

Thematic Area 1: The art of achieving universal and safely managed services

1.0 Thematic Area 1:

The theme title for thematic area 1 is **The art of achieving universal and safely managed services**. Participants joining sessions under this thematic area will seek to reflect and debate on what works and what doesn't work in a bid to attain the targets under SDG6 for safely managed WASH services.

Specifically, participants will learn and share experiences and practices about the following:

1. Area-wide approaches to planning universal access
2. Area-wide approaches to safely managed service delivery with urban and rural utilities, national and decentralised area wide service delivery approaches
3. Systems strengthening for markets and self-supplied water and sanitation at scale
4. Leveraging partnerships to achieve district wide universal water, sanitation, and hygiene services

Participants targeted for thematic 1 sessions will be from a wide range of stakeholder groups including governments – both political and technical, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, donors, development partners, civil society organisations, young professionals and interested individuals. These include WASH partners, practitioners, implementers, policy makers, advocates, academia, private sector and interested individual participants from across Africa and beyond.

2.0 Thematic area 1 will have 6 main sessions and a plenary:

- **Leveraging partnerships to achieve district-wide universal water, sanitation, and hygiene services for all:** Case study of Asutifi North District, Ghana - SDG6 calls for clean water and sanitation for all. According to the latest development reports, the world is not on track to achieve this goal by 2030. This session discusses how area-wide approaches to planning are being implemented, how to fast track and some of the early successes from Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia and Rwanda.
 - **Area-wide approaches to safely managed service delivery with urban and rural utilities (parts 1 and 2)** - This session will focus on different mechanisms and strategies of reaching the unserved, pro-poor segment of the population with safe water services. The session will also look at public-private partnerships, professional and sustainable management of water supply systems.
 - **National and decentralised area-wide service delivery approaches** - This session will focus on the use of service delivery models at national and decentralised levels in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Uganda, and how these have improved functionality of rural water points, strengthened the management of sanitation in cities and the roles of local government as service authorities.
 - **Systems strengthening for markets and self-supplied water and sanitation at scale** - This session will focus on systems strengthening for markets and self-supplied water and sanitation at scale with special interest in the viability of small and medium enterprises in WASH service provision, as well as prepayment modalities for rural water supplies.
- **Plenary session panel** - The Plenary session will set the pace for discussions on new and proven models for urban and rural service delivery and utilities in Africa. Focus will be on area-wide approaches to planning and strengthening systems for rural and urban utilities, markets, and leveraging partnerships to achieve district wide universal services.