

Update – December 2023

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English

A word from the RWSN Chair: Tommy Ka Kit Ngai, WaterAid

Dear RWSN members,

Welcome to the last edition of 2023 of the RWSN Update.

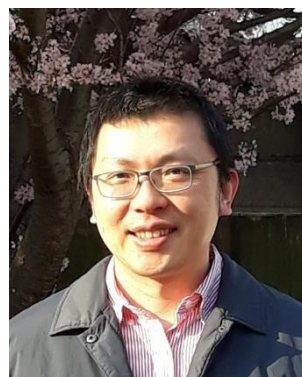
First of all, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has provided inputs and feedback to RWSN's draft [strategy for 2024-2030](#). We will take all comments received into account when finalising the strategy, which will be shared in early 2024.

We are also happy to share that our Executive Committee now comprises 9 organisations, with an additional three organisations having joined us as a result of our open call this year: [BGR](#), the [Global Water Center](#), and [Welthungerhilfe](#). We extend a warm welcome to them and look forward to the new ideas they will bring to the network.

We also welcome new co-theme leaders for Data for Action (Mutala Abdul-Munin from WaterAid), Sustainable Groundwater Development (Ramon Brentführer, BGR), Self-Supply (Diana Gonzalez Botero and Tim Foster, from the Institute of Sustainable Services) and Multiple Use of Water Services (David Smith from WE&B and Narayan Singh from NIRAS). We thank the theme leaders who have stepped down this year, Kerstin, Jorge, and Julia and wish them the very best on their next adventures. We also had changes in the RWSN secretariat, with Batima Tleulinova joining and with Daniela Marko and Meleesa Naughton leaving. We thank them for their great contribution to the network over the years.

The network has been engaged in several water events, including IRC WASH -All Systems Connect, World Water Week, REACH and UNC Water and Health Conferences. We continued convening webinar series and discussions on our various platforms. Our [LinkedIn group](#) now includes over 24 000 members and is a great platform for discussion! And we have introduced new campaigns to celebrate our theme leaders, partners, and share career journeys and advice with our members.

RWSN continues to be active in several projects: [REACH](#); [REAL Water](#); Stop the Rot; the SIRWASH programme and the collaboration with SuSanA on managing their [online forum](#) continues. This newsletter, as always, is packed with information about rural water supply news, publications, tools, and opportunities. If you have anything you'd like us to share, as always, get in touch info@rural-water-supply.net. Happy reading!



Recent resources from RWSN Network

Survey: What support do and your colleagues need to enhance your abilities in providing rural water services?

This simple question holds the power to transform the rural water sector, making it more effective, efficient, and professional. But we can't achieve this transformation without your input. We ([RWSN](#), [CAWST](#), and the [Global Water Center](#)) are seeking your feedback on this question to strategically inform the support we can offer! This survey will take between 10 minutes - 15 minutes to fill in. Please, take this time to ensure your opinion is heard! We would also really appreciate it if you could circulate it to your colleagues and your networks.

Click here to start: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2N6XM7V> (Deadline: 22 December)

RWSN Blogs

Below is a list of latest blogs published:

- [Nurturing Professional Growth in the WASH Sector](#), by Lisa Mitchell, Senior Director of Learning Services, Global Water Center
- [My experience with the RWSN Mentoring Programme](#), RWSN mentee Beatrice Kyomuhendo (Uganda) and RWSN mentor Eng. Cornelius Mpesi (Malawi)
- [Pouring hope or pouring doubt – Navigating the aftermath of disasters in coastal Bangladesh](#), by Afsana Afrin Esha, REACH Research Associate and PhD student at Durham University
- [Making the Sum of All \(WASH\) Knowledge Freely Accessible: An interview with Elisabeth Von Muench](#)
- [My Mentee Journey in the RWSN Mentoring Programme](#), RWSN mentee RAKOTOARIMANANA ZY Harifidy and RWSN mentor Sean Furey
- Service Delivery Management Models, Good Political and Water Governance for Strong Rural Water Systems Series: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) by Euphresia Luseka, Water Governance Specialist and Co-Lead of RWSN Leave No-One Behind Theme.

