



... closing inequality gaps

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PHAAE - UN WATER 2023 CONFERENCE INPUT

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The UN Water conference has reaffirmed that sustainable water management is central to building the resilience of societies and ecosystems. Recent research debunks the myth that the continent is running out of water. There are vast water reserves under people's feet, many of which are replenished yearly by rainfall and other surface water. The resources are inaccessible because of the chronically underfunded services. Tapping into groundwater would ensure millions have access to safe and clean water even with the uncertainty of the climate crisis. Most African countries have sufficient groundwater for people to survive and thrive – in some cases, for more than 50 years.

The world's neglected defence against climate change needs increasing water and sanitation financing for marginalized communities through a fixed percentage of annual government budgets and increased international donor and private sector investment. Education and skilled human resource on groundwater access and resources will defend against the water crisis by empowering women and children towards better lives and enhanced WASH conditions. The governmental institutions in West Africa are not well equipped and capable of reaching the marginalized communities - accountability and increased financing to the NGOs can help bridge the gap and bring clean water access to schools in marginalized communities in West Africa and act as a catalyst in other parts of the African continent. Since urban communities are better positioned to deal with water-related issues - It is usually villages with no basic water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. Our primary targets should be rural communities and villages with no access to clean and safe water.

PHAAE shares a joint cause with the United Nations in implementing SDG 6. Our organization works closely on grassroots transformational projects in marginalized and rural communities. We aim to lead a grassroots transformation that enables self-sustaining health practices with access to water, sanitation and hygiene for women and children in rural and marginalized communities of West Africa. We firmly believe in achieving the SDG 6 goals by enhancing water accessibility in marginalized and rural communities by making clean water and sanitation facilities more accessible and inclusive. Building stronger partnerships between the UN organization, private entities, governmental organizations, and international and local NGOs has the potential to tackle health and water-related inequalities in marginalized communities with a solution-oriented approach to water, sanitation and hygiene issues.

Sincerely,

Syed Jazib Ali
OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR