



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Know your water: action-oriented partnerships at the interface between science, politics, and practice to empower municipalities to work towards reducing inequity and increasing resilience in urban water management.

Event ID: OS177

21.03.2023 4:30 - 6:30pm followed by an Swiss Apéro

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Solidarit'EAU Suisse

Swiss Water Partnership (SWP)

Global Water Operators Partnership

Swiss Business Hub USA

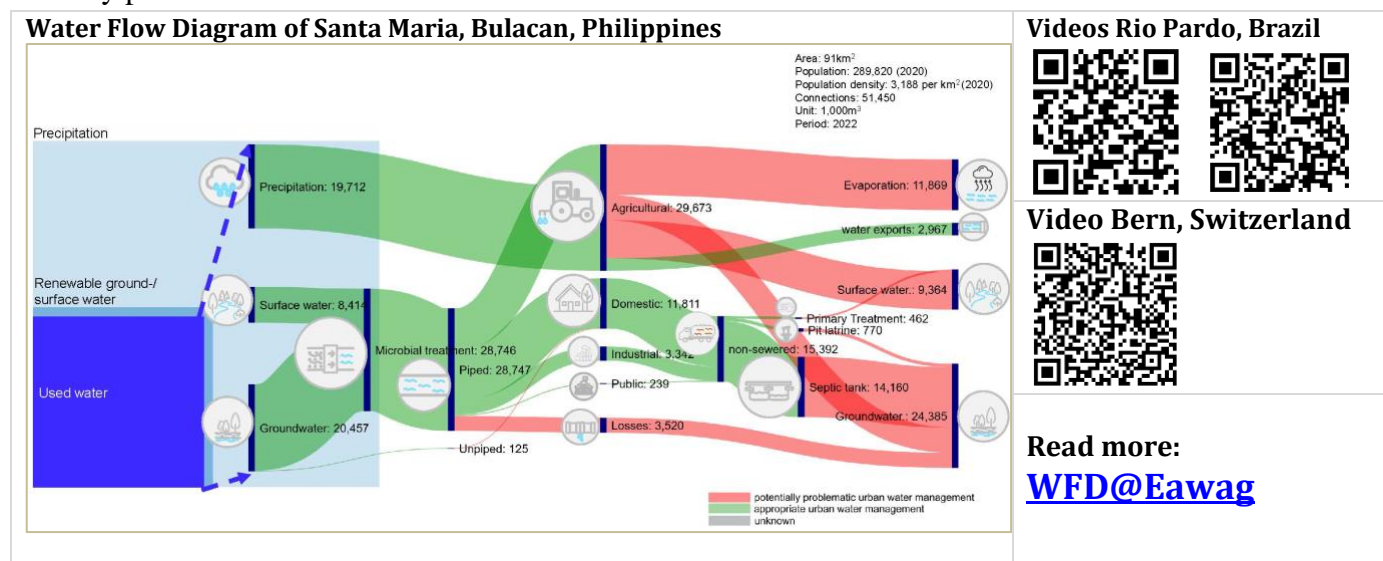
 <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p>	 <p>AGUASAN Community of Practice</p>  <p>eawag aquatic research</p>	 <p>SWISS WATER PARTNERSHIP</p>  <p>solidarit'EAU suisse</p>	 <p>HEKS EPER Bread for all.</p>  <p>BLUE COMMUNITY</p>
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Background on the event (one paragraph)

Urbanisation in a changing climate provides specific challenges, but also opportunities, to reach SDG6 and the human right to water and sanitation (HRWS). Key challenges are inequalities and conflicts of interest in water resource distribution, overexploitation, pollution, and water related hazards, such as droughts and floods. The opportunities are economies of scale, improved stormwater harvesting, and circular approaches, using synergies between different water users.

To manage urban water, it is necessary to know its flows and stocks and the issues at stake. We engage in action-oriented partnerships at the interface between science, politics, society and the private sector to create a joint vision and to trigger action.