RWSN publications

- [STOP THE ROT: History of the Rapid Handpump Corrosion Problem in Zambia and Potential Next Steps](#)
- [RWSN Member Survey 2023](#)
- [Performance and prospects of rural drinking water services in francophone West Africa \(EN/FR\)](#)
- [How to guide the careers of young people in the water and sanitation sector](#)
- [RWSN Mentoring Programme – mid-year assessment report](#)
- [RWSN Strategy/Stratégie 2024-2030](#)

Member Organisations

If you are interested in joining the movement and becoming a RWSN Member Organisation, please see:

- A list of [current RWSN Member Organisations](#) and a short overview of our last [networking and learning event](#) dedicated to RWSN Member Organisations.
- A [flyer](#) about what RWSN offers to its Member Organisations;
- The [application form](#) to fill out to become a RWSN Member Organisation;

Thank you to the following Member Organisations for supporting RWSN financially in 2023 through their Member Organisation contributions: 1001Fontaines; Well Beyond; One Million Wells; Unto; The Stone Family Foundation; Skybird WASH Network; Water for people; EOS International; Water Compass; Global Water Center; The Aquaya Institute; Green Empowerment; Water Mission; Water for South Sudan; United Purpose; CAWST; WATALUX; Global Aid Network; Well:fair Foundation the WASH Foundation.

Thank you for your support

Thank you to our individual donors for supporting us financially. If you find the work of RWSN useful, please consider supporting us through our [donation page](#), to help secure a future in which all rural people have access to sustainable and reliable water supplies.

Did you know?

To join the RWSN Community (use hyperlink)	To email the RWSN Community	RWSN Theme Leaders
Leave No One Behind	equity@dggroups.org	Simavi (Sandra van Soelen), Youth Water Network (Temple Oraeki), Euphresia Luseka and Amita Bhakta
Sustainable Services	ManagementSupport_rwsn@dggroups.org	Aguaconsult (Julia Boulénouar and Eléonore Motte) and UNICEF (Jorge Alvarez-Sala)
Data for action	rwsn_mapping@dggroups.org	Baseflow (Muthi Nhlema) and WaterAid (Mutala Abdul-Munin)
Sustainable Groundwater Development	groundwater@dggroups.org	Ask for Water (Kerstin Danert), Water Mission (Mandy Goksu and David Inman), BGR (Ramon Brentführer)
Self-supply	access_rwsn@dggroups.org	Skat Foundation (Matthias Saladin), Institute of Sustainable Services (Diana Gonzalez Botero and Tim Foster)
Multiple Uses of Water Services	mus@dggroups.org	IWMI (Barbara van Koppen), WE&B (David Smith) and NIRAS (Narayan Singh)
Young professionals	rwsn_yrwp@dggroups.org	Skat Foundation (Meleesa Naughton)
RWSN French community	rwsnnews_francais@dggroups.org	
RWSN Spanish community	rwsn-espanol@dggroups.org	
RWSN Portuguese community	portuguese_rwsn@dggroups.org	

THEME NEWS

Leave No-One behind



Join at: https://dgroups.org/rwsn/leave-no-one_rwsn

Theme Leaders: Sandra van Soelen, Simavi; Temple Oraeki, Youth Water Network, Euphresia Luseka (independent), Amita Bhakta (independent)

New free LNOB online course: Leaving no one behind (LNOB) in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

[This new online course](#) has been co-developed through RWSN by UNICEF and Ask for Water GmbH to supplement the [UNICEF guide of the same name](#). It is free and self-paced.

New research report on water and sanitation-related violence

Simavi has released a new research report titled 'Water and sanitation-related violence. The experiences of women and girls in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda.' The report sheds light on the violence women and girls often face in accessing safe water and sanitation facilities. You can read the full report [here](#).

Gender equality and climate resilience

New report on Gender equality and climate resilience: foundations for water, sanitation and hygiene for all from WaterAid – available [here](#) in English, French and Spanish.

World Bank Water Releases Datasets and toolkit on Women in Water

How gender-inclusive do you think water utilities are around the world? World Bank water have released datasets and a toolkit that shows the reality across all regions to support decision-makers in fostering a more diverse water sector: [Women in Water Institutions](#). This dataset illustrates gender gaps in employment drawing on survey results from [Women in Water Utilities: Breaking Barriers report](#), and additional surveys collected as part of Equal Aqua platform. Averages are based on information collected from 164 institutions in 45 economies. This dataset contains global and regional averages for gender diversity, inclusive policies, and female-friendly work environment. Institutions can use it to compare their performance to other institutions in their region and globally. Data collection is ongoing and open for water employers and water institutions - if you would like to contribute to this benchmarking exercise, please email equalaqua@worldbank.org

