

All systems go

Africa

Press Kit and Media Release



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About the All systems go Africa symposium

Uniting to accelerate the vision of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Drive change and get a front-row seat to state-of-the-art thinking and experiences at the All Systems Go Africa symposium dedicated to strengthening water, sanitation, and hygiene systems.

The symposium is hosted by the Government of Ghana, IRC and UNICEF. It will bring together service authorities, providers, and users to explore and act on opportunities to build effectiveness and resilience into water, sanitation, and hygiene service delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through a mix of high-profile public discussions, creative workshops, and technical conference sessions, the event will showcase promising initiatives, convene strategic conversations, and inject momentum to ongoing initiatives to strengthen water, sanitation, and hygiene systems across the 54 countries of the continent.

Systems thinkers and public experts will challenge one another to move from theory to practice to achieve the ambitious water, sanitation and hygiene targets that have been set by national governments in Africa and across the globe.

Learn more about this exclusive event: www.ircwash.org/all-systems-go-africa

Media release

18 October, 2022

Basic is no longer good enough! uniting for systems change to achieve clean water and sanitation for all in Africa.

ACCRA, GHANA – 18 OCTOBER 2022 – The Government of Ghana, IRC and UNICEF are challenging systems thinkers and public experts to advance a strong and clear agenda for system strengthening if African governments are to achieve and sustain the ambitious targets for water, sanitation and hygiene services for all by 2030.

In March 2000, African leaders signed up to the vision of **an Africa where there is sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation that are safe and adequate to meet basic needs of all by 2025.**

22 years on, 395 million Africans still lack access to safely managed drinking water and 504 million live without

safe sanitation services. While there remains a huge deficit in infrastructure, many of the available facilities are inadequately managed, breakdown prematurely, or are poorly regulated, underfunded, and fall short of the dignified public service standards put forward in the human right to water and sanitation.

So why has so little progress been made during the past 20 years? The response is that without strong and resilient systems that work well, the water, sanitation and hygiene sector in Africa, as elsewhere else, fails.

Systems are all around us, delivering essential services that we rely on. Education, health, road traffic – in each case, we interact with these systems daily. When they work well, systems are unnoticed by the people they serve. When they don't, the failure is obvious: the flight is cancelled, the electricity shuts down, the tap opens but no water comes out.

The All systems go Africa symposium happening from 19-21 October hosted by the Government of Ghana in Accra, and organised in partnership with IRC and UNICEF, provides Africa the opportunity to kick-start a continental agenda that will focus efforts towards achieving effective and resilient governance, management and operating systems for water, sanitation and hygiene.



“We are all very aware of the complex systems and interrelationships the water and sanitation sector have with our economies. The All systems go Africa platform provides the platform to make key strategic decisions that will deliver better value to the people we serve. I am convinced that with your inputs, this symposium will be an important turning point for the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector in Africa.”

Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah,
Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Republic of Ghana.

Editor's notes

About All systems go Africa

Uniting systems thinking with technical expertise and public policy to accelerate the vision of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Systems thinkers and public experts will unite to challenge one another to make the changes required to achieve the ambitious water, sanitation and hygiene targets that have been set by national governments across the continent. Through a mix of high-profile panel discussions, creative workshops, and technical conference sessions, the event will showcase promising initiatives, convene strategic conversations, and inject momentum into ongoing initiatives to strengthen water, sanitation, and hygiene systems across the 54 countries of Africa.

Join us for an inspiring, interactive and memorable event.

When: Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 October 2022
Where: Kempinski Hotel | Accra, Ghana
Social media: @mswrgovgh @IRCWASH @UNICEF #AllSystemsGoAfrica
Contact: Abubakari Wumbei, Communications Learning and Advocacy Coordinator, IRC Ghana
T +233 (0) 302 797473/74 | Email: wumbei@ircwash.org communications@ircwash.org
Spokesperson: Juste Nansi, IRC Director Africa Regional Programme
Press kit: [Branding guidelines and suggested photos](#)



Quotes by WASH systems leaders and experts



‘Progress is too slow, yet 2030 is fast approaching. It is NOW up to us to build strong systems that will accelerate the delivery of safe water sanitation and hygiene services for all, for good.’

Juste Nansi, IRC Director Africa Regional Programme



‘Everyone needs safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene to enjoy a healthy life and contribute to economic growth. This can only be achieved and sustained by strengthening national systems.’

Bethlehem Mengistu, Global Coordinator, Agenda For Change

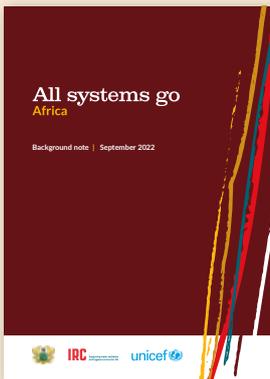


‘Children and families have the right to access safe water and improved sanitation. It is also a prerequisite for social development and economic growth. If countries allocate adequate resources and strengthen systems, they will have a better chance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 13 on Clean Water & Sanitation and Climate Action. Let’s invest in the future of children.’

