

# Resilient water services – a critical line of defence against climate change

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**WaterAid**

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# 1

## Why Water & Climate?



There are many reasons why people may not be able to access the water services they need.

Weak  
governance

Inadequate  
finance

Environmental  
damage

Lack of  
political drive

Climate  
change

# Climate Change: The Facts

- Climate change is happening and happening now. Average temperatures are 1 degree higher than they were a century ago and further rises are already locked in.
- The effects are already being felt with changes to the patterns of extreme weather events.
- About 90% of all natural disasters are water related. Increasingly we will face situations of either too much or not enough water as droughts and floods become more frequent and extreme.
- About 4 billion people, representing nearly 2/3 of the world population, experience severe water scarcity during at least 1 month/year.

# Climate Change: WaterAid's message

This is a matter of environmental and social justice: the people that have contributed to least to global warming are hit hardest.

For many people, safe WASH is the difference between coping and not coping with climate change.

Having a reliable source of clean water during drought – plus a toilet and sanitation systems that can withstand flooding and a handwashing station to protect against illness - reduces the overall disease and livelihood risks faced particularly by poor and marginalised communities.





## What is WaterAid doing?

- Where there are risks we are boosting community capacity to measure and manage water resources.
- Ensuring programmes are sustainable in the face of threats eg flood protection measures.
- Working with governments and water sector to strengthen systems to respond to dynamic threats.



# Realising climate-resilient WASH

To adapt to climate change, all communities will need access to sustainable and resilient basic services. How to get there?

## 1. CLIMATE FINANCE

10-fold increase in climate finance for WASH adaptation, with specific investment commitments from:

- Donor governments in line with the spirit of UNFCCC pledges
- Multilateral institutions – short term boost in readiness funding to improve quality of evidence and programmes that can be scaled up to support Sustainable Development Goals.



# Benefits of climate-resilient WASH

## 2. ADAPTATION PLANNING

- National governments (LDCs) ensure WASH is a central pillar in climate adaptation plans, including in Nationally Determined Contributions (accountable through official UNFCCC process) and National Adaptation Plans (non-binding) at a minimum/

## 3. WORKFORCE CAPACITY

- Multi-sector coalition established to conduct climate-sensitive national level research into capacity needs;
- National governments (LDCs) develop and fund the human capacity (people and skills) needed to manage and deliver climate resilient WASH services, through including in NDCs, NAPs and Green Climate Fund bids



A young girl with dark skin is smiling broadly, her eyes closed in joy. She is wearing a yellow and brown patterned headscarf and a pink top. Water is splashing around her, and a white rope is visible in the foreground. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

# Thank you!

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