

**United Nations World Water Development Report 2019**  
***'Leaving no one behind'***

## ***Launch Presentation: Power Point Script***

**Annex 1: Water resources – key facts (p.15)**

**Annex 2: Main Messages (p.16)**

### **Slide 1: Title**

#### **Script:**

The 2019 edition of the World Water Development Report seeks to inform policy and decision-makers, inside and outside the water community, how improvements in water resources management and access to water supply and sanitation services are essential to overcoming poverty and addressing various other social and economic inequities.

Titled *'Leaving No One Behind'*, the report reinforces the commitments made by the UN member states in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in recognizing the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, both of which are essential for eradicating poverty and for building prosperous, peaceful societies.

The annual World Water Development Reports focus on strategic water issues, and the theme of the report is aligned with that of World Water Day. This flagship report is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water and builds on the expertise of UN-Water Members and Partners.

This latest edition of the annual WWDR is the result of a concerted effort between the Chapter Lead Agencies, FAO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO-IHP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNU-INWEH, UNU-FLORES, UNESCO-WWAP and the World Bank, with regional perspectives provided by UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA. The Report also benefited to a great extent from the inputs and contributions of several other UN-Water members and partners, as well as of dozens of scientists, professionals and NGOs who provided a wide range of relevant material.

### **Slide 2: VIDEO**

**Note:** Clicking on the 'play' icon in the middle of the slide links directly to a YouTube video (1min 20sec) of the 'teaser' for the report.

Displaying this video is optional.

### Slide 3: The human rights to water and sanitation

#### Slide text:

On 28 July 2010, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a historical resolution recognizing “*the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*” (UNGA, 2010, para. 1).

#### Script:

International human rights law obliges states to work towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all, without discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need.

Human rights define individuals as rights-holders entitled to water and sanitation, and states as duty-bearers that have to guarantee access to WASH for all, using the maximum of their available resources.

Fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation requires that the services be available, physically accessible, equitably affordable, safe and culturally acceptable.

‘Leaving no one behind’ is at the heart of the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to allow all people in all countries to benefit from socio-economic development and to achieve the full realization of human rights.

Caution must be taken in order to clearly differentiate between ‘water rights’ and the human rights to water and sanitation. Water rights, which are normally regulated under national laws, are conferred to an individual or organization through property rights or land rights, or through a negotiated agreement between the state and landowner(s). Such rights are often temporary and can potentially be withdrawn. The human rights to water and sanitation are neither temporary nor subject to state approval, and they cannot be withdrawn.

### Slide 4: Billions are being left behind in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (1/3)

#### Figures:

World Maps from JMP on 1) Basic drinking water (**Figure 8**) and 2) Basic Sanitation (**Figure 11**)

#### Script:

**Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights**, as they are indispensable to sustaining healthy livelihoods and maintaining people’s dignity.

Yet billions still lack safe water and sanitation facilities, and people are being left behind for reasons related to their gender, age, ethnicity, culture, migration status, and/or socioeconomic status, among others. Exclusion, discrimination, entrenched power asymmetries, poverty and material inequalities are among the **main obstacles** to fulfilling the human rights to water and sanitation and achieving the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Three out of ten people (2.1 billion people in 2015) do not have access to safe drinking water, six out of ten (4.5 billion people in 2015) do not have access to safely managed sanitation services, and one out of nine (892 million people) practice open defecation, which has huge implications for human health and the environment.

## Slide 5: Billions are being left behind in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (2/3)

### Figures:

1) Water in Luanda and Uige (Angola) (**Figure 7**), 2) Sanitation in Panamá and Guna Yala (Panama) (**Figure 10**), and [\[on click\]](#) 3) Photo of golf course next to slums

### Script:

Global figures on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) often mask **substantial inequities** between and within regions, countries, communities and even neighbourhoods.

A very large level of **variability** can be observed in terms of access to both basic drinking water and basic sanitation within countries, as exemplified by the stark contrasts between the provinces of Luanda and Uige (Angola) for drinking water, and between the provinces of Panamá and Guna Yala (Panama) for sanitation.