New resource - The Menopause: Hidden WASH needs

A new publication by Dr. Amita Bhakta (LNOB co-theme leader and Independent WASH consultant) and Naomi Vernon (Sanitation Learning Hub) giving practical advice to WASH practitioners, [The Menopause: Hidden WASH Needs](#). WASH programmes need to adapt to include (peri)menopausal women's needs. These include increased:

- Bathing
- Laundry
- Menstrual health & hygiene management
- Incontinence management



Sustainable Groundwater Development

Join at dgroups.org/RWSN/groundwater_rwsn

Theme Leaders: Kerstin Danert, Ask for Water GmbH; Mandy Goksu and David Inman, Water Mission; Ramon Brentführer, BGR

New Co-Theme Leader

We welcome a new co-theme leader into the theme, [Ramon Brentführer](#), from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) in Germany. Below you can read more of Ramon's motivation.

"After 20 years of professional experience as a geologist and water manager in science, development cooperation and environmental protection, I have been working on the sustainable development of groundwater resources in development cooperation for 12 years and I am honored to serve for the next years such a unique and important network like RWSN. I am currently leading a project at the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) to advise the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on the role of groundwater for sustainable development. As Germany's geological service, BGR has extensive technical expertise in hydrogeology and extensive experience in the development and management of groundwater in projects around the world. On behalf of German development cooperation, BGR advises water ministries and authorities on the assessment and management of their water resources. I look forward to contributing BGR's expertise, experience and networks as thematic co-leader on sustainable groundwater management. One focus of my engagement will be to strengthen RWSN's role in capacity building in groundwater management and development. Furthermore, I believe that the extensive knowledge, experience and potential of RWSN members could be a strong voice to influence governments and donors in their water strategies and finally mobilize resources to realize the human right to water and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in rural areas."

Stop the Rot: Action Research to improve handpump quality and prevent rapid corrosion

This initiative continues to build momentum, with the last months witnessing activities in Zambia in the form of documentation and advocacy, as well as a very informative webinar regarding handpump design improvements, documentation from Ghana, alongside global advocacy:

- History of the Rapid Hand pump Corrosion Problems in Zambia and Potential Next Steps by Javan Nkhosi and Kerstin Danert - [Report](#) and [Blog](#)
- Stop the Rot @ **Zambia** Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) 2023 - [Report](#) and blogs:
 - [When stainless steel is not stainless steel by Frank Meins](#)
 - [The role of galvanized pipes in the corrosion and failure of hand pumps by Annie Kalusa](#)
 - [The journey towards reducing the effects of rapid corrosion in Kalumbila District, Zambia by Daniel Shimanza](#)
- Documenting part of the success story of [eliminating rapid handpump corrosion in Ghana](#). In case you have any more information about Ghana, please do contact kerstin.danert@ask-for-water.ch
- June 6th Webinar recording: [Stop the rot - Handpump Upgrade...to Be, or Not to Be?](#)
- [Stop the Rot flyer 2023: Ensuring borehole and pump quality](#)

Dr Kerstin Danert has recently returned home after several months in Uganda so look out for her detailed report on what she found. If you would like to learn more about Stop the Rot, or are

interested in joining the international action group, you can contact her: kerstin.danert@ask-for-water.ch

New publications

- [Use of sensors to support the monitoring and maintenance of pump services](#) - literature review on the use of sensor technology to support handpumps by Kerstin Danert and Richard Carter. Published by Tear Fund
- [Assessing the functionality of water supply handpumps in a Sub-Saharan Africa rural environment: a practical application in eight councils in the Mvila Division, Southern Cameroon | Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development | IWA Publishing \(iwaponline.com\)](#) by Victor Dang Mvongo; Célestin Defo; Martin Tchoffo



Self-supply

Join at dgroups.org/RWSN/selfsupply_rwsn

Theme Leaders: Matthias Saladin, Skat Foundation; Tim Foster and Diana Gonzalez Botero from The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), Australia.

New co-theme Leaders

We welcome two new co-theme leaders into the theme: Dr Tim Foster and Diana Gonzalez Botero from The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), Australia.

[Dr Tim Foster](#) is a Research Director at the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures. Tim's research tackles global water and sanitation challenges, with a particular focus on rural water sustainability, self-supply and water quality.

"I'm delighted to be a co-leader for RWSN's self-supply theme. It's amazing to think that more than 1 billion people self-supply their water for drinking and domestic purposes worldwide, yet there is still so much we have to learn about it, and it remains largely overlooked by government policy. Diana and I are really looking forward to facilitating the discussions, debates, and knowledge exchanges that will bring to light the positive contributions self-supply can make to the rural water sector."

