



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

T4D1 Turning crisis into opportunities: how Civil Society Engagement helps solve water issues

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

Fraser Goff, Systems Strengthening Technical Lead, WaterAid Australia, fraser.goff@wateraid.org.au, +61413399729

Dr. Shashidhar Shirahatti, Professor & University Head of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad India, ssshirahatti@gmail.com, +91 9481546426

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

When communities face either one or multiple severe issues, especially when risk planning and mitigation is inadequately prioritised, crises can result. Environmental hazards, over-exploitation of water resources and natural disasters can cause sudden or slow-onset crises affecting water security and service quality. Social disturbances such as violence and war can impact infrastructure and contribute to community displacement. Community dissatisfaction with water services, or inadequate regulation of pollution and water source protection can contribute to crises of confidence and public trust. All of these issues may be further exacerbated by a changing climate and its impact on the water cycle.

Strong governance and cooperation between diverse actors is critical to predicting, preventing and managing water crises. Civil society can contribute to preparation and response to crises as convenors and facilitators of stakeholder engagement, as researchers and innovators, by providing technical knowledge, and as mobilizers that can bring the public, service users, service providers and regulators together for greater resilience to crises.

This session is dedicated to the territories in the world where these crises (droughts, floods, overexploitation of resources...) are occurring with the greatest severity and intensity. We consider how civil society stakeholders are involved in crisis preparation and response, what is working and what isn't, and how those lessons can be used to improve existing governance models. Speakers will share practical examples from across Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Americas of the contributions of diverse civil society organisations.

The objectives of this session are to:

- Examine different crises affecting water and consider what stakeholder engagement is required to enable appropriate responses in different contexts.
- Focus on the role of different stakeholders, especially civil society, in water governance during times of crisis.
- Share good practice and examples of civil society engagement in addressing crises facing water.

The expected outcomes for participants in this session are:

- Ideas for promoting the active participation and involvement of different stakeholders in crisis preparedness.
- Knowledge of innovative mechanisms for cooperative governance.
- A deeper understanding of the roles of civil society to prepare for and respond to disasters and crises.

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
13:00 - 13:05	Introduction	Fraser Goff	
13:05 - 13:15	Scene setting: Lessons learned from inclusive stakeholder involvement and public participation in addressing water challenges	Prof. Sharon Megdal, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, USA	Confirmed
13:15 - 13:25	Measuring participation in water governance through Brazil's Water Governance Observatory	Murilo Sant'Anna, Consorcio PCJ, Brazil	Confirmed
13:25 - 13:35	Addressing water risks through Joint Sector Review in Papua New Guinea	Turea Wickham, World Vision Papua New Guinea	Confirmed
13:35 - 13:45	Youth Resilience in Crises: supporting water and sanitation systems amidst the ongoing war in Sudan	Gazi Nouman, Sudan Youth Parliament for Water, Sudan	Confirmed
13:45 - 13:55	Strengthening community management of water supply risks in the Solomon Islands	Sheilla Funubo	Confirmed
13:55 - 14:05	Engaging stakeholders in addressing transboundary water crises	Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission: US Section	To be confirmed
14:05 - 14:25	Panel discussion/Q&A	Fraser Goff, moderator	Confirmed
14:25 - 14:30	Concluding remarks	Shashidhar Shirahatti	Confirmed