[\[Click to photo\]](#)

The contrasts and inequalities can be particularly striking between urban and rural settings within a same country, and even within a single municipality.

## Slide 6: Billions are being left behind in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (3/3)

**Figure:** Average annual impact from earthquakes, epidemics and conflicts, and inadequate drinking water and sanitation, water-related disasters, in terms of [\[on click\]](#) people affected; [\[on click\]](#) people killed; and [\[on click\]](#) economic damage (**Figure 1**)

### Script:

In terms of both the number of people affected [\[Click\]](#) and (especially) the number of people killed [\[Click\]](#), the impacts of floods, droughts and conflicts are **grossly outweighed** by the number of those killed by inadequate drinking water and sanitation services. Note that there are no data available estimating what proportion of these people were 'affected' by inadequate water and sanitation, nor what the resulting overall economic damage would equate to [\[Click\]](#) – but we can safely assume these numbers would be very high.

## Slide 7: Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination (1/5)

### Subtitle: Population growth

**Figures:** 1) Global population growth (**Figure 14**) and 2) [\[on click\]](#) Regional population growth (**Figure 15**)

### Script:

Population growth is a significant driver of increasing water demand, both directly (e.g. for drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and household uses) and indirectly (e.g. through growing demands for water-intensive goods and services, including food and energy).

The global population reached 7.6 billion people as of June 2017. It is expected to reach about 8.6 billion by 2030 and further increase to 9.8 billion by 2050. [\[Click\]](#) Africa and Asia account for nearly all current population growth, although Africa is expected to be the main contributor beyond 2050.

## Slide 8: Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination (2/5)

### Subtitle: Urbanization

Figures: 1) Urban growth rates (Figure 16) and 2) [\[on click\]](#) % of urban population living in slums (Figure 17)

#### Script:

Nearly all net population growth is taking place in cities and the world is becoming increasingly urbanized. Sustainable development challenges will therefore be increasingly acute in cities, particularly in the lower and middle-income countries where population growth and the pace of urbanization are greatest.

[\[Click\]](#) In least developed countries, nearly two thirds (62%) of urban dwellers live in slum conditions. Slums remain most pervasive in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Slide 9

### Title: Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination (3/5)

#### Subtitle: Extreme poverty

Figure: Population living in extreme poverty (Figure 18)

#### Script:

In 2013 (the most recent estimates available), 767 million people (more than 10% of the global population) were living below the international **extreme poverty** line of US\$1.90 per day (2011 PPP)<sup>1</sup>, and 2.1 billion people (about 30% of the global population) were living on less than US\$3.10 a day (2011 PPP).

The absolute number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.85 billion in 1990 to 0.76 billion in 2013. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region that between 1990 and 2013 registered an increase in the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty, although the overall share of people in extreme poverty in the region dropped from 54% to 41% over that period.

The challenges of living in poverty can differ considerably between urban and rural settlements, just like the potential responses and solutions. Improving access to water supply and sanitation services in rural environments will probably require different approaches than addressing the needs of the growing populations of urban centres, where informal settlements (slums) pose a particularly difficult and urgent challenge.

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<sup>1</sup> '2011 PPP' stands for 2011 purchasing power parity. The international poverty line for extreme poverty is US\$1.90 a day 2011 PPP and the 'median' poverty line is US\$3.10 a day 2011 PPP.

Nearly 80% of the extreme poor lived in rural areas. These people must also not be 'left behind' in terms of sustainable development policy.

#### **Slide 10: Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination (4/5)**

##### ***Subtitle: Income inequality***

**Figure:** 1) Income share of Top 1% vs. bottom 50% (**Figure 20**) and 2) Top 10% national income share (**Figure 21**)

##### **Script:**

While the global income share of the bottom 50% earners has oscillated around 9% since 1980, the global top 1% income share rose from 16% in 1980 to around 20% by 2015 (Figure 20).

Income disparity varies considerably across different regions. It is generally lowest in Europe and highest in the Middle East (Figure 21).

