year for the deep aquifer). Moreover, human activity causes pollution of the surface aquifer and makes soil less fertile. Finally, the combined effects of population growth and projected temperature increases due to climate change over the next few decades will only exacerbate these trends, triggering social tensions and posing risks to health and food.

This alarming outlook for the integrity and availability of water resources has prompted the Direction de la Gestion et de la Planification des Ressources en Eau (DGPPE) at the Senegalese Ministry of Water and Sanitation to take action. The DGPPE is now actively working towards integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the Niayes area and has called on GRET to assist in implementing its IWRM policy within several municipalities in the region.

The research-action project supported by GRET is of an experimental nature. The objective is to promote the development of functional integrated water resources management on a local scale, using a bottom-up approach. This type of experiment can help public authorities identify and approach organizations and entities that represent local stakeholders, with the aim of co-creating effective, inclusive and context-appropriate solutions and actions. Such collaboration will foster shared governance of water resources between local and national institutions and the communities themselves.

The project team has helped form Local Water Platforms (LWP) within five municipalities, which provide a genuine forum for community governance and comprise local stakeholders with a vested interest in the approach (arable and livestock farmers, drinking water user organizations, private operators, government technical services, local authorities, NGOs, researchers, the media, etc.). These LWPs aim to contribute to the sustainable, equitable and effective management of water resources in their region. While defining its own system of governance, each platform also identified its own water-related challenges and designed an appropriate local planning instrument, which specifies the actions to be taken to improve the management of water resources and uses (Local IWRM Plan).

The wide-ranging impacts of climate change on water resources were taken into consideration during the preparation of Local IWRM Plans.

The Local Water Platforms (LWP) have implemented technical solutions that will contribute to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. On the one hand, certain stakeholders have adopted new agroecology methods using natural fertilizers and water-saving techniques. On the other hand, LWPs have developed soil protection and plant cover solutions: stone barriers have been installed and reforestation campaigns have been carried out to reduce runoff, improve rainwater infiltration into the ground, restore soil and ecosystems, and trap carbon.

In addition to these technical solutions, policy measures have also been discussed. In this region, where socio-economic power relationships are at play, LWPs have started working on a method to share water resources, thus raising the issues of equity and sustainability. By thinking in terms of water availability—rather than water needs—LWP stakeholders are now aware that water resources are finite, and that sharing these resources is also a political challenge.



# YEMEN: ENSURING MORE SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN AN UNSTABLE CONTEXT

By Mathieu Vernusse, Ana Podgornik and Chuango Barasa, **SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL**

In Yemen, where water is becoming scarcer every day and threats to water quality are increasingly frequent and serious, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is implementing long-term solutions in collaboration with local communities and authorities.

The ongoing war in Yemen has severely damaged civilian infrastructure including water and sanitation facilities. At the same time, the country is characterized by a water-scarce environment and a deterioration in water quality on the west coast, due to progressive seawater intrusion into the underground water table. Yemen is also prone to natural disasters, particularly floods. As a result, only 42% of the population has access to safe water (including 17% via water trucking) and 47% of households have no access to safe improved sanitation<sup>1</sup>. This dramatic situation may worsen, since Yemen is facing a massive economic crisis, coupled with political instability, which may result

in long-lasting deterioration of basic public services and livelihoods.

In this context, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is rapidly responding to the immediate lifesaving needs of households affected by shocks, but is also implementing longer-term, sustainable interventions. The sustainability of envisaged solutions refers to their ecological aspects, financial feasibility and their approval and “adoption” by local authorities and communities.

## ADDRESSING BOTH ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In view of rising fuel costs and disruptions

in supply chains, but also more broadly due to the harm caused by the high carbon footprint of fossil fuels, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL considers solar pumping technology as a prime solution wherever feasible. Thus, in the West Coast region, the small town of Mawza and its population of 10,000 people is fed by two major wells that the organization rehabilitated in 2019, replacing the dysfunctional diesel pumping systems with solar pumping units.

The NGO has also been exploring an affordable sanitation system. Most communities in Yemen use domestic cesspits which do not process sewage and

thus fill up quite quickly. They have to be desludged every 3-6 months on average, which is unaffordable for many people. A conventional solution would be a septic tank that processes sewage, but installation costs are prohibitive. To address this challenge, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is currently exploring the bio digester adapted latrine technology. This mini septic tank also processes sewage into more sanitized sludge, methane gas and sweet effluent, but it is nearly 10 times cheaper than a conventional septic tank unit and needs to be desludged every 4-6 years. The NGO is currently piloting a bio digester unit in Al-Mukha district using rammed earth building technology instead of conventional masonry, which further reduces costs and requires less skills.

