

# Introducing water, sanitation and hygiene systems strengthening

## Course plan and learning journey



How does this course work?

This online course is designed to equip all UNICEF personnel and partners with a better understanding of what water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems strengthening entails and your role in it. It has been created by a partnership of UNICEF, IRC, Water For People and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), with funding from the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch government.

This course brings together the latest thinking from all over the world.

### For whom is this course?

This course is developed for UNICEF personnel and partners that want to learn more about water, sanitation and hygiene systems strengthening.

No prior knowledge of water, sanitation or hygiene service delivery is required. More specifically, professionals working for:

- Regional and national governments
- Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, multilaterals, bilaterals, private organisations
- Training institutes, consultants and experts working on systems strengthening

### Learning objectives

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- understand what WASH systems strengthening entails and your role in it.
- identify opportunities for strengthening WASH systems in your context.

### Course activities

The activities in each session of this course are different, but expect to:

- EXPLORE tools
- UNDERSTAND key finance terms
- SEE examples of ways to strengthen finance
- HEAR podcasts by finance experts
- CREATE your own presentation on finance for WASH in your context
- CONNECT with other participants by sharing your perspective and getting inspired by others
- CHECK your understanding with quiz questions
- TEST your knowledge to earn a certificate

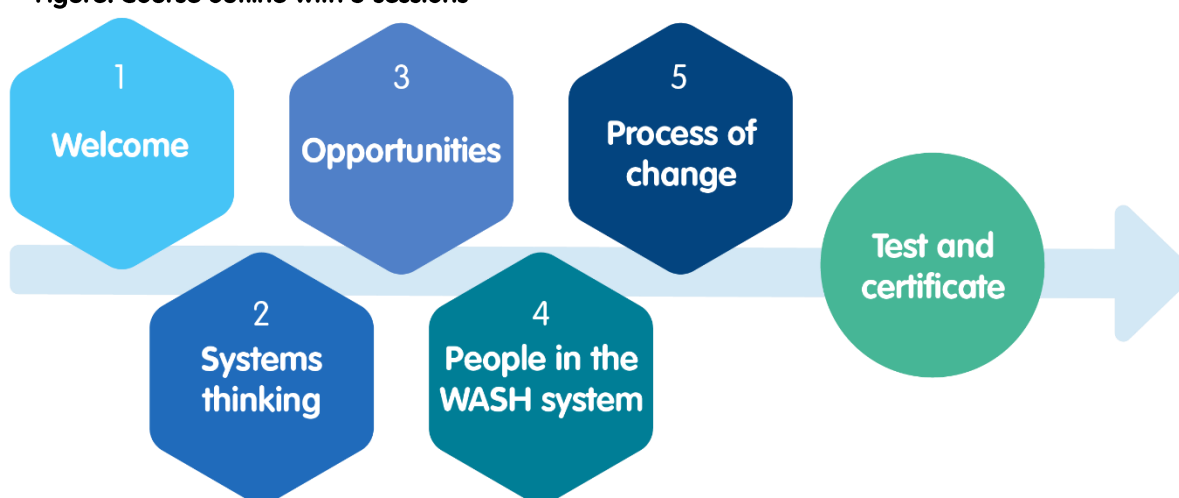
## Course outline

This course consists of 5 sessions.

- Session 1: Welcome
- Session 2: Introducing systems thinking for universal safe WASH services
- Session 3: Opportunities for WASH systems strengthening
- Session 4: People in the WASH system: roles and responsibilities
- Session 5: The process of WASH systems strengthening and change
- Test on sessions 1 to 5, certificate and feedback

It's recommended that you work through the course in consecutive order (i.e., from 1 to 5) completing each session before moving to the next session.

**Figure: Course outline with 5 sessions**



### Testing your understanding

This course has one multiple-choice test:

- Test 1 after Session 5: containing questions on sessions 1 to 5. You can take the test as many times as you like.

### The certificate

After successfully completing the test on sessions 1 to 5, with a score of 80 per cent or more correct, you can download a digital certificate of completion.

### Course duration

The estimated course duration is eight hours. Each session has an average estimated duration of 60 minutes.