#### **Slide 11: Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination (5/5)**

##### ***Subtitle: Education and employment***

**Figure:** Photos depicting education and employment

##### **Script:**

Water and sanitation facilities in schools are fundamental for promoting good hygienic behaviour and children's health and well-being. Lack of latrines and safe water for drinking and hygiene, and otherwise inappropriate and inadequate sanitary facilities, contribute to absenteeism and high drop-out rates, especially among girls when sex-segregated washrooms are missing.

An estimated three out of four jobs are water-dependent. Access to adequate – and gender segregated – WASH facilities in the workplace has been linked to increased productivity, especially among women.

#### **Slide 12: Who is being 'left behind'?**

**Figure:** Photo of faces

##### **Script:**

Different people from different groups are 'left behind' for different reasons.

There are multiple prohibitive grounds of discrimination, but poverty usually figures prominently.

Women and girls regularly experience discrimination and inequalities in the enjoyment of their human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in many parts of the world. Ethnic and other minorities, including indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, people of certain ancestries (e.g. castes), often experience discrimination, as can religious and linguistic minorities. Disability, age and health status can also be a factor, as persons with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments are disproportionately represented among those who lack access to safe drinking water

and sanitation. Differences in property ownership, tenure, residence, and economic and social status can lead to discrimination as well.

The challenges faced by those 'left behind' are directly related to where they live, and that is the approach the WWDR has taken when examining these challenges and potential solutions and opportunities.

### **Slide 13: Urban settings**

**Figures:** 1) Photo of slums (or people lining up to get water) and [\[on click\]](#) 2) Diagram of DEWATS (Figure 6.2)

#### **Script:**

Substantial inequality exists between slum and non-slum households in access to water and sanitation facilities.

Rapid urbanization means that pockets of slum areas will continue to emerge.

In terms of water supply, piped water is the least costly method to transport water in densely populated areas. Where piped networks are unavailable, people mostly rely on wells or community water supply systems (e.g. water delivery through kiosks and vendors, or water trucks). In the latter case, they often pay prices several times higher for water of lesser quality, further exacerbating inequities between the rich and disadvantaged.

People living in informal settlements ('slums') with no formal physical address are regularly excluded from water and sanitation provision schemes. Their lack of legal status – in many cases don't pay taxes and their housing rental arrangements are part of the informal economy – means they are often overlooked by authorities and service providers on the basis that they are 'hidden' or 'lost' in aggregated statistics.

[\[Click to schematic on DEWATS\]](#)

While larger centralized water and sanitation systems provide opportunities for resource-sharing and economies of scale in high-density urban communities, less costly decentralized systems have been shown to be successful in smaller urban settlements, including refugee camps.

The basic principle in terms of selecting the most appropriate technologies is not one of 'best practice', but rather one of 'best fit'. For example, supplying groups of households (rather than individual households) in peri-urban low-income areas and large villages could reduce investment costs while still allowing a better service level for the poorest.

Although water supply systems are sometimes better served with smaller, easily managed networks, the challenges of wastewater and sludge management are often more complex. A main reason is the unwillingness to pay for sanitation services.

## Slide 14: Rural poverty

**Figures:** 1) Photos of people in rural settings and 2) Photo of [\[on click\]](#) 'One million cisterns for the Sahel'

### Script:

The challenges for people in low-density rural areas remain daunting, as they often suffer from even lower access to water and sanitation than the poor living in cities. In such places, shared facilities can offer a more affordable alternative to household-level services, the objective is to bring these facilities closer to people's homes, while ensuring and maintaining their safety and affordability.

But the rural poor also face another critical challenge. As mentioned earlier, nearly 80 % of people living in extreme poverty live in rural areas. The vast majority of the rural poor are smallholder family farmers. While they constitute the backbone of national food supplies – contributing to more than half of the agricultural production in many countries – they themselves often suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition. For Africa, farms up to 2 hectares are estimated to constitute 75% of the farms and operate 24% of the farmland.

Approximately 80% of the global cropland is rainfed, and 60% of the world's food is produced on rainfed land. Supplemental irrigation in rainfed agricultural systems may not only ensure crop survival, but also double or even triple rainfed yields.

Equitable access to water for agricultural production (as well as equipment, knowhow), even if only for supplemental watering of crops, can make the difference between farming as a mere means of survival and farming as a reliable source of livelihoods.

