



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Water Security for All – A powerful partnership to ensure all children have access to sustainable, climate resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030

Thursday March 23, 5pm-6:15pm, UNICEF House Danny Kaye Hall

Organized by: UNICEF

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This Water Security for All high-level event has highlighted the unprecedented water scarcity crises with 1.42 billion people, including 450 million children who live in areas of high-water vulnerability. The current situation will be further compounded by the climate crises, with an estimated half of the world population expected to be living in water-stressed conditions by 2023. These shortcomings have devastating impacts on children. Every day, over 1,000 children under 5 die from diseases linked to unsafe water, sanitation and poor hygiene. As climate change threatens the sustainability of water and sanitation systems, the need for action has become more urgent than ever. With urgent action, this crisis can be addressed. UNICEF is uniquely positioned to support this via its strong WASH programming experience and technical capacity.

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

As part of UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, we aim to reach 50 million people with climate-resilient and safe drinking water, and support governments and partners in the transition towards a climate-resilient sector.

With support for the four investment packages developed, and through our network of partners in the WASH sector, we aim to contribute to the even higher global targets

included in the Water Security for All initiative. The Water Security for All initiative aims to collectively reach 450 million children and their families (1.42 billion people) in areas of high or extremely high-water vulnerability with resilient solutions.

The Water Security for All initiative is a key contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 6.1: universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-security-all>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Insights from visit to regions affected by water scarcity and the climate-induced water crisis.
- The worsening situation of the water crisis and call for a swift and bolder action to address it.
- UNICEF's commitment to water security and a holistic approach to Water Sanitation and Hygiene and UNICEF's Water Security for All initiative.
- Progress in addressing the water security crisis, and the importance of collaboration to achieve scale.
- How we can work across sectors and borders to overcome challenges to water security.
- How water scarcity impacts businesses.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Good governance, investment, and climate adaptation required for water security.
- Investment in infrastructure needed for sustainable water resources.
- Explore private public partnership, explore innovative financing mechanisms, and further North-South cogeneration.
- Grass roots approach to supply and utility of water and sanitation.
- Strong collaboration and partnership across sectors and between public and private sectors.
- Ensure children have access to safe, sustainable and affordable WASH services.
- Make WASH services climate resilient and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of the communities they serve.
- Prevent water scarcity crises through early action through water resource assessments, sustainable water withdrawal and efficient use to prevent situations where water supplies are fully depleted.