

IMPACT REPORT

Environmentally Sound and Climate Resilience
Transformation of Humanitarian WASH



Funded by:

2024-2025

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ON THE COVER:

A woman stands next to the installed water station in Somali region, Ethiopia.



Acknowledgement

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all colleagues and partners that contributed to the successful implementation of the *Environmental Sound and Climate Resilient Transformation of Humanitarian WASH (ECT WASH)* project in 2024 across 13 countries. This impact report reflects the collective efforts of all stakeholders and would not have been possible without their dedication, collaboration and shared commitment to achieving sustainable, environmentally friendly and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions.

Special thanks to our funding partners, the German Federal Foreign Office and Aktion Deutschland Hilft, our implementing partners, local communities and government agencies, who have worked tirelessly to support and advance the project's goals. The unwavering commitment to addressing climate change and improving WASH services in vulnerable settings has been instrumental in driving positive change.

We are particularly grateful to the dedicated project teams in each country for their hard work and resilience in adapting to complex challenges and ensuring the success of project interventions. The impact of this project is a direct result of their passion and leadership.

We also acknowledge the valuable input from community members and stakeholders who shared their perspectives and experiences, shaping the project's design and outcome. Their participation and engagement were crucial in ensuring the project is both inclusive and impactful.

Finally, we thank all those whose contributions, both seen and unseen, have helped to make this project a beacon of hope and transformation in the face of climate challenges.

Together, we are building a future where sustainable and climate sensitive WASH solutions are accessible to all.

From the Desk

of the Program Manager of the ECT WASH

2024 has brought significant challenges for many across the globe – from escalating geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts to economic uncertainties, as well as the pressing need to tackle climate change. These are intricate issues that no single organization can address on its own.



A hand washing facility installed at national highschool in Lycée National de Saint-Jean du Sud, Haiti.



Two women and a man stand near the garbage bins provided by the project in Mali.

Thus, in our ECT WASH project, we find reasons to be hopeful: It reinforces the belief that together we can make meaningful progress on the world's most urgent and complex challenges. As we reflect, we celebrate the progress made through our commitment to community-based, climate-resilient and humanitarian WASH interventions in 13 countries. This year, we have witnessed the transformative power of local action in

addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change and ensuring access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in some of the most vulnerable settings.

Climate change continues to amplify risks for millions worldwide, intensifying water scarcity, flooding, and the spread of waterborne diseases. For many communities, these

challenges are no longer distant threats but everyday realities. Our approach has centered on placing communities at the heart of climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts as well as of our emergency response, ensuring that solutions are locally driven, inclusive, and sustainable.

Through partnerships with grassroots organizations, local leaders, and governments in some settings, we have strengthened the capacity of communities to adapt to changing environmental and climate conditions. By integrating local knowledge with innovative nature-based technologies, we supported initiatives such as community-based climate monitoring in Central America, renewable energy-based infrastructures in Africa and the Middle East, nature-based water filtration and community-led total sanitation in Asia. These interventions have not only addressed immediate needs but also laid the foundation for long-term resilience. Furthermore, we also encourage local communities to develop an anticipatory action plan, early warning system and disaster risk reduction management plan to mitigate and adapt to the uncertain situation due to climate change, conflict and extreme weather events that affect the humanitarian situation in their areas. The development is coupled with the signing of the Climate and Environment Charter for our humanitarian partner organizations to commit to reducing the impact of climate change by accelerating our work and mobilizing others to do the same.

We have also prioritized inclusivity in our programs, recognizing that women, children, persons with

disabilities as well as other marginalized groups are often the most affected by climate-related WASH challenges. By actively involving these groups in decision-making and implementation, we have fostered equitable inclusive access to WASH services in humanitarian settings and empowered communities to take ownership of their future.

The stories emerging from our projects this year have been both humbling and inspiring. From communities transforming springs into sustainable water sources to families' support for climate monitoring, these successes highlight the resilience and ingenuity of people when provided with the right support.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to scale community-based climate-resilient humanitarian WASH interventions. By continuing to listen, learn and adapt, we are confident that we can build a future where every individual has access to safe water, dignified sanitation, and the tools to thrive in the face of climate challenges as well as preparedness for disaster risks due to climate change.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of transformation. Together, we are creating lasting impact for the communities in the most vulnerable situations around the world.

Katja Laudemann
Global Program Manager of ECT WASH
Arbeiter Samariter Bund



A group of men tried the constructed well supported by the programme in Tahoua Region, Niger.