Inequalities in land ownership can translate into unequal access to and benefits from water resources. For example, women's unequal rights to inheritance and land ownership in some countries can directly lead to discrimination with respect to water allocation.

Efforts to ensure secure and equal access to water in rural areas will require continued efforts to increase the visibility of small-scale users with regard to water for irrigation, as well as greater recognition of their contribution to national food security. Water allocations to large-scale users, whether for irrigation or other purposes, must not take place at the expense of small-scale farmers' legitimate needs.

[\[Click to photo 'One million cisterns for the Sahel'\]](#)

The programme 'One million cisterns for the Sahel', coordinated by FAO, aims to promote and facilitate the introduction of rainwater harvesting and storage systems for vulnerable communities. The objective is to enable millions of people in the Sahel to access safe drinking water, have a surplus to enhance their family agricultural production, improve their food and nutrition security, and strengthen their resilience. Besides ensuring access to clean water during the dry season, the programme promotes the participation of the communities in the construction of cisterns through cash-for-work activities. Local communities are trained in the construction, use and maintenance of cisterns for year-round water storage.

## Slide 15: Refugees and forcibly displaced people

**Figure:** 1) Trend of global displacement (**Figure 8.1**) and [\[on click\]](#) 2) Photo of Zaatari refugee camp (Jordan) – on click

### Script:

Away from home, refugees and internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, often faced with barriers to access basic water supply and sanitation services.

By the end of the year 2017, an unprecedented 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, persecution, or human rights violations. Another 18.8 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters – a situation that is likely to worsen because of climate change.

Almost a quarter of forcibly displaced people live in camps, but the overwhelming majority are hosted in cities (often in slums), towns and villages. These refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs) and stateless persons are often not officially recognized by local or national government and are therefore excluded from development agendas.

Mass displacement places strain upon water resources and related services, including sanitation and hygiene, at transition and destination points for both existing populations and new arrivals, creating potential inequalities and a source of conflicts among them.

States are encouraged to avoid 'encampment' policies and pursue policies for the inclusion of refugees/IDPs within host communities, including granting refugees the 'right to work' and 'freedom of movement'.

[\[Click to photo 'Zaatari camp'\]](#)

The Zaatari refugee camp is located in the heavily water-stressed area of northern Jordan. It was initially set up in a haste in a response to the sudden influx of refugees coming from Syria, and hence it lacked proper planning and basic infrastructure. This resulted in outbreaks of measles, scabies, diarrhoea, hepatitis A and other diseases in the months following its establishment, mainly attributed to deficient amounts of clean water and poor sanitation. Tensions were also manifested with neighbouring communities, who had long faced water scarcity constraints and were now seeing their limited resources being diverted and unsustainably consumed.

In response, international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) started working with the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation and with host communities to improve access to clean water supply and sanitation services in the Zaatari refugee camp as well as in neighbouring areas. This included the rehabilitation of existing water wells and drilling of additional wells to respond to the increasing water demands.

Rehabilitation works were also performed on ageing water networks and transmission lines servicing the area. The wastewater collection infrastructure was rehabilitated, and wastewater treatment plant capacities were expanded to accommodate the growing volumes of wastewater generated. In addition to helping the refugees, these collective and cooperative efforts also contributed to improving water infrastructure and services to host communities in this water-stressed region.

## Slide 16: *Walking the Walk*

**Note:** This is a ‘transition slide’ as we move towards the next part of the presentation, focused on what needs to be done.

### **Script:**

So far we’ve painted a pretty bleak picture, but there are several things that can be done to specifically address inequities in water and sanitation and to ensure that “no one is left behind” – namely in terms of funding/financing and good governance.

## Slide 17: Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing (1/5)

### *Sub-title: Funding gap in WASH*

**Figure:** Resources needed to meet *basic and safely managed* WASH services (**Figure 3.3**).

### **Script:**

Current levels of funding towards WASH services are mainly below the capital costs required to meet basic WASH services by 2030 (note that the targets 6.1 and 6.2 of SDG 6 aim at safely managed services for water supply and sanitation, respectively).