[Diana Gonzalez](#) is a senior research consultant at the Institute for Sustainable Futures in Sydney, Australia. Her applied research focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and international development across Asia and the Pacific. She has specialised in collaborative applied research to achieve sustainable WASH outcomes in partnership with governments, civil society organisations and research institutes. Her current areas of research include safely managed self-supply of drinking water; groundwater for climate resilient and inclusive WASH; WASH-related gender equality impacts; and local government engagement towards practical application of the human rights to water and sanitation.

"I am excited to be a co-leader for the self-supply theme! I look forward to bringing the self-supply perspective from Asia and the South Pacific and share the learnings from our research on self-supply in the region. We're keen to learn from others working on self-supply around the world, and to create opportunities for sharing and strengthening safely managed self-supply services."

Latest research:

There has been a range of articles published on self-supply in recent months. Topics of focus include the promotion of household rainwater harvesting in Madagascar, a citizen-led approach to water

quality testing in Indonesia, determinants of water source choices in South Africa, and an analysis of policy and regulation as it pertains to self-supply in Indonesia.

- [Low-cost domestic rainwater harvesting in rural southeast Madagascar: A process and outcome evaluation](#)
- [Substitution of piped water and self-supplied groundwater: The case of residential water in South Africa](#)
- [Policy and regulatory context for self-supplied drinking water services in two cities in Indonesia: Priorities for managing risks](#)
- [Associations between seasonality and faecal contamination of self-supply sources in urban Indonesia](#)
- [Evaluation of a participatory citizen approach to monitor microbial water quality of self-supply in urban Indonesia](#)
- [Rooted Water Collectives in a Modernist and Neoliberal Imaginary: Threats and Perspectives for Rural Water Commons](#)
- [An exploration of self-supply and functionality through private water source mapping in Western Kenya \(p. 152 of UNC Water and Health Abstract Book\)](#)



Sustainable Services

Join at dgroups.org/RWSN/sustainable_services_rwsn

Theme Leaders: Julia Boulenouar and Eleonore Motte, Aguaconsult; Jorge Alvarez-Sala,

UNICEF

New UNICEF Report on climate changed child

This report builds on 2021's Children's Climate Risk Index and examines water scarcity and water vulnerability along with the critical actions the international community must take at COP28 to protect children against climate change. It is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic [here](#).

Water Pavilion at COP28

Several partners hosted the Water Pavilion at COP28. You can see the key messages and session recordings [here](#).

External Review of Rural Water Service Delivery Models

The report reviews the Safe Water Initiative funded by the Hilton Foundation, which uses the district as a unit of scale, focusing on system-strengthening and service delivery to ensure reliable and safely managed water to one million people in low-income households, health facilities and schools in sub-Saharan Africa (with focus in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda). The primary aim of the review is to investigate the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of different Service Delivery Models (SDM), including community-based safe water management, publicly owned water utilities and private-sector approaches such as Safe Water Enterprises (SWE). You can download the report [here](#).

System's strengthening for the WASH sector workshop

The Osprey Foundation and Aguaconsult co-convened a two-day meeting in London on Systems Strengthening for the WASH sector. Read more [here](#).



Multiple Use of Water Services (MUS)

Join at dgroups.org/rwsn/mus

Theme Leaders: Barbara van Koppen, CGIAR/IWMI; David Smith(WE&B) and Narayan Singh (SUSWA/NIRAS)

Welcome to new Co-Theme Leaders

We welcome two new co-theme leaders into the theme: Dr [David Smith](#) and [Narayan Singh](#). Learn about them below.

Dr David Smith, Director WE&B

As the director of the consulting company Water, Environment, and Business for Development ([WE&B](#)), with a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology, I have lead over 30 research and development projects that have been implemented worldwide for clients from the European Commission, International Development Banks, and United Nations organisations. My expertise lies in environmental and social development, specifically with a focus on integrated water resource management, Green Growth and circular business models, ecosystem services, stakeholder engagement, climate change, and capacity development. I have served in leadership roles for Water Europe, Water Beyond Europe, and NetwerH2O, and I currently lead the International Water Dialogues Event, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. My educational background and cross-sectoral experience align with the goals of the RWSN network and more specifically aligning to the MUS Theme goals. I am excited to be afforded the opportunity to co-lead the MUS theme where my commitment to social justice drives my passion to contribute to improving water management and enhancing livelihoods specifically in vulnerable communities.