The Water Flow Diagram (WFD) is a visual tool that shows in one picture all the water resources and flows and identifies the challenges and opportunities related to SDG6 and the HRWS. It connects information related to both Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and assists in the creation of a joint vision to prioritise action. The WFD was developed by scientists (Eawag) in collaboration with local actors, mostly in Rio Pardo de Minas, Brazil, and civil society support (Swiss NGOs - HEKS and Helvetas). This collaboration embedded the development of the WFD into a participatory process from data collection to multi-stakeholder dialogue and a joint vision for action. The development of the WFD was supported by the City of Bern, a Blue Community. Blue Communities recognise that water is a shared resource and follow three basic principles: the HRWS, banning bottled water, and promoting public water and wastewater services. While financially supporting the activities in Brazil, Bern developed its own WFD. Based on this positive experience, the WFD is now being applied as part of city-to-city and utility-to-utility partnerships supported by Solidarit'eau Suisse. The partnerships go beyond financial support. An important part is also capacity building through harnessing skills and knowledge and visits by political leaders.



Videos Rio Pardo, Brazil



Video Bern, Switzerland



Read more:

WFD@Eawag

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

Our approach demonstrates how joint action at the interface between science, politics and practice can trigger commitment and action among stakeholders along the entire urban water cycle. We invite municipalities around the world to join us in this journey by making their own WFD and engage in partnerships that will activate local actors from academia, civil society and the private sector to know their water resources and flows and to prioritise action towards SDG6 and the HRWS.

Link to the commitment: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/know-your-water-action-oriented-partnerships-interface-between-science-politics-and>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

At this side event to the UN Water Conference, we discussed and disseminated the commitment to the Water Action Agenda 2030, unifying partners from science, politics and practice of the Swiss community.

Using the examples of the urban Water Flow Diagram (WFD), the Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) promotion initiative and partnership programmes, such as Solidarit’eau Suisse, Blue Communities and the Global Water Operator Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA), we showed how a joint effort by science, politics, and practice can trigger local action to reach the SDG6 and the human right to water and sanitation.

We closed with the launch of the joint commitment to the Water Agenda 2030 to motivate cities around the world to adopt this approach and engage in partnerships with local actors from academia, civil society and the private sector to make their own WFDs and prioritise action towards realising SDG6 and the HRWS.

Following inputs were provided:

Prof. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner) (10min)	Beyond centralised cooperation: What engagement in cooperation is needed to accelerate progress to SDG6 and the human right to water and sanitation?
Marc-André Bünzli (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC) (5min)	Better communication for better results: You can't manage what you don't understand – a visual series of provocative questions?
Dorothee Spuhler (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Sciences and Technology, Eawag) (5min)	Urbanisation: Opportunity or Challenge for the SDGs and the HRWS, why science is not enough and how the Water Flow Diagram can help.
Marilene de Souza Alves (Vice-President of Parliament of the Federal State of Minas Gerais, Brazil) (10min)	From data collection to local action: The urban Water Flow Diagram of Rio de Pardo, Brazil.
Dr. Arne Panesar (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ) (5min)	The SFD promotion initiative: From methodological development to global roll out.

Alec von Gaffenried, Mayor of Bern, Video message (2min)	Blue Community Bern: Why to support the use of the WFD in Bern, Switzerland and Rio Pardo, Brazil.
Maude Barlow (5min)	Blue Community international: Public commitment to water as a common good is instrumental to achieve the water action agenda.
Saleck Moulaye Ahmed Cherif, Ville de Nouakchott, Video Message (5min)	City-to-city partnership: a long-term collaboration between Nouakchott and Lausanne, and more than 100 Swiss municipalities, for sustainable access to water and sanitation
Dr. Anne Le Strat (Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance GWOPA) (5min)	Mobilising Public Actors for Solidarity-based Water Partnerships: Empowerment through skills harnessing and knowledge sharing.

After the inputs we discussed three questions

- Why and how can local actors use tools such as the Water Flow Diagram (WFD) and the Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) to accelerate progress towards SDG6 and the HRWS?
- What is the contribution of partnerships to this process? Or the other way around: can such tools strengthen partnerships?
- If we want to go the same way with the Water Flow Diagram then with the Shit Flow Diagram, what are the next steps?
Reminder the aim is to motivate municipalities around the world to make their own WFDs and engage in partnerships with local actors from academia, civil society and

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- We encourage municipalities around the world to become a Blue Community in order to raise political commitment to addressing water challenges such as inequalities, overexploitation, pollution and lack of hygiene
- We encourage municipalities around the world to engage in partnerships in order to raise financial resources based on solidarity, to harness skills and develop capacities, and to learn from each other how to address different challenges and become more resilient.
- We call for actors such as Solidarité eau and GWOPA to use the water flow diagram as a tool to trigger the above actions.