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: COOPERATING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND AUTHORITIES

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL intends to help communities and local authorities manage their water resources sustainably.

To do so, the NGO has recently launched two surveys to gain greater knowledge about water quality and sources in the country. In close collaboration with governmental technical authorities and the Yemen WASH Cluster, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has completed the first phase of an underground water resource hydrogeological survey and monitoring exercise, the first in the country since the outbreak of the war. A total of eight aquifer loggers were installed on strategic wells and local authorities were trained to install, operate, monitor and analyze the aquifer Static Water Level (SWL) and chemical contamination patterns and trends.

The organization has also conducted technical investigations and GIS mapping of at least 335 existing rural community and public water sources to determine their overall post-war status, performance and rehabilitation needs. The findings will be uploaded into an interactive GIS-referenced online database that is accessible to all water sector actors in Yemen.

In addition, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has selected and is working with the most vulnerable communities to help them develop “Community Action Plans”. This consists in mapping the main needs and capacities of the community, agreeing on priority actions, assigning responsibilities and defining timelines.

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL’s resilience project on the west coast of Yemen has drawn a lot of enthusiasm from the government, the Yemen WASH Cluster and individual humanitarian actors, and is being viewed as a possible pilot template for other humanitarian actors in the future.

<sup>1</sup> 2020 Yemen WaSH Cluster annual report





# “WE NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY INNOVATING TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF RISKS”

Interview with **Guillaume Bouveyron, Disaster Risk Reduction Global Lead at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**

The proliferation of disasters linked to climate change has impacted the populations of countries where SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE delivers aid. The economic and human consequences of these natural hazards are especially dire in countries with weak prevention and preparedness capacities. To meet the needs of these populations, our NGO is developing projects centred on disaster risk reduction and prevention, with funding from backers like the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). To get a clearer picture of what these projects entail, we spoke with Guillaume Bouveyron, Disaster Risk Reduction Global Lead at the AFD.

**In 2017, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) drew up a roadmap for disaster risk reduction (DRR). What are its focuses and objectives?**

In 2017, the AFD made its commitment official with the adoption of a DRR roadmap centred on three areas: natural risk prevention, crisis management preparedness, and risk culture development.

To draft this roadmap, the AFD received support from its partners, including the Disaster Risk Reduction Network (RepR), of which SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE is a founding member. The roadmap will be updated in 2022 following the same multi-stakeholder approach.

**The AFD is funding a four-year disaster risk reduction project in two catchment areas in Lebanon for which it has deployed a number of innovations. How are innovation and disaster risk reduction connected?**

We need to be constantly innovating to stay one step ahead of risks. And the project you mention perfectly illustrates just how vital innovation is to DRR. In order to prevent natural risks, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE is looking first and foremost to innovative nature-based solutions, including interventions to improve soil infiltration and thereby limit runoff.

To strengthen flood management preparedness, CNRS Lebanon has been entrusted with the task of operationalizing a monitoring and early warning system with enhanced precision thanks to innovative hydrogeological and hydromorphic modelling carried out using drones.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross has been working to mobilize communities in each catchment area with the aim of building a risk culture and teaching good practices. The catchment area-centred approach, provided for in the 2018 edition of *Le Code de l'Eau (Water Law)*, represents a considerable institutional innovation for which this project has been an instructive pilot.

**The AFD was actively involved in needs analysis and planning for the Lebanon project. Does this point to the emergence of a new approach to multi-stakeholder collaboration?**

The kind of approach you're talking about—the approach we used in the Lebanon project appraisal process—should be understood as the defining strategy of the AFD: wherever circumstances allow, the AFD seeks to collaborate as closely as possible in the project drafting process, right from the assessment phase. This is our go-to approach because it affords the organization and its representatives clearer insight into the needs the project will have to cover and the specificities of the target context, while

also laying the groundwork early on for a collaborative, trust-based relationship with our partners.

## THE RepR NETWORK

The RepR network for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) was created in 2012 when several French organizations came together to reflect and collaborate on these issues. Current members include the following organizations: CARE France, the French Red Cross, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE, Humanity & Inclusion, and Groupe URD (the latter has headed the network since 2018).