A threefold increase in current annual investment levels (to US\$114 billion) would be needed to meet the capital costs required for achieving safe WASH services (SDG target 6.1. and 6.2). As this estimate do not include operation and maintenance costs, the real funding requirements are even higher.

Although government WASH budgets are increasing at an annual (average) rate of 4.9%, over 80% of monitored countries (n=110) report having insufficient financing to attain their drinking water, sanitation and water quality national objectives in urban areas, while this share increases to 90% when referring to rural areas.

## Slide 18: Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing (2/5)

### *Sub-title: Multiple benefits for vulnerable groups*

**Figure:** Selected benefits from WASH interventions, by vulnerable population group (Table 5.1)

### **Script:**

Table 5.1 provides an indication of the relative impact of selected WASH initiatives for various vulnerable groups.

It is highly likely that taking account of the socio-economic benefits generated by improved WASH services, especially for vulnerable groups, would change the balance of any cost–benefit analysis that accounts for changes in these groups’ self-perceived social status and dignity. For example, existing studies indicate that health costs are more burdensome for poorer households than richer ones, such that savings in health-related expenditure would have a multiplier affect across other benefits (education, work productivity, etc.).

## Slide 19: Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing (3/5)

### *Sub-title: WASH makes good socio-economic sense*

**Figure:** Picture of coins coming from the tap

#### **Script:**

Investing in WASH in general, and in WASH services for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in particular, makes economic sense.

Global cost–benefit studies have demonstrated that WASH services provide good social and economic returns when compared with their costs. Evidence generally shows high returns on WASH spending, for example, with a global average benefit–cost ratio of 5.5 for improved sanitation and 2.0 for improved drinking water when broader macroeconomic benefits (as shown in the previous slide) are taken into account.

## Slide 20: Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing (4/5)

### *Sub-title: Reaching the furthest behind first (4/5)*

**Figure:** Photo of boys surrounded by garbage

**NOTE:** If time is limited, this slide can be skipped (although the point of ‘targeted’ interventions for different vulnerable groups remains an important message from the report, it is mentioned as part of the next slide, in the context of HRBA).

Overcoming the financial challenges of fulfilling the human rights to water and sanitation is entirely possible, but it is necessary to identify the most appropriate level of service that is affordable and sustainable for groups in disadvantaged situations.

Service coverage of vulnerable groups should be increased at a faster rate than that of other unserved populations. For example, WASH investments will do the most to reduce childhood deaths from diarrhoeal disease when they target geographic areas where vulnerable populations have little access to WASH services.

## Slide 21: Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing (5/5)

### *Sub-title: Funding sources*

**Figure (words):** 1) Subsidies ; Structured tariffs; and [on click] Blended finance ; National governments ; Official development assistance (ODA) ; Commercial finance ; Private sector

#### **Script:**

The wealthy generally receive high levels of WASH service at (often very) low cost, whereas the poor pay a much higher price for a service of similar or lesser quality.

Because **subsidies** are most often linked to capital expenditures and those are most often focused on relatively well-off communities, the non-poor have often been the beneficiaries of subsidy interventions intended to reach the poor.

Large WASH service providers can use commercial financing and indirectly support vulnerable groups through cross-subsidization. Where this is the case, pricing mechanisms might allow for cross-subsidization between population groups, using a uniform volumetric tariff with a rebate. Ideally, the tariff level paid by the customers who do not receive a rebate should be high enough to repay the principal and interest at commercial terms.

However, increasing the amount of funding and investment alone does not necessarily ensure that WASH services will reach all those who are most disadvantaged. Subsidies must be appropriately designed, transparent and targeted, and **tariff structures** need to be designed and implemented with the objectives of achieving equity, affordability and the appropriate level of service for each targeted group.

[\[Click to additional words\]](#)

In some cases, other funding sources such as domestic tax revenues, grants and private finance may supplement the tariff receipts. **Blended finance approaches** will require potentially complex combinations of development finance, private finance and government subsidies to ensure that all target groups are being reached.

Government alone cannot always take on the full responsibility of ‘providing’ water supply and sanitation services to all citizens, especially in low-income settings. However, it will be incumbent upon **national governments to dramatically increase** the amounts of public funding made available for the expansion of WASH services.