### How to work offline

You can download all the session texts of the online course in the 'Course resources' tab. This allows you to follow (part) of this course offline. But you will need to connect with the online platform to participate in forum discussions, answer poll questions and test your knowledge in the multiple-choice tests.

## Code of conduct

To ensure all participants can enjoy this course, please adhere to this simple code of conduct:

- Do not judge the ideas of others
- Be respectful of other points of view
- Let ideas flow – be creative
- Freewheel – build on other people’s ideas

## Language

This course is available in English and French.

## Course contact

Anu Paudyal Gautam [apgautam@unicef.org](mailto:apgautam@unicef.org)

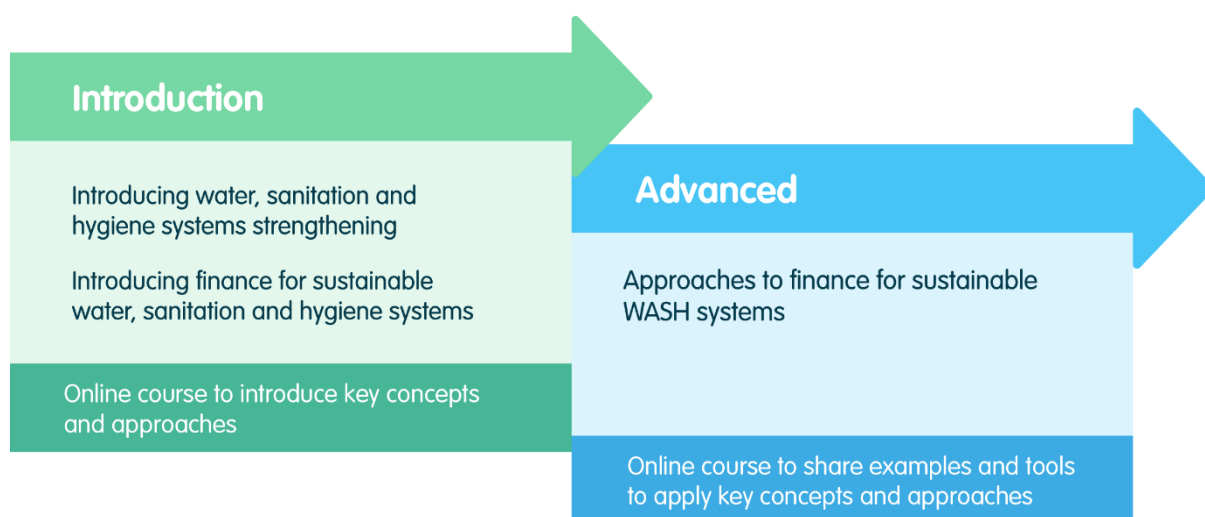
## Learning journey



Be a WASH systems champion

This course is part of three online courses (see Figure below) selected by the partnership for WASH systems in Africa (of UNICEF, IRC, Water For People).

**Figure: WASH systems strengthening learning journey with two introduction and two advanced courses as described above**



Through the introduction and one advanced course on WASH systems strengthening and WASH finance anyone, can learn what it takes to create sustainable services and be part of the change needed to leave no one behind.

All three online courses are free on both UNICEF's [Agora platform](#) and IRC's [WASH Systems Academy](#) in English and French. All courses are offered as self-paced and self-guided courses, which you can start at any time.

The two introductory courses introduce key concepts and approaches, and the advanced course shares examples and tools to apply key concepts and approaches.

See the Figure below for the key topics discussed in each course.

**Figure: Key topics discussed in each of the WASH finance courses**

Online course	Key topics and terms discussed
Introducing water, sanitation and hygiene systems strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systems strengthening approach</li><li>• Collective action</li><li>• Leaving no one behind (LNOB)</li><li>• Actors in the WASH system</li></ul>
Introducing finance for sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life-cycle costs</li><li>• Three Ts of finance (taxes, tariffs and transfers)</li><li>• Finance strategies</li></ul>
Approaches to finance for sustainable WASH systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilize more funding through taxes, tariffs or transfers</li><li>• Use repayable finance</li><li>• Use innovative approaches such as blended finance, climate finance</li></ul>