



## REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

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

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

Room: Jakarta A&B, Roundtable 208 Seats

Session Title:

Session code: RP6

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

*Sub-Region : South Asia*

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Coordinator 1 : Dr Manohara Khadka, Country Representative, IWMI Nepal

Coordinator 2 : Dr Santosh Nepal, International Researcher, IWMI Nepal,  
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Sub-regional Synthesis Session Description (300 words):

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. Floods, cyclones, droughts, and earthquakes annually displace millions, especially vulnerable groups like pregnant and lactating women, children, and the socio-economically disadvantaged. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strive for universal access to safe WASH services, prioritising the most vulnerable and setting higher standards. However, progress is slow. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF indicate that to achieve SDG 6 and eliminate inequalities, progress must accelerate fivefold in rural areas globally and tenfold in the least developed countries. Urgent action is needed to meet these targets and ensure a healthier and more equitable future for all.

This session addresses 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. Women, children, and individuals with disabilities encounter specific difficulties in accessing WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) services, especially in rural areas. Climate change has impacted water access for



domestic uses, including sanitation. The lack of inclusivity in WASH policies and practices exacerbates these vulnerabilities. Moreover, there is a pressing need to adapt WASH systems or facilities to be climate-resilient in the face of the climate crisis. 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.

### **Key messages from your Sub-region (2 maximum)**

1. South Asia is very vulnerable to climate change, and WASH sectors are constantly on the brunt of climatic and non-climatic related changes
2. Those most impacted by inadequate WASH services are marginalized groups, and especially women, girls, people with disability and socio-economically disadvantaged groups.
3. In South Asia, ensuring equitable access to water security, safely managed sanitation, and other critical aspects of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) through Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) is crucial.

### **Concrete outcomes (e.g. Initiatives, practices, dialogue, commitment, etc.) (5 maximum)**

1. Increased awareness of the vulnerability of the WASH sector to climate change and extreme events
- b 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:**

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 min	Welcome	Ms Kusum Athukorala, Women for Water Partnership	Confirmed
10 mins	Opening remarks	Hon Jeevan Thondaman - Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure, Sri Lanka	Confirmed
10 min	Outcomes from the South Asia Regional Session	Arinita Maskey, UNICEF	Confirmed
60 mins	<p>Panel discussion: Way forward for inclusive and climate-resilient WASH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are South Asia's major challenges and barriers to inclusive and climate-resilient WASH services and systems?</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 and systems 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: Dr Santosh Nepal, IWMI</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Alison Baker, Water for Women, Australia (Confirmed)</li> <li>• Dr Mahreen Matto, Team Lead, National Institute of Urban Affairs (Dasra- NFSSM Alliance), India (Confirmed)</li> <li>• Dr Darshan Karki, IWMI (Nepal) (Confirmed)</li> <li>• Secretary, Government of Nepal (TBC)</li> <li>• Mr Amar Gunathilleke MARGA Institute Sri Lanka (Confirmed)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Nazmun Nahar, Country Coordinator, Bangladesh Water Partnership (TBC)</li> <li>• Ms Lajana Manadhar, FANSA</li> </ul> <p>Discussions/QA</p>		



5 mins	Concluding remarks with main takeaways	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Director of Water-Growth and Inclusion, IWMI	Confirmed
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**Total: 90 mins**