



UN
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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Playing your part: how enhanced governance leads to stronger stakeholder engagement and better management of rural water systems

Thursday 23 March, 9:30am, Conference Room C

Organized by: World Vision, Ethiopia Ministry of Water and Energy, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Grundfos

Background on the event

The purpose of this event was to showcase a successful partnership between the government of Ethiopia, a donor organization (Children's Investment Fund Foundation), a private sector partner (Grundfos) and an implementing organization (World Vision). Through a question-and-answer panel format, we were able to highlight the successes and challenges of such a partnership, and encourage other stakeholders engaged in SDG 6 to do something similar where appropriate. It is important that we all work together to achieve the ambitious aims of SDG 6. In addition, we made the case for more investment in piped water networks. Handpumps have a role to play in specific situations, but providing water closer to homes through piped water connections is the best way for us to achieve basic level water access for the largest number of people.

Water Action Agenda

World Vision was able to make a commitment to the water action agenda, <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/world-visions-pledge-accelerate-progress-sdg-6>. In addition, as a group we agreed to continue to prioritize piped water networks and to support the enabling environment (including financial and operational models), that will sustain these systems for the long term.

Key Issues discussed

- All WASH stakeholders need to focus more of their attention on constructing piped water networks.

- Piped water schemes require well defined financial and operational models to ensure they are sustainable for the long term.
- Strong governance is key to success of SDG 6. The Ethiopian government is a good example of a unified approach across ministries for WASH that is accelerating progress.
- Partnership is essential. Donors, implementers, private sector and government must all play their part and have mutual accountability for providing water to the most vulnerable people.
- The voice of the community and local experts must not be lost. Community members should be involved from the planning stage through ongoing operation and maintenance of systems.

Key recommendations for action

- Partners must take joint responsibility, joint accountability for the success, and stay committed when things get challenging.
- Open data sharing of WASH system location, functionality and payment data is essential for planning for and successfully reaching SDG 6. (i.e. handing over completed infrastructure along with design data to government for management).
- Strong governance is needed for success of SDG 6, including communication between government ministries and between the local and national government.
- Additional investment is needed in the WASH sector from government and donors to ensure we reach SDG6.