Narayan Singh Khawas

[Narayan Singh Khawas](#), Technical Specialist of [Sustainable WASH for All \(SUSWA\)](#) / [NIRAS International Consulting](#) has more than 20 years of experience in rural water supply, MUS system, and water resources management. Narayan is an engineer with a master's degree in iWRM and also in rural development. He has solid experience in rural water supply and worked in different organizations and projects like UNOPS, iDE-Nepal, Finnish Consulting Group/RVWRMP, Ramboll/RWSSP-WN, WaterAid, International Medical Corps, Plan International, and Action Contre la Faim with different responsibilities. His educational background, experience in different organizations with different roles, and close work with rural communities influenced him to join RWSN to share his experiences from the field and contribute on MUS promotional materials to support rural communities' livelihood.

MUS in Nepal

- Representatives from [SUSWA](#), [iDE Nepal](#), [Virginia Tech](#), and [FMIST Nepal](#) met virtually on 8th November 2023 and discussed ideas/plans to reactivate the [Nepal MUS Network](#).
- Stakeholders working on rural water supply systems recommended to incorporate MUS design guides on 'Design Guidelines for Rural Water Supply Schemes' of the Government of Nepal and [SUSWA](#) has shown its interest to contribute to it during the workshop on 27th November organized by the [Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management](#). The workshop was to discuss the update requirement of existing design guidelines of rural water supply schemes and proceed further.

Publications:

- [FAO report "Revaluing multiple-use water services for food and water security"](#)



Data for Action

Join at dgroups.org/rwsn/mapping_rwsn

Theme Leaders: Muthi Nhlema, Baseflow & Mutala Abdul Mumin, WaterAid.

Welcome to new co-theme leader

We welcome a new co-theme leader into the theme: Mutala Abdul Mumin from WaterAid in Ghana.

[Mutala Abdul-Mumin](#) is Senior Advisor – WASH Monitoring with WaterAid. Mutala is an experienced Development Planner, WASH data and monitoring expert having previously worked as a Chief Planning and Investment Analyst at Ghana's Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA). He holds a Master's Degree in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, a Commonwealth Executive MBA, and a Degree in Integrated Development Studies.

As a Co-lead he wishes to provide strategic guidance and support to ensure verifiable evidence and data is used to inform rural water supply part of efforts by the RWSN to work towards a world in which all people enjoy safely managed water services that are resilient and sustainable.

Groundwater Tracker database available to public in Malawi

Through using mWater, Baseflow has made their groundwater/hydrogeological data from more 300 pumping tests and over 130 drilling logs available/open for public access [here](#).

Transforming Administrative Data Systems: Introducing the Digitized ADaMM Platform

A significant step forward has been taken with the introduction of the digitized UNICEF Administrative Data Maturity Model (ADaMM). This platform is designed to facilitate assessment and strengthening of governments' administrative data systems to provide reliable administrative data for informed decision-making and enhanced service delivery for children. Read more [here](#).

UNICEF report puts children at the heart of sustainable development

One of the key findings in the report is that lack of quality data is due, in some cases, to inadequate political commitment to solve the problem, and in others to the relative recency of the indicator and the global alignment around standards of measurement. Read more [here](#).

PROGRAMME NEWS

REACH Improving water security for the poor

REACH: Improving water security for the poor

Programme Directors: Dr Rob Hope, Dr Katrina Charles (Oxford University). Communications Manager: Nancy Gladstone

REACH: Improving water security for the poor, funded by [FCDO](#), is a seven-year global research programme to improve water security for millions of poor people in Asia and Africa.

News

- **Policy-makers met in Kenya** to advance the water security agenda at a National Stakeholder event, which incorporated the launch of Turkana County's Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan. More details and KBC News coverage [here](#) or on the REACH [website](#)
- **The Fair Water? Exhibition** is open to September 2024 in Oxford, UK. The exhibition is a collaboration between REACH and the [Oxford University Museum Of Natural History](#) revealing some of the global barriers to water equality. It explores how researchers, communities and policy makers are working together to shape a fairer water future.
- Recordings from the **REACH International Water Security Conference** (20th - 22nd Sept 2023) are available on YouTube [here](#)
- Recordings from the **REACH Side Event at UNC** (25th October) on [Accelerating progress on safe drinking water with results-based funding](#) are available on YouTube [here](#).
- **Call for partners!** The REACH team is organizing a workshop on **Community Responsibilities in Water Supply Projects** – Discussion Across the Models and are looking for participants from organizations across Europe working on different aspects of water provision in the Global South. The workshop brings together scholars and practitioners to discuss different roles communities take in different models, from community engagement to professional service maintenance. The aim of the workshop is to develop an outline of guidelines for water service providers on how to ethically consider the community's responsibilities in the process. If you are interested to joining, please see more details and fill this [form](#) by **January 7th**.

