



UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Joined-up Action for Humanitarian and Development Collective Outcomes to Accelerate SDG6

Wednesday 22nd March 2023 – UNICEF House

Organized by: Global WASH Cluster (GWC) and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)

Background on the event

The GWC, together with SWA hosted a side event at the UN water 2023 conference on "**Joined-up Action for Humanitarian and Development Collective Outcomes to Accelerate SDG6**". The event was moderated by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and included high-level government interventions from Burkina Faso, Kenya and Iraq which supported the launch of the Water Action decade and SDG commitments of the Global WASH Cluster. You can find more information on the agenda [here](#) and the speaker bios [here](#).

The poster features a colorful toucan bird with its wings spread, set against a dark background. At the top, it includes the UN 2023 Water Conference logo, the 'UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE' text, a 'NEW YORK 22-24 MARCH 2023' box, the 'SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL' logo, and the 'WASH Cluster Water Sanitation Hygiene' logo. The text 'Side-event' is in the top left. The main title is 'Joined-up Action for Humanitarian and Development Collective Outcomes to Accelerate SDG 6'. Below this, a calendar icon is followed by the date and location: 'Wednesday 22 March 2023, New York City - Danny Kaye Center, UNICEF'. At the bottom, a clock icon is followed by the times: '08:00 AM - 10:00 AM (EST)' and '01:00 PM - 03:00 PM (CET)'.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

For the GWC and SWA, the conference Water Action Decade theme was a strategic opportunity to advocate for and commit to a collective humanitarian and development action. It also created a very powerful culminating moment to build partnerships and donor engagement.

We still invite member states and decision-makers beyond the UN Water Conference to use the following initiative on collective outcomes and position the WASH sector as a catalyst and thought leader to operationalize the modalities of these joint commitments and further act upon them.

Read more on the GWC Commitments to the Water Action Agenda [here](#).

Key challenges and issues discussed:

- Humanitarian action is layered and coordinated with complementary development and peacebuilding approaches for the WASH sector to sustain recovery and to enhance resilience are siloed.
- Gaps in cultivating partnerships and enhancing ways of working to increase knowledge exchange for humanitarian-development-peace collaboration for effective and sustainable WASH outcomes are hindered.
- Humanitarian action, development cooperation, and peacebuilding timelines, mandates and methodologies for joint analysis, data collection, strategic planning, geographic focus areas and financing for WASH outcomes are misaligned.
- Capacity and resources to drive innovative and transformative WASH outcomes across humanitarian action, development cooperation and peacebuilding are divided.
- Advocacy for ‘joined-up’ action for collective outcomes by the humanitarian, development, and peace actors, to influence policy change are disconnected.

Key recommendations for action:

The following commitments and recommendations outline how we can jointly reduce people’s humanitarian needs, risks, and vulnerabilities by working towards ‘collective outcomes’ (as outlined by IASC):

1. Strengthen collective action and advocating for the WASH sector to provide timely, predictable, and high-quality water, sanitation and hygiene outcomes by providing thought-leadership and by spearheading coordination.
2. Promote joint analysis or sharing of analyses to obtain a shared understanding of need, risk and vulnerability and the optimization of relevant data and information to understand gaps and make evidence-based decisions.
3. Incorporate pathways that link the strategic direction of national priorities across humanitarian and development planning processes, including HNOs and HRPs to the CCA and the UNSDCF;
4. Call for the recalibration of financing mechanisms to support humanitarian and development priorities as defined by collective outcomes.
5. Advocate for innovative partnerships and coordination of an integrated humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach through “joined up” action and collective outcomes.
6. Create a professional and a motivated work force with expertise in coordination that drives innovative and transformative WASH outcomes across humanitarian action, development cooperation and peacebuilding.

The note also highlights a key call to action for governments, member states, and key stakeholders to make this collective effort the humanitarian-development divide. Read more [here](#).