

Saturday, March 8, 2025

International Women's Day

Date and Time: Saturday, March 8 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8th March, a way to emphasise and celebrate the importance of advancing gender equality which is more crucial than ever.

Throughout the world, **women are at the frontlines of climate change** and it's impacts on water security. With primary responsibility for meeting caregiving and household water needs, including for sanitation and hygiene (WASH) purposes, women are water and WASH experts in their communities.

Investing in women benefits everyone. Women hold often untapped local and traditional knowledge that can help solve context-specific climate challenges and strengthen community resilience. Communities with women leaders tend to be stronger, more resilient, more equitable, and better equipped to face the challenges posed by climate change. Yet women remain underrepresented in decision-making about water, WASH, and climate change at all levels - from local to international bodies.

With the 2030 deadline on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in sight, we must mobilise the diverse experiences and wisdom of women and for a safe, just, and climate-resilient future. We must **invest in women to accelerate progress on [SDG6](#) and build a peaceful and fairer future for all.**

Saturday, March 22, 2025

World Water Day

Date and Time: Saturday, March 22 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Water is at the centre of the climate crisis and has the power to unite communities and countries or spark conflict. Equitable access to clean water, safe sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is fundamental to climate-resilient and socially cohesive communities, and critical to safeguarding the health of our precious water resources and wider ecosystems.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) is underpinned by a commitment to **leave no one behind**, and as a cross-cutting goal, [Sustainable Development Goal 6 \(SDG6\)](#) - Water and sanitation for all - is critical to progress on all SDGs. However, all targets of SDG6 are currently lagging.

Today:

- Some [2.2 billion](#) people still live without safely managed drinking water, including 115 million people who drink surface water
- Around [1.8 billion](#) people do not have drinking water on-premises, and in two out of three of these households, women are primarily responsible for water collection
- Roughly [half of the world's population](#) experiences severe water scarcity for at least part of the year
- Diarrhoea caused by dirty water, poor toilets and insufficient hygiene kills a staggering [444,000](#)

children annually, and contributes to high levels of malnutrition and stunting.

Climate change is felt most acutely through water

Too little, too much, polluted, contaminated, disputed - throughout the world, the effects of climate change are experienced most acutely through water. Over the past 50 years, water-related disasters have dominated the list of disasters and account for 70% of all deaths related to natural disasters. In the same period, the average number of extreme droughts has also increased 233%.

The latest United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) 2022 Global Assessment Report highlights some emerging trends that will further impact on water quality, availability, accessibility and security. According to the report:

- Droughts likely to increase by 30% between 2001 and 2030
- Disasters are set to increase by 40% annually, and
- Extreme temperature events are projected to almost triple.

During times of water insecurity or scarcity, women and girls are among those worst affected – more vulnerable to gender-based violence, abuse, and ill-health, more likely to be caught up in water conflict, and largely precluded from educational, economic, and social opportunities for extended periods to collect water for their families and communities. By 2050, the United Nations predicts that climate change could push an additional 158 million women and girls into poverty.

<https://calendar.waterforwomenfund.org>