REACH Stories of Change

REACH has been publishing a series of Stories of Change to highlight key findings and emerging impact across the programme. Selected stories are now available in Swahili, Amharic and Bangla. View the whole collection here: <https://reachwater.uk/stories-of-change/>

The latest stories published are:

- **Climate:** [Open source tools and skills for climate information flows](#)
- **Coasts:** [Sustainable management of sedimentation risks in coastal rivers in southwest Bangladesh](#)
- **Services:** [Fit-for-purpose labs for monitoring and managing rural water supplies](#)

Publications

- Nowicki, S., Birhanu, B., Tanui, F., Sule, M.N, Charles, K., Olago, D., Kebede, S. (2023). [Water chemistry poses health risks as reliance on groundwater increases: A systematic review of hydrogeochemistry research from Ethiopia and Kenya](#) Science of Total Environment, 904 (166929)

- Akhter, T., Naz, M., Salehin, M., Arif, S.T., Hoque, S.F., Hope, R. and Rahman M.R. (2023). [Hydrogeologic Constraints for Drinking Water Security in Southwest Coastal Bangladesh: Implications for Sustainable Development Goal 6.1](#). Water 2023, 15 (2333)
- Hailu, K., Birhanu, B., Azagegn, T., Kebede, S. (2023). [Regional groundwater flow system characterization of volcanic aquifers in upper Awash using multiple approaches, central Ethiopia](#). Isotopes in Environmental and Health Studies, DOI: 10.1080/10256016.2023.2222221
- Naughton, M., Wagner, J., Hope, R., Furey, S., and Okello, S.A. (2023). [Performance and prospects of rural drinking water services in francophone West Africa](#) REACH Report



RWSN Coordinator for SIRWASH: Cesarina Quintana

SIRWASH - The Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH) initiative improves enabling policy, innovation and knowledge environments and fosters the required capacities to provide sustainable quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities – in particular poor households and vulnerable people – in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti and Peru. It builds on Switzerland's over 20 years of experience in strengthening rural WASH systems in Peru and Colombia. [Read more about the project objectives here.](#)

SIRWASH Webinar series

We concluded the [Webinar series of the SIRWASH Programme](#) (Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Thank you very much to all who participated in the webinars, to the amazing speakers, discussants and moderators. We had over 1434 participants registered for the entire series, from 116 countries! You can find all recordings and resources from the SIRWASH webinars [here](#) or below.

- **Regional and National Monitoring of Rural WASH – experiences of data-to-decisions** on October 4, 2023. This session brought examples of regional or national monitoring and information systems that include rural WASH indicators and that have stimulated political prioritisation, resource mobilisation and/or service delivery from Malawi, Peru and India. Access [recording](#) and [presentations](#).
- **Formalising and strengthening institutions for supporting rural WASH services** on November 7, 2023. This session brought examples of successful institution strengthening for rural WASH service delivery and regulation, particularly at the local government level. Case studies from Bolivia, Cambodia and Rwanda were discussed. Access [recording](#) and [presentations](#).
- **Rural sanitation – why is it left behind?** on November 15, 2023. This session brought examples of government initiatives that strengthen and prioritise rural sanitation. The latter is left behind in many countries, who often prioritise their political will and investment towards urban water supply. Access [recording](#) and [presentations](#).



Project Directors: Ranjiv Khush, Jeff Albert. Communications Manager: Vanessa Günther (all with Aquaya)

[The Aquaya Institute](#) (Aquaya) has been awarded a five-year, \$18.9 million Cooperative Agreement from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the [Rural Evidence and Learning for Water](#) (REAL-Water) program. REAL-Water will evaluate strategies for expanding access to safe, equitable, and sustainable rural water across the developing world.

The REAL-Water consortium includes the following partner organizations: Aguaconsult, Kwame Nkrumah University for Science and Technology (KNUST), Safe Water Network, Skat Foundation/RWSN, Water Mission and The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)

News

- REAL-Water launched a Water Quality Assurance Fund trial with Kericho, Nakuru, & Uasin Gishu Counties in Kenya. Read more [here](#).