Anne-Claire Dufay, UNICEF Representative in Ghana

WASH systems resources

Find out more about how IRC, UNICEF and partners are driving water, sanitation and hygiene systems change



[All systems go Africa background note](#)

Videos and campaigns on YouTube



[It's about strengthening WASH systems](#)



[All systems go Africa blog](#)



[Strong WASH systems: the importance of master planning](#)



[Strong WASH systems: playing the hub role](#)



[Key water, sanitation and hygiene publications Recommended publications for All Systems Go Africa](#)



[Strong WASH systems: political buy-in and leadership](#)

All systems go Africa partners and sponsors

IRC

IRC is an international think tank actively building strong water, sanitation and hygiene systems – from the bottom up and the top down. We exist to support countries to build strong local and national services, underpinned by resilient systems, that transform lives and build equity, justice and opportunity for all.

www.ircwash.org

UNICEF

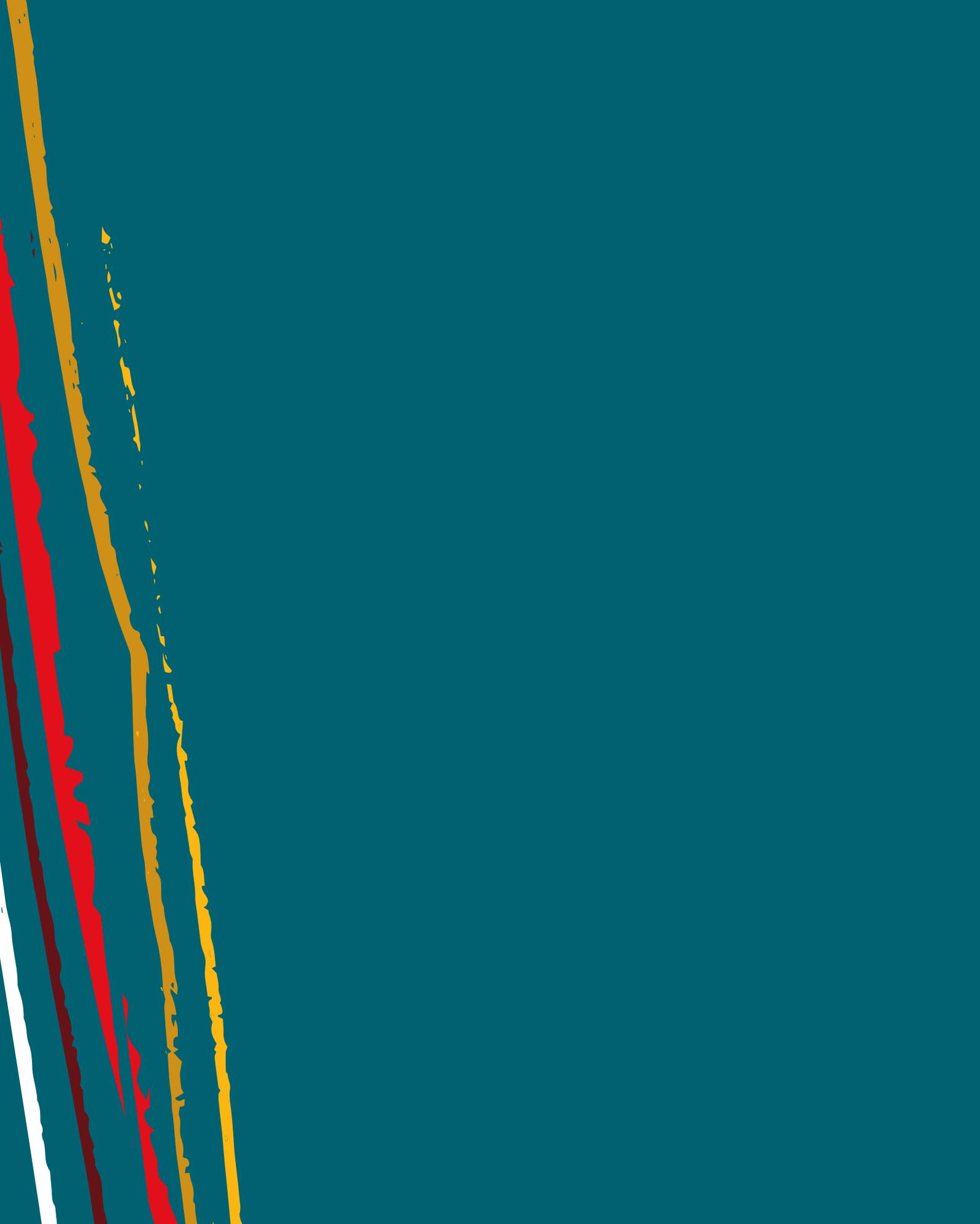
UNICEF is dedicated to advancing the rights and development of children and their families across 190 countries in the world, particularly the most vulnerable and excluded. In the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, UNICEF works to support governments to:

- Identify challenges and gaps that hinder the accelerated progress in the sector
- Develop evidence-based policies and strategies and support their implementation for sustainable improvement in the sector and
- Model innovative approaches addressing the identified challenges, focussing on equitable and affordable access, especially targeting women and girls from the low-income families.
- Share best practices and knowledge that impacts on social behaviours and norms.

Together with partners, UNICEF promotes collaborations for better reach to the most vulnerable populations and those left behind.

Special thanks to our symposium partners and sponsors





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and hygiene services for life

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