



SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL
AT THE UN WATER CONFERENCE 2023

“SDG 6: WASH HUMANITARIAN ACTION MATTERS”

Photo - © Tiécoura N'Daou



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.

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.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH POPULATIONS

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.



Photo - © Mirabe/Munkoro

OUR FIGHT FOR WATER

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has made the fight against water-related diseases its main combat.

WHY?

1 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PLACES WHERE MULTIPLE AND PROTRACTED CRISES CONVERGE (the Covid pandemic, climate change, violent conflicts, geopolitical instability), exacerbating already fragile contexts. Safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) allows crisis-affected populations to work their way from survival to economic and social development.

2 The DRAMATIC MORTALITY INDUCED BY WATERBORNE DISEASES, such as cholera, poses a serious threat to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 6 & 3. Inadequate WASH was attributable to almost 2 million deaths and almost 123 million disability-adjusted life years in 2016¹.

3 VERY FEW VOICES ARE CONVEYING THE URGENT NEED TO FIGHT THIS MAJOR CAUSE OF MORTALITY IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS, whereas in 2022, these contexts represented a quarter (23%) of the world population, according to the OECD.

¹ UN-Water global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking-water (GLAAS) 2022 report

OUR ADVOCACY MESSAGES

The ongoing global water and sanitation crisis, reiterated in the "Vision Statement" of the UN23 conference, is particularly pronounced in Fragile, Conflict and Violent (FCV) contexts.

As a key actor of the WASH Road Map and signatory of the Call To Action for Survival and Resilient WASH, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL **calls on governments to raise the profile of WASH in FCV settings and table the following commitments in March 2023:**

1 TO PRIMARILY FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON PEOPLE LIVING IN FCV SETTINGS

There should be a special focus on countries where no progress has been made towards achieving SDG 6, and on populations without access to basic water and sanitation services. **Only by including the most vulnerable can we hope to reach the SDGs.**

- The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increases every year, from **80 MILLION** in 2013 to more than **339 MILLION** in 2023¹.
- **82% OF THE COUNTRIES** in which SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL works are considered fragile or extremely fragile by the OECD.

For example, in one area of **Burkina Faso**, our teams found that²

- Including Internally Displaced People (IDP), the population is estimated to have increased by about **80%** in 4 years.
- **31% of schools** do not have access to a functional drinking water point.
- Only **12% of the population** has access to a safely managed water supply.
- **50% of the population** has access to an unimproved water supply (or surface water).

¹ OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview, 2023
² Figures extracted from evaluations carried out in one of the villages supported by a Humanitarian-Development Nexus project, led by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL (called Nex'Eau) in partnership with GRET, URD group, ONEA, AFD and USAID.

2 TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN WASH RESPONSES AND COORDINATION

The objective is to deliver predictable, effective (timely) and sufficient survival WASH responses and ultimately safeguard the lives and health of those living in FCV contexts.

- Global emergency WASH funds delivered only covered **38% OF REQUIREMENTS**. The lowest coverage ever was in 2021 and 2020 with respectively only **22% AND 21% OF THE REQUIRED FUNDING PROVIDED**.
- Through SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL's action in 2021, **1,146,576 PEOPLE** gained long-term access to water, sanitation and hygiene services in **22 COUNTRIES**.
- SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is an active member of the Global WASH Cluster and an elected member of its Strategic Advisory Group.
- As part of its **2020-2025 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE STRATEGY**, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL aims to actively contribute to achieving objectives 3 & 6 of the SDGs in order to provide high-impact qualitative responses essentially focused on the health, dignity and well-being of affected populations.

¹ OCHA, Financial Tracking Service, average calculated on data from 2012 to 2021

3 TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT WASH SERVICES THAT CAN WITHSTAND CRISES

In FCV contexts, cooperation between development and humanitarian actors at all levels from local to global will ensure continuity of services and better value for money. Together, let's build services that last.