The support of the **international donor community** will remain critical in the developing world but cannot be the main source of funding. Official development assistance (ODA) is particularly helpful in mobilizing investments from other sources, such as commercial and blended finance, including from the **private sector**.

## Slide 22: Good governance: The ‘invisible’ part of water management

**Figure:** 1) Word cloud and [\[on click\]](#) 2) Human rights based approach figure

**Script:** Governance covers the ‘invisible’ part of water management as compared to water-related infrastructure (e.g. dams, reservoirs, pipes, networks, treatment facilities etc.)

Poor design and implementation of existing policies, inefficient and improper use of existing funds and other resourcing and **policy gaps**, due to neglect, under-prioritisation, corruption and resistance, fuel the persistence of inequalities in access to water and sanitation for all and their multiple benefits. Corruption, excessive regulation and/or rigid conformity to formal rules tend to coincide with bureaucratic inertia, increase transaction costs, discourage investments, and potentially derail or hinder water management reforms.

Well-functioning accountability mechanisms help institutions with sufficient capacity fulfil their mandates to monitor and enforce the obligations of service providers.

Having inclusive institutional structures in place for multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation is essential to ensuring equitable access to sustainable water supply and sanitation services.

In the current context of multi-level governance, the role of **non-governmental organizations** (NGOs) in expressing the opinions of civil society and promoting the public's active participation has become increasingly influential in policy formulation. **Large corporations** can also have a great deal of influence over policy-making as well as policy outcomes.

[\[Click to 'Human rights-based approach'\]](#)

**The human rights-based approach** (HRBA) advocates for the fundamental standards, principles and criteria of human rights frameworks. These include non-discrimination and participation that is active, free and meaningful, as well as representation by and for people in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations.

'Good governance' relates to systems that have qualities of accountability, transparency, legitimacy, public participation, justice and efficiency and therefore overlaps with the principles of the HRBA.

As duty-bearers, states have the obligation to facilitate **public participation** and protect peoples' rights to participate in decisions that affect them. Effective participation needs to be free and meaningful with genuine consultation processes: otherwise, participatory processes can turn into unjust and illegitimate exercises of power. Especially important in this respect is the capacity to tailor participatory processes in a way that mitigates power imbalances.

Ensuring that affordable WASH services are available to all requires responses tailored to specific **target groups** in various vulnerable situations. Given that poor and vulnerable groups are not homogeneous, WASH policies need to distinguish between different populations and prepare specific actions to address each of them. **Disaggregated data** (with respect to gender, age, income groups, ethnicity, geography, etc.) and social inclusion analyses are key tools in determining which groups are at greatest risk of being 'left behind', and why.

Improved **institutional capacity** is required to assist and facilitate policy reforms and citizen participation at the appropriate levels of decision-making and policy implementation on the ground. The development of **human capacity** – through vocational, technical and academic training – needs to be supported, especially at the local and community levels, where efforts to achieve progress towards SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 are operationalized.

### Slide 23: Takeaway messages

#### Text (in body of slide):

- **Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights.**
- **Billions are being left behind** in terms of access to water and sanitation.
- The wealthy generally receive high levels of service and often at very low price, while the **poor often pay a much higher price for a service of similar or lesser quality.**
- Ensuring that water is affordable to all requires **policy recommendations tailored to specific target groups.**

- Equitable access to water for agricultural production, particularly for **supplemental irrigation**, can make a difference for farmers' livelihoods.
- **Mass displacement** can strain water-related services for both existing populations and new arrivals, creating inequalities and potential conflicts.
- Investing in water supply and sanitation in general, and for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in particular, **makes good economic sense**.
- **Good governance** overcomes vested interests and exclusionary practices.

