



# UN World Toilet Day 2023

Improving sanitation in slum areas

– main challenges, knowledge pools, how to get going for accelerating change ?



Introduction by Bo N Jacobsen & Ida Holm Olesen – EWB-DK

# UN World Toilet Day

- **World Toilet Day (WTD)** celebrated each year on 19 November – since 2013
  - raises awareness of the 3.5 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation.
  - It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
  - First celebrated in 2001 by the World Toilet Organization: [www.worldtoilet.org](http://www.worldtoilet.org)
- This year's WTD theme has focus on **'Accelerating Change'**  
Advocating for:  
*Be the change you want to see in the world* ->
- **UN Water**
  - publishes each year an overall announcement [link](#)
  - supported by more documents, e.g., a factsheet related to the theme freely available in several languages, e.g., [link \(EN\)](#)



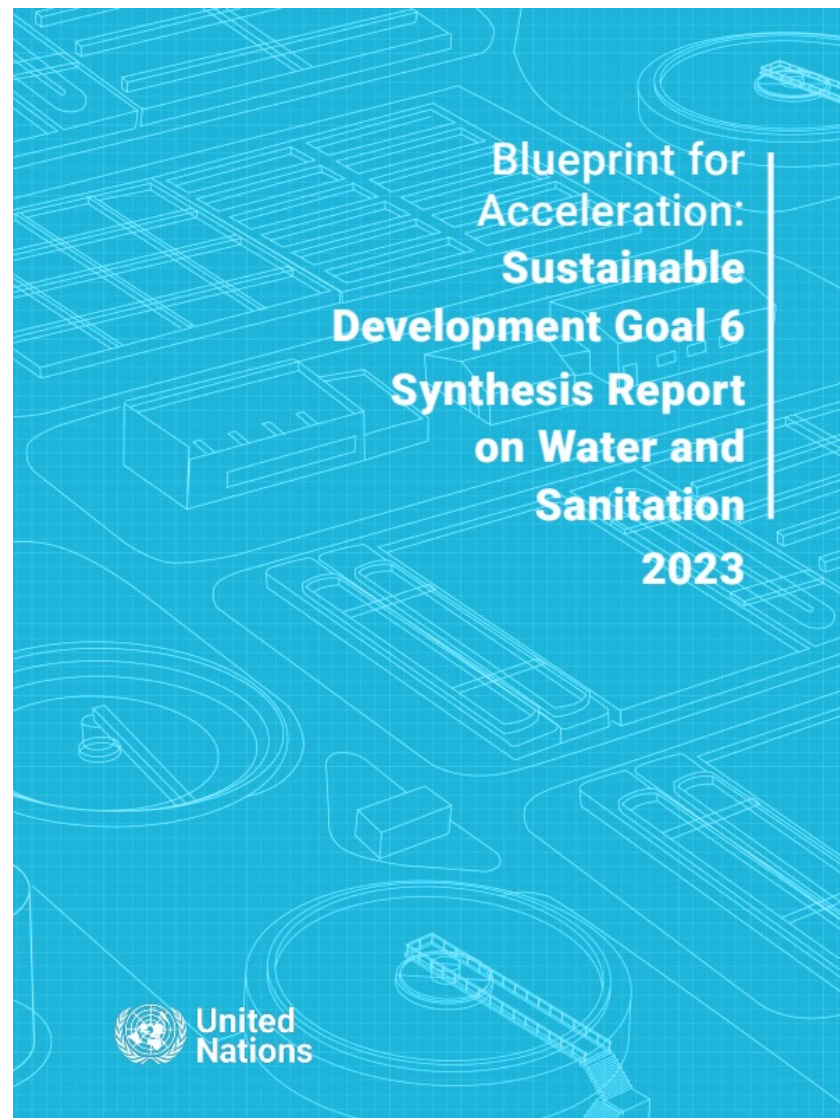


WTD 2023 factsheet from UN Water  
- background information and key references

More in-depth synthesis from UN Water  
- overall trends and (too slow) progress



[link \(EN\)](#)



[Link \(EN\)](#)

# Bridge the gaps

- Considerable pools of knowledge and data already exist, e.g.
  - Ressource recovery
  - Reduction of water use
  - Efficient urban water management
  - Community involvement
  - Standardized solutions
  - Health related water microbiology
- Sharing and dissemination of this knowledge is key to acceleration of improvements
- Discussed in workshop at International Water Association (IWA) World Congress September 2022 and a congress in May 2023 held by Global Water Operators Partnership's (GWOPA, UN-Habitat).
- IWA Workshop Summary Report is freely available [here](#) as well as presentations from the workshop [here](#).
- GWOPA workshop accesible here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qxs4ApmsDM>

## IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 11 – 15 September 2022 | Copenhagen, Denmark



Appendix A: Library of relevant links for inspiration and help for future projects

Data and reports from UN:

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/> and in particular  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-11/>  
Entire report available here: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>

2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html>

Urban Population Living in Slums by Country or Area 1990 2018 (Thousands)  
[https://data.unhabitat.org/datasets/cd4e1deb72ea49bd8f34038a9edcfe6d\\_0/explore](https://data.unhabitat.org/datasets/cd4e1deb72ea49bd8f34038a9edcfe6d_0/explore)

Informal settlements vulnerability mapping: <https://data.unhabitat.org/pages/slum-data-surveys>

From SDI (Slum Dwellers International)

[www.sdinet.org](http://www.sdinet.org)  
[www.codohsapa.org](http://www.codohsapa.org)

Data: <https://sdinet.org/explore-our-data/> (more data can be obtained from SDI by request)

# Key messages

- The WASH-challenges in urban informal settlements are essentially challenges of urban governance. Urgent actions are required as the Least Developed Countries ([LCDs](#)) have a rising proportion of their population living in urban informal settlements.
- It is crucial to establish and maintain local ownership through the entire process from planning to implementation and maintenance of WASH-facilities in informal settlements.
- There is a huge potential for accelerating improvements by bridging the gaps between existing pools of knowledge and data. (Library of links in summary report)

# Urban governance – as seen from UN Habitat

- Urban policies and legislative frameworks rarely prioritize WASH
- Lack of a citywide WASH service vision
- Low government expenditure for WASH resulting in a huge financing gap
- Lack of clarity in the mandates, roles, responsibilities and relationships among national and subnational institutions
- Most public water utilities in LDCs suffer from a wide range of interrelated institutional weaknesses
- Inadequate data to guide decision-making on service delivery, investments, regulation, planning and accountability.

# “Don’t talk about us without us” – as seen from SDI

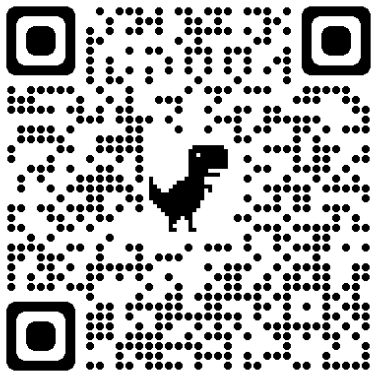
*- Advice offered by the urban poor themselves, represented by the organisation Slum Dwellers International*

- They are the ones paying for overpriced water in jerry cans and using drainage ditches as toilets
- It is a MUST to include the slum-dwellers from the beginning of the process and to invest time and patience in reaching consensus among representatives of the various subgroups
- The slum-dweller communities are used to working independently of external sources and instead make use of the local workforce. Enabling one community will spread the good ideas to others
  - Initiate pilots in one community but involve at least four other communities to prime the dissemination of the good ideas

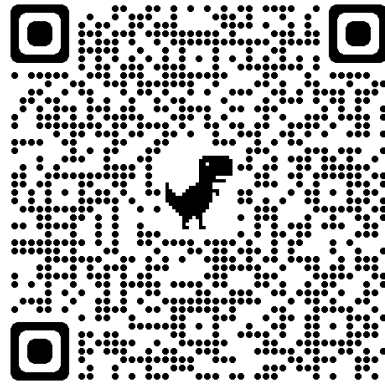




Summary report  
from IWA  
workshop:



Presentations from IWA  
workshop:



### Presentations at workshop given by

- Hezekiah Pireh, UN Habitat
- Yirah O. Conteh, Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- International Water Association Specialist Groups:
  - Non-Sewered Sanitation: Konstantina Velkushanova, IHE Delft /Jay Bhagwan, Water Research Commission, South Africa
  - Efficient Urban Water Management: Stuart White, Univ. of Technology Sydney, AU
  - Resources-Oriented Sanitation: Kai Udert, EAWAG, CH.
  - Sanitation and Water Management in Developing Countries: Markus Starkl, BOKU, AT
  - Health Related Water Microbiology: James Ebdon, Univ. Brighton, UK
- Facilitator: Bo N. Jacobsen, Engineers Without Borders DK
- Rapporteur: Ida Holm Olesen, Engineers Without Borders DK

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The 5<sup>th</sup>  
Global WOPs  
Congress

GWOPA  
Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance

UN-HABITAT