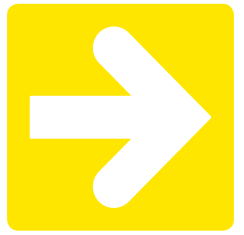




Manifesto

Stand
Up 4
Water



WaterAid/Ernest Randriamalala





Introduction

Stand Up 4 Water

● A group of women carrying water climb up a hill on their way home to the village of Miarinarivo, Madagascar.



Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene should be normal for everyone everywhere. But, today, millions of people have their access denied, simply because of who they are, how much money they have, or where they live. Lacking access to these human rights stops people having an equal chance to be healthy, educated and financially secure.

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), setting out new development priorities for all countries to end extreme poverty by 2030.



SDG 6:

“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” comprises eight targets encompassing the whole hydrological cycle, universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and governance.

Throughout this manifesto and the campaign StandUp4Water, we will use the acronym WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) to refer to all the SDG 6 targets, such as access and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as integrated water resources management, sanitation management, governance and waste water treatment.

The inclusion of SDG6 in the Agenda 2030 is a major milestone in ending WASH poverty and transforming lives, thus contributing to the other SDGs.

Indeed, SDG 6 is one of the most interconnected goals, with access to water, sanitation and hygiene aiding economic development, poverty reduction, education, health, healthy environment and more. Therefore, proper attention to WASH is critical to reach most of the SDGs. Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene makes health and education investments more effective. Moreover, water is a critical source of prosperity if properly managed.

In a context where debates around migration are taking a lot of space on the EU political agenda, we believe that what ultimately matters is that people who want to stay within their communities have access to basic services such as WASH, nutrition, education and healthcare facilities. Tackling water scarcity is key in that context and requires enhanced cooperation between water-using sectors and support to stronger and more effective integrated water resource management (IWRM).

The EU has been a major player in the UN discussions and is a committed frontrunner in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in close cooperation with its Member States including on water-related issues. It therefore has a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership in promoting actions and taking measures that will have a tangible impact on the lives of local communities both in Europe and in the world, focusing on the most marginalized and those who face various forms of discrimination.

We call on newly elected members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to demonstrate leadership by:



Making WASH a priority on the EU political agenda



Supporting investments in the WASH sector



Linking WASH to other SDGs





● Three girls stand proudly outside their brightly coloured toilet block at the Opeta school in Pallisa district, Uganda.

SDG 6 summary

SDG	Issue	World	Europe
6.1 & 6.2	Access	2,3 billion people worldwide (almost 1/3) do not have a decent toilet of their own ¹ and 892 million people defecate in the open ²	In Europe, ³ 14 million people do not have access to a basic drinking-water source, and 62 million people do not have access to piped water on premises (7 out of 10 in rural areas) ⁴
6.1 & 6.2	WASH in schools	31% of schools do not have clean water ⁵	Many schools in the pan-European region are not compliant with national standards or with the WHO guidelines regardless of their economic status. The main issues and challenges identified are the following: lack of cleanliness, of consumables, of privacy and of maintenance ⁶
6.2	Hygiene	Three babies die every five minutes in Sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia from highly preventable causes such as diarrhea, sepsis, meningitis and tetanus – all of which are strongly linked to unhygienic conditions ⁷	A recent study on menstrual poverty in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia revealed that 90% of female students in rural areas do not visit school for 4–5 days while they are on their period ⁸
6.4	Water Scarcity – water use efficiency	Estimates say that 40% of the world's population will experience water scarcity by 2025	17% of Europe's territory and at least 11% of Europe's population have been affected by water scarcity already ⁹



Leadership

1. Take political leadership

Context

The importance of WASH is still not widely accepted and acted upon at EU level despite its relevance for sustainable development and 'water' seen as one of the biggest risks to business (development).¹⁰ For instance, in the period 2014-2020, water was chosen as a focal sector in only 13 partner countries and only 3.5% of EU institutions aid budget is targeted to the WASH sector. However, the recently adopted Council of the EU conclusions on water diplomacy,¹¹ and the upcoming EU human rights guidelines on water and sanitation as well as the EU reference document on water signal a renewed political momentum on WASH on a European level.

