



Global WASH Implementation Update Meeting 2023

7–8 March 2023, Mövenpick Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

WHO is entering the final phase in the implementation of its [WASH strategy 2018-2025](#), which set out the direction and role of WHO's water, sanitation, hygiene and health efforts within the context of the SDGs and WHO's 13th Programme of Work. Under the strategy, WHO's work to "to substantially improve health through the safe management of water, sanitation and hygiene services in all settings" has been driven by normative guidance, technical assistance, and evidence generation for policy-making by all three levels of the organization.

This work at all levels remains vital, as acceleration in progress is needed so that billions of people can access safely managed drinking-water and sanitation services at home, in health facilities, and in schools¹, and so that WASH systems that underpin that delivery may be optimized². As well, new frontiers have emerged in recent years. An ongoing challenge – and opportunity – for WHO is further mainstreaming climate resilience into its WASH work on norms, monitoring and implementation tools. Climate-related challenges, like WASH challenges in general, manifest themselves especially at the national level, so a key issue for WHO remains how to strengthen WASH work and technical cooperation with and through WHO country offices so that they may more effectively integrate WASH in the larger national health context, systems and thinking.

In this context, the Water, Sanitation, Health and Hygiene Unit (WSH) will invite colleagues from regional and select country offices to participate in the Global WASH Implementation Update Meeting 2023, 7-8 March 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO's continuing response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic necessitated this internal meeting be held virtually in 2021 and 2022. The 2023 meeting will offer colleagues a critical face-to-face opportunity to assess progress under the current strategy, to exchange experiences on a variety of cross-cutting issues within WASH and with other teams and departments in WHO, to identify opportunities to pivot under the current biennium and prepare for the next biennium and strategy period, and to support three-level WASH team building.

Purpose of the event

The aims of the meeting include:

- Conduct informal mid-term review of the implementation of the WASH strategy;
- Address key challenges and opportunities for WHO in relation to WASH and other sectors;
- Share reflections on successes, impact, areas to improve/lessons learned from 2022 and discuss future priorities (2023-2025, 2026-2030);
- Present and discuss key cross-cutting technical areas of work;
- Discuss opportunities for improving operations and support to regions and WCOs; and
- Strengthen and inspire the three-level WASH family.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-07-2021-billions-of-people-will-lack-access-to-safe-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-in-2030-unless-progress-quadruples-warn-who-unicef>

² <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-12-2022-accelerated-action-needed-to-ensure-safe-drinking-water--sanitation-and-hygiene-for-all>

Agenda

Day 1

Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Tea / coffee / welcome
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Welcome and Introductions</i>
09:30 – 11:15	<i>Session 1 Highlights and reflections from 2022: HQ, Regions and Countries</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:45	<i>Session 2 on WHO's role in strengthening WASH systems for health</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:00	<i>Session 3 on using WASH to influence health officials and integrate with health programmes</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Break & Short Social Activity
15:30 – 16:45	<i>Session 4 on evolving WHO WASH strategies and approaches for public health emergency response (disaster, conflict, etc.) and WASH-related diseases (i.e. VBDs)</i>
16:45 – 17:00	End of Day 1
17:00 – 18:00	Networking Hour
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner

Day 2

Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Tea / coffee
09:00 – 09:15	<i>Welcome remarks</i>
09:15 – 10:30	<i>Session 5 on coordinated 3-level technical support for environment, climate and health at national level</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	<i>Session 5 (continued)</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:15	<i>Session 6 on strengthening government accountability and operations through drinking-water and sanitation monitoring, surveillance and regulation</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Break
14:30 – 15:30	<i>Session 7 Summary of the week and looking ahead</i>
15:30	Close
Evening	Dinner (individual choice)

Format

The event will be primarily in-person. Session content will be jointly developed by 3-level teams and include scene-setting presentation, preparatory readings, background reading, and address, through additional presentations or dialogue WHO's current role and engagement with government/partners, what has and has not worked/lessons learned, and propositions or implications for future WHO efforts (technical + resource mobilization)