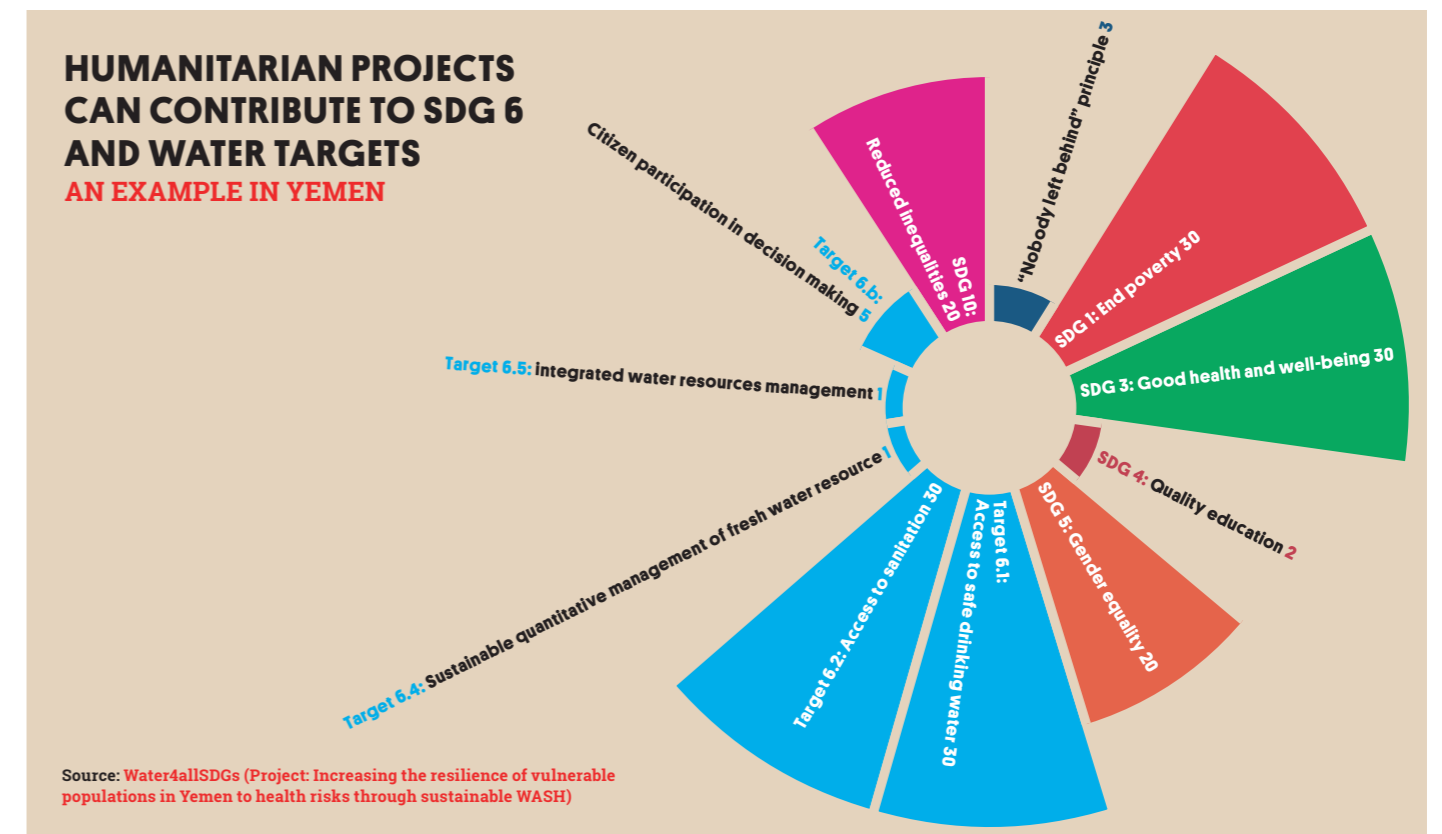
For instance, in **Yemen**, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is implementing a three-year project funded by SDC and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which :

- contributes to **10 water-related goals** under 6 different SDGs (see below);
- and aims to provide water to **51,000 people**.

4 TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW OBLIGATIONS

relating to the protection of WASH personnel and UN Security Council Resolution 2573 (2021).

5 TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SWIFTLY NOMINATE A UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR WATER in order to establish an ongoing UN-hosted intergovernmental mechanism and ensure the achievement of SDG 6 and all water-related SDGs.



ACHIEVING THE SDGs

Water and sanitation issues are closely linked to health, food security, energy, climate, poverty, gender equality and environmental issues, making WASH a cross-cutting contributor and an opportunity to achieve many SDGs.

The WASH humanitarian sector therefore needs to :

- **DEVELOP FLEXIBLE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND FORM INTEGRATED, COMPLEMENTARY PARTNERSHIPS** with development, institutional, academic, private and other sectors, in order to achieve collective outcomes;
- **BUILD CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE;**
- **MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES** that are commensurate with the needs and challenges, particularly with regard to the dramatic consequences of climate change in the most fragile countries.

In the light of the above elements, to conclude, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL wishes to underline the fact that we will not achieve SDG 6 in areas of crisis and fragility without a significant change in scale and pace, particularly if we want to **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.**

The Intergovernmental Conference in New York in March 2023 must go beyond the recognition of the global water crisis and ensure the effective follow-up of SDG 6 and water targets. It must guarantee the means and political will for the concrete implementation of the commitments already made (Agenda 2030, Blue Deal, etc.) in order to **meet the vital needs of populations in crisis contexts with regard to water and sanitation.**

OUR SIDE EVENT AT THE UN WATER CONFERENCE 2023

SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL reaffirms that **fighting mortality due to water- and sanitation-related diseases**, such as **cholera**, must be a major global priority, both as an explicit target of SDG 3, an indirect measure to track progress towards achieving SDG 6, and beyond this, to ease the burden of diseases that hinder progress on many other SDGs.

Following an unprecedented resurgence of the disease causing over 29 countries to report cholera cases or outbreaks in 2022, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL decided to re-emphasize the importance of Ending Cholera to achieve SDG 6 by **organising an official side event at the UN23 Water Conference**, with the main active partners of this collective commitment.

The Global Road Map to End Cholera by 2030, which forms the basis of this side event has become a Voluntary Commitment of the Water Action Agenda.

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EVENT

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THE CALL
TO ACTION