The network's main objectives are:

- To strengthen DRR/CCA expertise for higher-quality programs (pooling of experience, resources, tools; joint missions, etc.);
- To engage in specialized advocacy and networking at conferences and before national and international strategic advisory committees;
- To encourage actors to follow up each emergency response with preventative steps and to ensure that DRR is incorporated into humanitarian and development policies;
- To strengthen coordination between DRR and CCA at the local and international level.

The RepR network engaged in advocacy at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in 2015, then again in Cancun in 2016. It has also taken part in various climate change initiatives, including COP21 in Paris in December 2015 and all subsequent UN Climate Change Conferences. At the international level, the network is a member of the GNDR (Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction).



# IMPROVING WATER ACCESS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN FRANCE

By **Xavier Lauth**, **Emergency Desk Manager**  
and **Manon Gallego**, **Operations Coordinator France**, **SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL**

The **COVID-19 epidemic** prompted SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL to start working on access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in France. Here, the NGO presents its analysis of current difficulties, based on several months of observations and field operations, and proposes a range of methods to improve this very acute situation.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 epidemic was rapidly gaining ground, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL took action in several slums in the Ile-de-France region, in partnership with Médecins du Monde and Veolia Foundation. Access to water and sanitation in these slums was virtually non-existent, and there were fears that the virus would spread rapidly in these overcrowded conditions. Our teams installed temporary water points and distributed hygiene kits. The NGO then extended its operations to other makeshift sites elsewhere in France. Following two years of field operations and cooperation with numerous governmental and local partners, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is now able to share its initial observations and propose several key measures to improve conditions.

Our first observation is that the situation is alarming: many people in France have to cope with very poor access to basic services, which are well below humanitarian standards. Conditions sometimes even resemble those during certain humanitarian crises. People living in slums, squats and camps mainly rely on “informal” systems to obtain water and have no other choice but to relieve themselves in the open air. In addition to inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities, they also lack showers and have no means to purchase hygiene products.

Secondly, there is no local or national consolidated data on actual drinking water access for the most vulnerable people in France, and the French overseas territories are “forgotten” in the few reports that are published. This lack of data hinders advocacy efforts and underlines the fact that water is not yet considered a major social issue.

The third observation, which is just as shocking as the first two, is the legal vacuum surrounding this topic. There is currently no standard definition for secure access to water and decent sanitation facilities in French legislation. What is the minimum quantity of water that every person living on French soil should have access to by right? What is the “acceptable” maximum distance to the closest water point? How many people can be “served” by one water point? The same questions must be asked regarding sanitation, for which no standards exist either.

Moreover, there are still legal grey areas surrounding the roles and responsibilities of various public entities to provide water for people who are not connected to water supplies. This means that water access for slum dwellers is provided at the discretion of public authorities and local associations, who lack clear information on which solutions can

be deployed to uphold the universal right to water. To help them implement appropriate measures, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has put its expertise to work and provided the French government with technical support to design several practical tools: frequently asked questions, a toolkit and technical instructions. But these efforts towards improving basic services for all must not detract from an urgent need: the establishment of a clear governance model and a legally binding document that defines the responsibilities of each stakeholder to provide drinking water for people who do not have a water connection.

These tools for action clearly contribute to public health, but they also have a major social impact. Ensuring that everyone has access to drinking water makes it possible for people without a water connection to make plans beyond their immediate, vital needs, facilitating their social integration and helping to clear the makeshift sites where they live.





# IT'S TIME TO MAKE TRAINING ACCESSIBLE FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTORS IN AFRICA

By Yann Dutertre, **Head of Bioforce Regional Training Centre for Africa**

In 2017, Bioforce opened its regional training centre in Dakar, Senegal, in an effort to make humanitarian training courses available in Africa. One such course is the “WASH Project Manager” program, developed and taught in tandem with some of the sector’s pioneering organizations. Over the past four years, Bioforce has trained 83 students. So, is the glass half full or half empty?

Salif, a young hydraulics technician, provides support for NGOs on an as-needed basis: “More than anything, it was the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in my country that convinced me to pursue training to become a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) specialist. Since 2016, a portion of the population of Burkina Faso has been fleeing terrorism and is now clustered in certain cities where food is hard to come by and there are serious obstacles to drinking water access...” In 2019, Salif took it upon himself to enroll in a training course at our Dakar centre. Since then, he has become a “humanitarian”, working first with Action Against Hunger and then with Catholic Relief Services in his country, Burkina Faso.

Adama, from Côte d'Ivoire, has long been involved in hygiene promotion, first as a Red Cross volunteer in his neighbourhood of Abidjan, then later in an IDP camp. Hired initially as a WASH program assistant at the regional office of the IFRC, then as an assistant WASH coordinator for the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross, he was promoted to WASH Coordinator upon completion of his training at Bioforce and has since gone on to work with UK-MED in Chad and Médicos Sin Fronteras España in Burkina Faso.

Salif and Adama both showed great potential as humanitarian professionals; Bioforce tapped into this potential and translated it into valuable skills. Salif’s personal motivation and experience paved the way to a career in the humanitarian sector, while Adama’s formative humanitarian experience helped forge his career path, arming him with the skills necessary to take on new responsibilities.

Like Salif and Adama, another 81 students from West and Central Africa (primarily Chad, Burkina Faso, the Republic of the Congo, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Niger) have utilized the training resource at their disposal to take their commitment to the next level. Upon completion of their training, they will join the ranks of those humanitarian workers helping to address the challenges of tomorrow. Profiles like theirs are essential to the many national and international organizations developing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programs in West and Central Africa.

One thing is clear: there are massive water-related challenges in the Sahel, and in West Africa more broadly. To tackle these problems, we need to be able to count on a large pool of skilled professionals with the necessary training to rise to new challenges (epidemic response, climate change, etc.). At only 83 graduates in four years, we have a long way to go to get there. So, with our operational centre and our renowned training program, what’s to stop us from expanding fivefold? Funding, for one. Training has a cost and, given the stakes, the question is: who should pay? Because developing training programs is just one part of the solution; the other—critical—part is to ensure these programs are accessible. UNICEF understood that training was the key to strengthening their response capacity for Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE), so they helped design a specialized training course, which Bioforce is now pleased to offer. And they didn’t stop there: each year, UNICEF awards grants to actors from national institutions and organizations, allowing them to come train at Bioforce. As a result, the response capacity of UNICEF and its partners has grown year by year.

So, why aren’t these good practices catching on in other humanitarian sectors? To date, not a single other humanitarian financial backer

or operator has provided support for the Bioforce Regional Training Centre for Africa. As a result, the initiative, the financial burden and the responsibility of completing training all come down to individual commitment.

When you invest in training for local human resources, you are helping to bolster the ranks and the emergency response capacity of national and international organizations. Over time, such investments will ensure that these local human resources have a place at the table when it comes to deciding national policies around improving water access.

**Training Course: WASH Project Manager – Bioforce Africa**

Equivalent to a 1-year master’s degree or Bac+4. Enroll in a 6-month diploma course or learn at your own pace. APL certification available (in French only).

**This program, taught primarily by regional experts at the Bioforce Regional Training Centre for Africa, is tailored to the intervention context of West and Central Africa: in addition to covering context-specific WASH fundamentals (water resource evaluation; hygiene promotion and community-based approaches; water quality analysis and treatment; wells and boreholes; sanitation; etc.), the curriculum also emphasizes issues surrounding public and environmental health, epidemic response and the impacts of climate change.**

# THE WASH ROAD MAP 2020-2025: DRIVING NEW MOMENTUM FOR THE SECTOR

By Léa de La Ville Montbazon, **Secretariat for the Co-Chairs of the WASH Road Map 2020-2025**

The Water-Sanitation-Hygiene (WASH) sector has always been at the very core of emergency responses: fair and adequate access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services is a vital necessity for crisis-affected populations. These services are the first steps towards ensuring the health, dignity and well-being of vulnerable populations.

To ensure that humanitarian WASH interventions achieve their objectives in terms of quality, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, 35 of the WASH sector’s most active organizations have decided to join forces and develop an action plan: the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Road Map 2020-2025. Together, they are working to make their vision of the Road Map a reality: “By 2025, the WASH sector will have the capacity and resources to deliver in emergencies at scale, anywhere and at any time.”

The Road Map is a groundbreaking undertaking from a leadership standpoint. In bringing together a broad spectrum of actors from the humanitarian sectors, as well as the private sector and academia, it should ensure that major humanitarian challenges—present and future—are addressed. The action plan is built around sixteen initiatives divided into four thematic areas: information and knowledge management; capacity development and professionalization; coordination and quality; resource mobilization and advocacy.

In order to foster a dynamic sector that reflects the unique assets of each partner, the Road Map 2020-2025 provides for a tripartite governance structure, with each branch fulfilling a distinct role: the Board (support/management), the Steering Committee (legislation/strategy definition) and the Executive Committee (steering/implementation).