What you can do as an MEP

- **Demonstrate leadership in speaking up about the importance of access to safe WASH in Europe and beyond, e.g. through organizing hearings on WASH, submitting parliamentary questions to the European Commission, or proposing resolutions on the human rights to WASH.**
- **Support decision makers at national and local levels to champion WASH through inclusive and participatory approaches, encouraging them to reach out to communities who live in WASH poverty**
- **Ensure that providers of WASH services are held accountable for the quality, accessibility, acceptability, affordability and availability of their services.**

2. Vote for an ambitious EU legislation on water and sanitation

Context

The EU water legislation and policies, including the Water Framework Directive, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, the Drinking Water Directive and the new draft directive on reuse of water, are among the most ambitious pieces of water legislation in the world. They provide exemplary regulatory stepping stones to achieve the SDGs within the EU. Some elements of this unique body of water policy are currently under evaluation and revision.

What you can do as an MEP

- **Ensure that in the current process of evaluation and revision of EU water directives standards are maintained and that the adopted provisions comply with the Agenda 2030.**
- **Vote for a piece of legislation that will enable safe re-use of treated wastewater in different sectors as an important element of a sustainable circular economy.**
- **Call on Eurostat¹² to monitor implementation of SDG6.**



3. Mainstream WASH throughout EU policies and programmes



Context

Achievement of SDG6 will depend on its recognition and mainstreaming within EU policies and programmes including the EU Common Agricultural Policy, the EU Regional and Urban Policy, the LIFE Programme, the EU Neighbourhood Policy, the EU Enlargement Policy, the EU Development Cooperation Programmes, and Horizon Europe (Research and Innovation Programme).

An impact assessment focusing on water availability and quality should systematically be carried out for all relevant EU laws, policies and programmes.

What you can do as an MEP

- **Call on the European Commission to elevate attention to WASH in Commissioners' mandates and promote a mechanism through which a WASH impact assessment is applied to EU investments and policies.**
- **Consider supporting the establishment of a European Parliament intergroup on water that would look specifically at water policies and access to WASH within the EU and across the world.**

4. Use EU external policy tools to further protect the human rights to WASH

Context

The EU is a major global actor. The European Parliament has a role to play in strengthening the EU commitments towards the respect of human rights and the upholding of democracy and rule of law in relations with third partners. It can do so, inter alia, by voicing human rights concerns in multilateral fora and bilateral dialogues, by hosting public hearings and by adopting emergency resolutions. European Parliament Delegations focusing on specific countries or regions are also a relevant place to raise awareness on WASH poverty.

What you can do as an MEP

Call on the European Commission, the Council and the Member States to:

- **Apply EU external policy tools so that they contribute to fully respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights to WASH.**
- **Ensure that WASH is prioritized in relations with partner countries from the African-Caribbean-Pacific regions¹³ (through the upcoming post-Cotonou agreement) and from Eastern Europe (EU Neighborhood Policy).**
- **Demonstrate leadership in ensuring that the EU contributes to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 including SDG6 and water-related targets.**



- **Local entrepreneur Kenechukwu introducing new toilet designs for sanitation marketing, Enugu state, Nigeria.**



Investments and finance

1. Support sector strengthening for sustainable services

Context

Long-term Investments in Europe for water (century old) infrastructure are lacking or insufficient to manage, restore and upgrade them and to respond to new challenges (circular economy, removing hazardous pollutants, micro-plastics and recover nutrients from discharges).

However, meeting the SDG targets for water and sanitation will not only require significant increases in sector investment; it will also require a different way of doing business. There is increasing recognition that sector strengthening, and system building are central to building high-performing WASH sectors that can deliver services that are both inclusive and sustainable. Evidence shows that the operation of well-coordinated and well-planned sectors with strong institutions are necessary conditions for the step change in sector performance needed to achieve universal access by 2030, and that financial and institutional strengthening is needed to ensure that capital investments translate into effective service delivery, restoration of our ecology and disaster prevention.