**Script:** *No script – presenter can simply read (or ideally paraphrase/summarize) the takeaway messages...*

#### **Slide 24: Coda**

##### **Text (in body of slide):**

*Improved water resources management and access to safe water and sanitation for all is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that 'no one is left behind' on the road towards sustainable development.*

*These goals are entirely achievable, provided exclusion and inequality are addressed in both policy and practice. Otherwise, water interventions will fail to reach those most in need and who are likely to benefit most.*

**NOTE:** If time is limited, this slide can be skipped

**Script:** *No script – presenter can simply read (or ideally paraphrase) the concluding messages*

#### **Slide 25: Good news – momentum is already growing!**

**Figure – screen shot of News:** *World's biggest refugee settlement gets biggest ever waste(water) facility<sup>2</sup>*

##### **Script:**

The UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) and Oxfam have recently put into service the biggest wastewater treatment facility ever built in a refugee settlement in Kutupalong (Bangladesh), the largest refugee settlement in the world.

The facility can process the waste of 150,000 people – 40 cubic meters a day. To put this in context, it's roughly the equivalent of that needed for a population the size of Dijon in France, Savannah in the USA or, in Bern, Switzerland.

The ability to treat large volumes of waste on site, rather than having to transport it elsewhere, is a critical step to safe and sustainable disposal of such waste in emergency situations. This will significantly reduce health risks for refugees and host communities and the likelihood of the

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2019/2/5c540fe74/worlds-biggest-refugee-settlement-gets-biggest-waste-facility.html>

outbreak of disease. For example, more than 200,000 cases of acute diarrhoea were reported in the Rohingya camps in 2018, as well as respiratory infections and skin diseases like scabies – all common in settings where sanitation and hygiene are challenges.

The sludge is transported by waste vehicles that empty out waste from multiple locations in the refugee sites into two massive, tightly covered lagoons where the processing begins. The facility maintains minimal operational and maintenance costs, with the initial investment of developing the site and installing the equipment falling just under \$400,000. The system also benefits local Bangladeshi communities, who have been generously hosting and supporting refugees.

**Slide 26: Thank you**

**Cover page of WWDR 2019, release date, and related web links**

## Annex 1

### Water resources – key facts (for WASH-related metrics, see slides 4, 5 and 6)

- Over 2 billion people live in countries experiencing high physical water stress (**Figure 3**).
- About 4.0 billion people (nearly two-thirds of the world population) experience severe water scarcity during at least one month of the year.
- Levels of physical water stress are likely to increase as populations and their demands for water grow, and the effects of climate change intensify.
- Water quality problems persist in developed and developing countries alike, and include the rise in emerging pollutants and the spread of invasive species.
- Nutrient loadings remain one of the most prevalent forms of water pollution and the majority of nutrient emissions originate from agriculture.
- Worldwide, over 80% of all municipal, agricultural and industrial wastewater returns to the environment without being treated.
- About 90% of all natural disasters are water-related.
- Over the period 1995–2015, floods accounted for 43% of all documented natural disasters, affecting 2.3 billion people, killing 157,000 more and causing US\$662 billion in damage.
- Over the period 1995–2015, droughts accounted for 5% of natural disasters, affecting 1.1 billion people, killing 22,000 more, and causing US\$100 billion in damage.
- Waterborne diseases remain a significant disease burden, especially among low-income economies where 4% of the population (an estimated 25.5 million people, 1 in 25) suffered from diarrhoea in 2015, among whom 60% were children under the age of five.
- Water conflicts can arise because of several factors, including territorial disputes, competition over resources, or political strategic advantage.
- During the period 2000–2009, there were 94 registered conflicts where water played a role as a trigger, as a weapon and/or as a casualty. The period 2010–2018 (up to May 2018) reported 263 registered conflicts. The eruption of armed conflict in several regions of the world during the period from 2010 to 2018 may have influenced this apparent increase.
- Water use has been increasing worldwide by about 1% per year since the 1980s is expected to continue increasing at a similar rate until 2050, accounting for an increase of 20 to 30% above the current level of water use. This growth is driven by a combination of population growth, socio-economic development and evolving consumption patterns.
- Most of the rising demand for water will be come from the industrial and domestic sectors (**Figure 2**). Agriculture's will remain the largest user, but it's overall share is likely to fall in comparison with other sectors.
- Food and energy security, economic development and environmental sustainability are directly dependent upon sound water resources management.
- Access to water resources is often related to land tenure – particularly in rural settings. Less than 20% of the world's landholders are women.