Reports and briefs

- **Report** - [Evaluation of Water Safety Plans in Rural Ghana: Baseline Assessment](#)
- **Report** - [Emerging trends in rural water management](#)
- **Report** - [Is consolidation the answer to improving rural water services in low-income countries? Lessons from OECD country experience.](#)
- **Brief** - [REAL-WATER Theory of Change](#)
- **Brief** - [Implementation Manual: Water Quality Assurance Fund](#)
- **Brief** - [Uganda Institutional Framework for Water Supply](#)
- **Brief** - [Tanzania Institutional Framework For Water Supply](#)
- **Brief** - [Kenya Institutional Framework For Water Supply](#)

Events

REAL-Water Sessions at UNC Water & Health Conference 2023

- **Side event:** Emerging trends in rural water management and supporting evidence. Watch the recording [here](#)
- **Technology showcase:** Water Quality Assurance Fund. Watch the recording [here](#)
- Verbal Presentations (Water Quality): Assessing piped water system safety in rural Ghana. Watch the recording [here](#)

REAL-Water Session at World Water Week

The recording from World Water Week session entitled “**Driving rural water innovation concept to scale up**” is now available on YouTube [here](#).

REAL Water Newsletter

[Sign up](#) for the quarterly REAL-Water newsletter. Check out the [website](#).

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Join our growing community of Young Rural Water Professionals!

The RWSN network has over 15,000 members and provides a unique platform to bring together young professionals and seasoned sector experts and practitioners from around the world. We encourage you to reach out to your colleagues who are Young Professionals to help shape the next generation of RWSN!

Anyone interested in water and between the age of 18 and 35 can join the RWSN Young Professionals community, which currently has more than 700 members. **Sign up here:** https://dgroups.org/rwsn/rwsn_yrwp. You can also follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

CAREER PROGRESSION FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

- **2023 RWSN mentoring programme.** The 2023 edition of the RWSN mentoring programme is coming to a close! Thank you to all our mentors and mentees. We hope to be able to offer this opportunity again in 2024 - to find out more information see <https://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/rwsn-mentoring-programme>.

Thank you
to all of the RWSN mentors and
mentees!



Mentoring Programme 2023

- 250 participants from 66 countries
- 86% from non-OECD countries (/Global South)
- 92% of participants are of backgrounds other than white
- women made up 45% of participants (52% mentees, 37% mentors)
- open to **anyone in the water sector**

Partners:



More info:

<https://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/rwsn-mentoring-programme>

- **Lobbying for better and more jobs for young professionals in the water and sanitation sector.** Research carried out by RWSN and Aquafed as part of the Valuing Water Initiative shows that water supply and sanitation services are at risk because providers are failing to

attract and leverage the potential of young people. Read more about our research and follow-up work [here](#).

- **#RWSNCareerchats:** are you curious about the background of colleagues, experts, and leaders in the water and WASH sector? How did they get to where they are now? Check out our new #careerchats series with advice tailored to young professionals in the water and WASH sector. Watch it on [YouTube](#).
- **Jobs for young professionals.** As always, please check out the excellent [Josh's Water Jobs](#) website which includes openings for young professionals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

- Calling on young water entrepreneurs to Join the **World Bank Youth Innovation Challenge!** The World Bank and partners invite all interested and eligible youth aquapreneurs (age 18-35) to apply by February 23, 2024, with innovative solutions tackling one or more of four global water challenges:
 - [Too much water](#)
 - [Too little water](#)
 - [Contaminated water](#)
 - [Mismanaged water](#)To apply see: <https://connect.newibnet.org/youthinnovationchallenge>
- **YEP Programme.** The YEP (Young Experts Programme) is open to Dutch nationals and young people from [eligible countries](#) in the fields of Water, Agrofood and renewable Energy. Check out upcoming deadlines and eligibility [here](#).
- **Online courses.** Have a look at some of the courses on <https://www.edx.org/> - some are free and available in many languages.
- **PhDs.** It's PhD season - find a funded PhD on <https://www.findaphd.com/>
- **RWSN blog takeover.** RWSN invites young professionals to make their voices heard and share their ideas by contributing to the RWSN blog on any topic related to rural water services. This could be an opportunity to share your research or your work. Check out the RWSN blog [here](#) and find out more about how to contribute [here](#).