There is a huge emerging lack of professionals and capacity to deal with all water-related issues. Investing in and encouraging vocational training for women and youth is a necessity.

● Julius Chisengo, Group Operator UMAWA, (left) and Cleophas Shinga, Group Operator UMAWA, (right), start to empty a pit latrine in Kigamboni Ward, Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam City, Tanzania.



What you can do as an MEP

- **Ensure that the EU investments are directed towards strengthening the systems and institutions needed to deliver and sustain water management and inclusive WASH services, in particular in all public facilities (e.g. healthcare establishments and schools).**
- **Ensure investments in water and sanitation infrastructures incorporate capacity building, maintenance and operations.**



2. Finance

Context

More and better finance is needed if SDG 6 aspirations are to be achieved. Strengthening domestic resource mobilisation (DRM) should be the primary approach to financing sustainable universal access to WASH. It is essential for eradicating poverty, empowering low income communities and enabling developing countries to take ownership of their development strategies. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is still vital in low-income country contexts but at current levels is far too low. Though international private flows are likely to play an increasingly important part, it is crucial to remember that it is no substitute for grants and concessional finance, especially for poorest, most fragile, conflict-torn countries.

What you can do as an MEP

- **Support development finance for WASH with a focus on ODA within the framework of EU budget¹⁴ negotiations and implementation.**
- **Support all initiatives aiming at enhancing domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries.**
- **Raise awareness on the need to ensure that financing from private and official lending does not usher in a new post-2015 debt crisis.**
- **Call for careful evaluation of public-private partnerships to ensure that services are affordable especially for poor people, include transparency and accountability mechanisms, and offer long-term value for money.**



● Nurse Grace Nabenga Lufu talking to masons making final touches on newly installed water tank reservoir that will supply Kakora Dispensary with constant water all the time. Nyanghwale District, Tanzania.





Linking WASH to other SDGs

The WASH sector has a huge potential to contribute to prosperity as two thirds of the jobs in the world are depending on 'water'.¹⁵ WASH is also a key determinant of sustainable and human development overall.

1. Climate change

Context

- **In Europe:** The impacts of climate change are becoming more apparent across Europe, bringing severe health implications for the children and older people, as well as increased pressures on water supplies.

- **In developing countries:** Africa is expected to warm up to 1.5 times faster than the global average while the continent accounts for only 2-3 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions from energy and industrial sources. The impacts will be felt through water and sanitations as flooding and droughts interrupt existing services, while those without basic water supplies will struggle to adapt to an increasingly unpredictable climate. Indeed, these communities who have done the least to cause carbon emissions, are already the ones already paying the price, through increased water prices, and days lost to illness.

- Above: Representative of WWF India showing HSBC Water Programme visitors work being done to protect the Ramganga river at the the WWF Ramganga Choupal (Community Visitor Centre) in Moradabad, India.



What you can do as an MEP

Raise awareness on WASH as essential elements of climate change adaptation and ensure that climate finance investments are also used for adaptation.

In particular:

- **Encourage governments to operationalize and integrate water, sanitation and hygiene services into all national climate and disaster risk reduction programmes and strategies.**
- **Ensure that international climate financing is invested in adaptation and resilience measures and support all countries to urgently complete a National Adaptation Plan, which includes support on water adaptation and mitigation measures protecting vulnerable communities.**
- **Call on EU member states and partner countries to ensure that their voluntary national reviews (VNR) include reporting on SDG 6 and 13.**

2. WASH and human development



Context

- Around the world, girls miss school or even drop out when they menstruate; both because of the lack of facilities available to them as well as taboos on menstruation.
- 50% of undernutrition is associated with infections caused by unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and insufficient hygiene.¹⁶
- 45% of health care facilities in least-developed countries, and 1 in 4 globally, do not have a clean source of water on site.¹⁷

What you can do as an MEP

- **Ensure that EU health, nutrition and education policies and programmes comprise a WASH component, to make them more effective.**
- **Raise awareness on the links between the human rights to WASH, to health and to education.**

- Ramsha washing hands at the WASH facility in Government Middle School Kalarwala in the village of Kalarwala, District Muzaffargarh, Province Punjab, Pakistan.