Participating partner agencies have also elected two co-chairs for a two-year term: Marc-André Bünzli of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Department (DDC) and Claudio Deola of the NGO Save The Children UK. Their mission is to boost the efforts and progress of the Road Map, but most of all to ensure overall consistency and coordination. Claudio Deola’s role is to see to it that partner agencies “work in harmony, like the pieces of a puzzle, to build a stronger, more effective and more professional humanitarian sector”.

Despite its considerable assets, the Road Map faces a few challenges—one being geographic reach. As it stands, pledges and contributions to the various Road Map initiatives have come from the headquarters of major global entities, to the detriment of smaller national stakeholders. The co-chairs vow, by the end of their term in March 2023, to mobilize the Road Map’s vast network of partners to “reinforce connections and relationships at the regional and national levels”. It is critical that we have a full understanding of local realities and accord them greater weight in the Road Map decision-making process.

Although the collective dimension of the Road Map 2020-2025 is well established, we must nonetheless work to further strengthen its foundations: we are aware that its success depends on continually enhanced collaboration. We therefore invite all of our WASH-sector partners to contribute to this ambitious road map.

*“By 2025, the WASH sector will have the capacity and resources to deliver in emergencies at scale, anywhere and at any time.”*

**For more information, visit:**  
<https://washroadmap.weebly.com/>



# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE AROUND THE WORLD

A portfolio by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE



Hand washing.  
Niono Cercle, Mali.  
This is one essential  
barrier to prevent  
numerous diseases  
from spreading.

©Tiécoura N'Daou



Removing shoes,  
operating the pump  
correctly, regulating  
access to the water  
point, enforcing  
queues to avoid  
tensions... Abakar,  
a SOLIDARITÉS  
INTERNATIONALE  
employee, explains  
the rules and  
instructions to  
users of the new  
Labado water point.  
Labado, Cameroon.

©Clément Kolopp

Maintaining  
emergency latrines  
constructed by  
SOLIDARITÉS  
INTERNATIONALE  
at the Ediararatane  
site for displaced  
persons. Goundam  
Cercle, Mali.

©Vinabé Mounkoro



Filomena carries  
a heavy jerrycan  
full of water. Mavivi,  
Beni, Democratic  
Republic of the  
Congo. Like  
Filomena, a great  
many women and  
girls around the  
world are burdened  
with fetching water  
for their household;  
they travel very long  
distances every day  
to and from water  
sources.

©Moses Sawa Sawa







In Yemen's Marib region, hygiene kits are distributed by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL to internally displaced persons. Hygiene kits can contain soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, detergent and other household products.

©Abdullah Al-Garadi



Sorting waste in a Dhaka slum, Bangladesh.

©Vincent Ghilione

The aftermath of flooding in Summer 2020. Chad. In recent years, many regions of Africa have been stricken by torrential rains, with particularly devastating consequences.

©SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL



Children living in a slum in Nantes (France) get ready to collect drinking water from the nearest water point using their small tractor. Many people living in makeshift housing in France are not connected to a drinking water network, so they have to make do with improvised, unsafe systems to access water or must walk hundreds of metres to reach a water point.

©Audray Saulem







## **SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, INCLUDING DURING CRISES**

1. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (2015-2030 SDGs) for universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene will not be achieved unless we significantly ramp up the scale and pace of our actions. Investments must at least be quadrupled over the next eight years.
2. In fragile contexts (as defined by the OECD), investments must increase by a factor of 23 for water, by a factor of 9 for sanitation and by a factor of 5 for hygiene. An intergovernmental body must be formed to supervise these investments.
3. Fighting mortality due to waterborne diseases and inadequate sanitation must be a major global priority, backed by epidemiological surveillance, rapid response capabilities, and systematic coordination between healthcare actors and water, sanitation and hygiene actors.
4. Humanitarian responses to crises, wars, disasters and epidemics must form part of a broader approach to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities. From the outset, emergency responses must plan for the subsequent phases of early recovery and development (double nexus).
5. Humanitarian responses must be supported by flexible operational and partnership frameworks, and by sufficient financial commitments to meet needs and challenges, especially the dramatic impacts of climate change in the most fragile countries.
6. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Road Map 2020-2025 must be the focal point of coordination between actors, driving the objectives and quality of humanitarian and development operations at all levels (global, regional, national and local).
7. The 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar must be a forum for solutions and concrete responses to the vital water and sanitation needs of vulnerable populations. The Forum must also deliver strong, precise political statements to heads of state, so that they can convey these messages to the United Nations' intergovernmental Water Conference in March 2023.