**‘Leaving no one behind’****Main Messages**

*Improved water resources management and access to safe water and sanitation for all is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’ on the path towards sustainable development.*

*These goals are entirely achievable, provided exclusion and inequality are addressed in both policy and practice. Otherwise, water interventions will fail to reach those most in need and who are likely to benefit most.*

**Billions are being left behind****Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights.**

Billions still lack safe water and sanitation facilities, and people are being left behind for reasons related to their gender, ethnicity, culture and/or socioeconomic status, among others. Exclusion, discrimination, entrenched power asymmetries, poverty and material inequalities are among the main obstacles to fulfilling the human rights to water and sanitation and achieving the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**The wealthy generally receive high levels of service at very low price, while the poor often pay a much higher price for services of similar or lesser quality.**

Rapid urbanization means that pockets of slum areas will continue to emerge. People living in informal settlements (‘slums’) with no formal physical address are regularly excluded from reticulated water and sanitation networks and therefore must rely on (usually more costly) alternatives, such as water vendors. While larger centralized water and sanitation systems provide opportunities for resource-sharing and economies of scale in high-density urban communities, less costly decentralized systems have been shown to be successful in smaller urban settlements. The basic principle in terms of selecting the most appropriate technologies is not one of ‘best practice’, but rather one of ‘best fit’.

**Equitable access to water for agricultural production, even if only for supplemental watering of crops, can make the difference between farming as a mere means of survival and farming as a reliable source of livelihoods.**

Three-quarters of people living in extreme poverty live in rural areas. The vast majority of the rural poor are smallholder family farmers. While they constitute the backbone of national food supplies – contributing to more than half of the agricultural production in many countries – they themselves often suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition.

**Refugees and internally displaced people often face barriers in accessing water supply and sanitation services.**

By the end of the year 2017, an unprecedented 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, persecution, or human rights violations. Another 18.8 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters – a situation that is likely to worsen because of climate change. Mass displacement places strain upon natural resources and water-related services at transition and destination points for both existing populations and new arrivals, creating potential inequalities and a source of conflicts among them.

## Overcoming exclusion and inequality

**International human rights law obliges states to work towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all, without discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need.**

Human rights define individuals as rights-holders entitled to water and sanitation, and states as duty-bearers that have to guarantee access to WASH for all, using the maximum of their available resources. Fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation requires that the services be safe, available, physically accessible, equitably affordable and culturally acceptable. A human rights-based approach advocates for the fundamental standards, principles and criteria of human rights frameworks.

**Investing in water supply and sanitation in general, and for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in particular, makes good economic sense.**

Evidence suggests that the return on investment in water supply and sanitation services can be considerably high, especially when broader macroeconomic benefits are taken into account. Although the support of the international donor community will remain critical in the developing world, it will remain incumbent upon national governments to dramatically increase investments. States and utilities are obligated to regulate payments mechanisms to ensure that services are affordable for all. Well-functioning accountability mechanisms help institutions with sufficient capacity fulfil their mandates to monitor and enforce the obligations of service providers. Accountability and improved financial performance can help attract additional external sources of financing and facilitate private sector involvement.

**Accountability, integrity, transparency, legitimacy, public participation, justice and efficiency are all essential features of 'good governance'.**

States have the obligation to facilitate public participation and protect peoples' rights to participate in decisions that affect them. Good governance rises above vested interests and exclusionary practices by moving away from hierarchical power structures and guaranteeing a fair and equitable allocation of water resources to all. Subsidies that promote greater community participation empower vulnerable groups to allocate resources based on their own priorities.

**Responses that are tailored to specific target groups help ensure that affordable water supply and sanitation services are available to all.**

As poor and vulnerable groups are not homogeneous, policies regarding water supply and sanitation need to distinguish between different populations and design specific actions to address each of them. Disaggregated data (with respect to gender, age, income groups, ethnicity, culture, geography, etc.) and social inclusion analyses are key tools in determining which groups are at greatest risk of being 'left behind', and why. When resources are limited, it makes sense to target areas where populations have the least access to services.