



## SUB-REGIONAL

### SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

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#### 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

## **Climate resilient and inclusive WASH with a particular focus on inclusive sanitation management and service delivery for marginalized groups in South Asia**

**Wednesday 22 May, 14.50-16.20 Uhr (Indonesian Time)**

**Room: Jakarta A&B, Roundtable 208 Seats**

Session code: RP6

#### **Session Coordinators**

- Manohara Khadka, IWMI Nepal Email : M.Khadka@cgiar.org +97798020211131
- Santosh Nepal, IWMI Nepal; Email : S.Nepal@cgiar.org; +97798020211131
- Ms Kusum Athukorala, Women for Water Partnership, Sri Lanka

#### **Background**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are crucial for public health and well-being, yet they remain major challenges in South Asia, a region prone to climate change and natural and human-caused disasters. Access to improved water has increased from 73% to 93% since 1990. However, over 134 million people still do not have access to improved drinking water. Similarly, significant progress has been made in recent years towards improving sanitation coverage, with the proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities increasing from 30% in 2002 to 87% in 2022. Despite this progress, over half of the region's population lacks access to safely managed sanitation facilities, leaving millions vulnerable to preventable diseases and health hazards.

South Asia is highly vulnerable to both natural and anthropogenic disasters. Each year, floods, cyclones, droughts, and earthquakes displace and bring suffering to millions of people, particularly pregnant and lactating women, persons with disability, and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Around 12.5 million people were displaced in South Asia in 2022 due to natural disasters. Insufficient access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and inadequate hygiene practices exacerbate the situation for those affected by disasters, leading to a rise in waterborne diseases and hindering recovery efforts. Particularly in rural areas, limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation facilities, and poor hygiene practices contribute to health problems and hinder overall well-being. Many rural communities lack proper infrastructure for water supply, sanitation, and waste management, leading to the contamination of water sources and the spread of waterborne diseases. Applying a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) lens to the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector in South Asia is essential as it focuses on identifying and addressing the specific challenges faced by women, persons with disability, and other groups of people marginalised due to caste, gender, ethnicity, geography, and religion. Thus, the region needs to prioritise inclusive water security and access, as well as safely managed sanitation and equitable sanitation services.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to achieve universal access to safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene in households, healthcare facilities, schools, and institutions, prioritising the needs of the poorest and marginalised groups while setting a higher standard of service. However, progress towards meeting the SDGs is slow. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF suggest that to meet SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, progress must be five times faster in rural areas globally and ten times faster in least developed countries.

### **Objectives and session outputs**

The session, which will be coorganised by International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Asia Pacific Water Forum, Women for Water Partnership, UNICEF, Smart WASH Solutions and Water for Women, will address the issues and obstacles related to inclusive and climate-resilient WASH, with a focus on sanitation management and service provision in South Asia, focusing on marginalised groups. The conversation in this session will involve various stakeholders who will lead the efforts to make the water and sanitation sector more climate-resilient and enhance inclusive sanitation management and service delivery in South Asia. The session will include a presentation on the outcomes of the South Asia regional consultation held on 29 April 2024 and interactive panel discussions to address challenges and barriers, and solutions for improving inclusive WASH in South Asia. The expected outcomes will be :

1. Increased awareness of the vulnerability of the WASH sector to climate change and extreme events
2. Improved understanding of gender equality, disability inclusion, and social inclusion in the WASH sector, ensuring equitable access to water security and safely managed sanitation
3. Key recommendations for the governments to prioritise climate-resilient and inclusive WASH policies in their policy frameworks and investment must be secured to achieve this.
4. Improved understanding and collaboration between WASH and other pertinent sectors, such as Water Supply, Health, and multiple water resource usage, are essential.
5. Enhanced understanding of the need for a holistic perspective and systematic investment to make the existing WASH system inclusive and climate-resilient.

### **Detailed Session plan:**

Master of ceremony : Dr Jayati Chourey, SaciWATERs

<b>ESTIMATED TIMING</b>	<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>	<b>SPEAKERS STATUS</b>
5 min	Welcome remarks	<b>Ms Kusum Athukorala</b> , Women for Water Partnership	Confirmed
5 mins	Opening remarks	<b>Dr Eduardo Araral</b> , vice chair, APWF Governing Council	Confirmed
10 mins	Special remarks	<b>Hon Shakti Bahadur Basnet</b> - Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal	Confirmed
10 min	Outcomes from the South Asia Regional Session	Ms Arinita Maskey, UNICEF	Confirmed
50 mins	Panel discussion: Way forward for inclusive and climate-resilient WASH		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are South Asia's major challenges and barriers to inclusive and climate-resilient WASH services?</li> <li>• How could we address the challenges of resource gap, political commitment and funding priorities for addressing inequality and marginalisation in the climate-resilient WASH, especially sanitation services in the region ?</li> <li>• What does South Asia need to do differently in research, policy, and practices to promote inclusive and climate-resilient WASH ?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr Santosh Nepal</b>, Researcher- Water Resources and Climate Change, IWMI</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Mahreen Matto, Team Lead, National Institute of Urban Affairs (Dasra-NFSSM Alliance), India <b>(Confirmed)</b></li> <li>• Dr Darshan Karki, IWMI (Nepal) <b>(Confirmed)</b></li> <li>• Mr Amar Gunathilleke, MARGA Institute, Sri Lanka <b>(Confirmed)</b></li> <li>• Dr Alison Baker, Water for Women, Australia <b>(Confirmed)</b></li> </ul> <p>Questions/Answers</p>		
5 mins	Special remarks	<b>Hon Jeevan Thondaman</b> , Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development, Sri Lanka	Confirmed
5 mins	Concluding remarks with main takeaways	<b>Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata</b> , Director of Water-Growth and Inclusion, IWMI	Confirmed

**Total: 90 mins**

**Organised by:** IWMI, Asia Pacific Water Forum, Women for Water Partnership, UNICEF, Smart WASH Solutions, Water for Women