WHAT'S NEW IN RURAL WATER

REPORTS

- [State of Blended Finance 2023 Report](#).
- [The Climate Changed Child](#) Report by UNICEF. 1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity
- [Agenda for Change - 5 Stories of Collaborative Systems Change](#)
- [FAO report "Revaluing multiple-use water services for food and water security"](#)
- [Time to Act: African children in the climate change spotlight report \(UNICEF & UNEP\)](#)
- [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme \(JMP\) report – Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022: Special focus on gender](#)
- [Scaling Up Finance for Water: A World Bank Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action](#)
- [Principles for Sustainable WASH Finance](#), by Sanitation and Water for All
- [A Glossary of Hydrogeology](#)

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES, BRIEFINGS & TOOLS

- Article: [Harnessing the economic benefits of investment in water, sanitation and hygiene in Africa](#)
- [UNICEF and IRC launch the online course on finance for sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene systems](#)
- [Bottled Water: A Viable Alternative for Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Rural Cambodia?](#) IRC WASH Case Study in collaboration with 1001 Fontaines
- [How to guide the careers of young people in the water and sanitation sector](#)
- [Performance and prospects of rural drinking water services in francophone West Africa](#) (EN/FR)

LATEST RESEARCH

OPEN ACCESS

- [Water funds within village savings and loans associations: A promising solution to improve water user fee collection in rural Uganda](#)
- [Low-cost domestic rainwater harvesting in rural southeast Madagascar: A process and outcome evaluation](#)
- [Product preferences and willingness to pay for potable water delivery: Experimental evidence from rural Bihar, India](#)
- [The relational factors in managing rural water supply in Punjab, Pakistan](#)
- [Water infrastructure sustainability in Nigeria: a systematic review of challenges and sustainable solutions](#)
- [A multi-criteria multidimensional model for optimal selection of rural water supply systems](#)
- [Assessing the functionality of water supply handpumps in a Sub-Saharan Africa rural environment: a practical application in eight councils in the Mvila Division, Southern Cameroon](#)
- [Equitable supply in intermittently operated rural water networks in emerging economies](#)

- [Tariff setting for the sustainability of communal water points in Mangochi District, Malawi](#)
- [Water committees in the implementation of decentralization measures in the water sector in Gaza Province, Mozambique: ownership and resistance](#)
- [Water infrastructure sustainability in Nigeria: a systematic review of challenges and sustainable solutions](#)
- [Identification and analysis of influencing factors on construction quality management for rural drinking water safety projects](#)
- [Water infrastructure resilience and water supply and sanitation development challenges in developing countries](#)
- [Implementing risk-based approaches to improve drinking water quality in small water supplies in the Nordic region – barriers and solutions](#)
- [Understanding small NGOs' access to and use of geological data and expertise in delivering SDG 6 in eastern Africa](#)
- [Multilateral development banks investment behaviour in water and sanitation: Findings and lessons from 60 years of investment projects in Africa and Asia](#)
- [Drinking water quality and associated factors in Bahir Dar City and the surrounding rural areas, Northwest Ethiopia: a community-based cross-sectional study](#)
- [Water, sanitation, and hygiene practices among rural households and related health impacts: a case study from some North Indian villages](#)
- [Development of a tool to support operationalising water safety plans: experiences from a national water utility in Ghana](#)
- [Efficacy of solar water disinfection treatment system in improving rural and peri-urban household drinking water quality and reducing waterborne diarrhoeal diseases](#)

RWSN ONLINE

RWSN in numbers

RWSN membership has reached **15 837 people from 167 countries**; our [LinkedIn group](#) membership is up to **24 052**. To increase our visibility, we have also started a [RWSN LinkedIn page](#) – please follow it for more frequent updates. At the beginning of 2012, there were around 1,500 RWSN members, so thank you to all for your continued support and commitment to improving rural water supply services.

RWSN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join the debates

Our expanded online network means that more and more of you are sharing ideas and experiences, which are fantastic – please keep it up! Here are main discussion communities: [Self-supply](#); [Leave No One Behind](#); [Sustainable Groundwater Development](#); [Data for Action](#); [Sustainable Services](#) and [Multiple Uses of water Services](#). Other communities of interest include: [Rainwater Harvesting](#); [Young Professionals](#); [E-discussions](#)

Can't find the online community you're interested in? If your organisation would like to create an online community related to rural water, and can commit to hosting it for the next 3 years, please contact us – we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who has put in their time, enthusiasm and knowledge.

Membership and Subscription

RWSN is free to join, all you have to do is register on the RWSN area of [Dgroups](#). Organisations can become members of RWSN too. To find out more visit [the website](#). There are no subscription fees. If you find RWSN's work useful, please consider making a [small donation](#) to support and expand our services.

Unsubscribe

If you do not wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to info@rural-water-supply.net or to leave.RWSN@dgroups.org with the heading unsubscribe.

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