3. WASH, gender equality and women participation

Context

Access to WASH has a transformative effect particularly on the lives of women and girls. Removing the burden of fetching water allows women and girls to engage in activities including education and work and makes their lives as farmers better. Moreover, women and girls are at risk of abuse and sexual assaults when fetching water or when looking for a private place to urinate or defecate and they feel ashamed during menstruation due to a lack of inclusive facilities, adequate hygiene practices, and supply of quality sanitary materials. Accessing water and sanitation thus contributes to their safety, dignity and participation to the society. For women with disability or elderly women inadequate access is even more challenging.

What you can do as an MEP

- **Ensure that EU gender equality policies and programmes comprise a WASH dimension so that they meaningfully contribute to women and girls' empowerment and that gender is mainstreamed within EU WASH policies and programmes.**
- **Ensure that EU development programmes aiming at supporting vocational training in the water sector are also open and targeted to women so that they can be better represented in professions such as plumber or hydrologist.**

References

¹ WHO/UNICEF (2017): Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2017 update and SDG baselines.

² Ibid.

³ Understood here as UNECE excl. north America / Pan-European region

⁴ European regional report - Regional Process Commission at the 8th World Water Forum, <http://8.worldwaterforum.org/en/regional-process-commission>

⁵ JMP (2018) Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools; Global baseline report

⁶ "The situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European region", WHO Regional Office for Europe and UNECE, 2016, page 35, http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/322454/Situation-water-sanitation-hygiene-schools.pdf

⁷ Calculated from WHO Global Health Observatory 2016 data on 'Causes of child mortality'. Available at <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.COCD?lang=en> (accessed 12 Mar 2018).

⁸ "Tackling the taboo of menstrual hygiene in the European Region", WHO Regional Office for Europe, <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/news/news/2018/11/tackling-the-taboo-of-menstrual-hygiene-in-the-european-region>

⁹ European regional report - Regional Process Commission at the 8th World Water Forum, <http://8.worldwaterforum.org/en/regional-process-commission>

¹⁰ The Global Risks Report 2016 11th Edition, page 11, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GRR/WEF_GRR16.pdf

¹¹ On 19 November 2018, the Council adopted conclusions on water diplomacy. The Council recalls that water is a prerequisite for human survival and dignity and a fundamental basis for the resilience of both societies and the environment. Water is vital for human nutrition and health, and essential for ecosystem management, agriculture, energy and overall planetary security: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/11/19/water-diplomacy-council-adopts-conclusions/>

¹² Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union. Eurostat is called to regularly monitor progress towards the SDGs in an EU context.

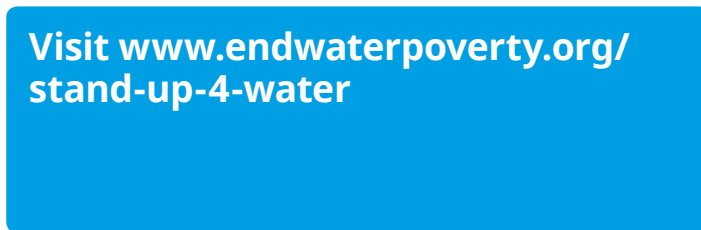
¹³ E.g. by liaising with the parliamentarians from ACP countries during the bi-annual meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA)

¹⁴ Multiannual financial framework (MFF)

¹⁵ 2016 UN World Water Development Report, Water and Jobs, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2016-water-and-jobs/>

¹⁶ Prüss-Üstün A, Bos R, Gore F, Bartram J. Safer water, better health: costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health. World Health Organization, Geneva, 2008. https://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/saferwater/en/

¹⁷ JMP, 2019: WASH in Health Care Facilities, Global Baseline Report



● Front: "Our village is very dusty and I get dirt after playing so I often wash myself and drink water here." Petsy at their water point in Tsararivotra village, Bevato commune, Madagascar.

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