The ECT WASH 2024 - 2025 at a Glance

Honduras

Target areas: 16 communities in Choluteca Region
Implementing partner(s): ASB Latam and APEDES
Specific approach:
The project in Honduras follows an integrated and climate-adaptive approach to water management, food security, and disaster resilience, safeguarding community ownership and sustainability. It strengthens **local water governance by formalizing and training Water Boards (JAA)**, while promoting climate-resilient agriculture through irrigation systems, productive plots, and hands-on training in sustainable farming practices. Community-led infrastructure development ensures long-term water resource management, combining technical capacity building with local participation. The project also enhances disaster preparedness by equipping local governments and community leaders with risk reduction strategies and emergency planning. Additionally, a **decentralized WASH capacity-building model** assures that local leaders, schools, and households adopt sustainable sanitation and hygiene practices, reinforced by infrastructure improvements and environmental safeguards (NEAT+) to align interventions with ecosystem conservation and climate adaptation efforts.

Nicaragua

Target areas: 10 communities in Esteli and Madriz Regions
Implementing partner(s): ASB Latam
Specific approaches:
The project in Nicaragua follows a **community-driven and climate-resilient approach to water management, ensuring local ownership and sustainability**. It strengthens Potable Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS), trains community leaders and women in WASH governance, and engages youth through the Agroclimatic Youth Network, which enhances climate monitoring and early warning systems. Community-led infrastructure development is integrated into municipal and national planning frameworks, ensuring that water systems are designed, implemented and maintained with active local participation. Additionally, the project incorporates climate adaptation strategies like solar-powered water pumps and rainwater harvesting, along with disaster preparedness and environmental safeguards, aligning WASH interventions with ecosystem conservation and risk reduction efforts.

Haiti

Target areas: 6 sections in South and Grand Anse Region
Implementing partner(s): ASB Haiti
Specific approaches:
The project strengthens **inclusive and climate-sensitive WASH services** by collaborating with government agencies and local actors to rehabilitate water points, construct sanitary facilities, and implement waste management solutions. Moreover, the project prioritizes accessibility, gender sensitivity, and disaster preparedness by training local stakeholders, promoting early warning systems, and integrating environmental risk assessments using tools like NEAT+. Through participatory planning and coordination with key institutions, ASB Haiti enhances community resilience, ensuring sustainable WASH solutions that address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term climate adaptation.

Lebanon

Target areas: 4 communities in North and Akkar Regions
Implementing partner(s): arche noVa, Mada Association and Tankamel Sawa
Specific approaches:
The project in Lebanon takes a holistic and climate resilient approach by integrating key interventions such as **the solarization of water stations, community engagement, water management awareness, drip irrigation, agroecology demonstration plots, water ponds, and DRR components**. It is also committed to sustainable and equitable water use by actively involving communities in decision-making through Community Led Total Water Management. Using Climate Smart WASH and Agriculture practices, it enhances resource efficiency and long-term sustainability through solar powered water supply systems, efficient drip irrigation, and agroecology. Furthermore, the project employs **nature-based solutions to mitigate environmental impacts and build community resilience**. This includes developing eco-friendly water ponds and implementing flood-resistant infrastructure, all contributing to a more adaptive and sustainable water management system

Iraq

Target areas: 3 villages in Salahaddin Governorate
Implementing partner(s): ASB Iraq
Specific approaches:
The project focuses on strengthening climate-sensitive WASH services by **rehabilitating water supply systems, constructing gender-sensitive sanitation facilities, and promoting sustainable irrigation practices**. The project integrates environmental risk assessments, including NEAT+, and collaborates with local authorities, universities, and NGOs to enhance disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Through capacity-building workshops, awareness campaigns, and early warning systems, the project ensures community resilience while advocating for sustainable water management policies. By fostering local leadership and supporting climate action initiatives, the project contributes to long-term environmental sustainability and improved WASH access in Salahaddin Governorate.

Ethiopia

Target areas: 9 villages in Somali Region
Implementing partner(s): arche noVa and OWDA
Specific approaches:
In Ethiopia, the project uses a holistic approach to maximize the impact of the activities, combining **community-centered participation with cross-sector collaboration**. By involving stakeholders in every stage of decision-making, project partners ensure that solutions reflect local needs and priorities. Partnering with local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders helps the project to optimize resources, expand the reach, and enhance the project's long-term sustainability, resulting in more inclusive and effective interventions.

Niger

Target areas: 7 villages in Tahoua department

Implementing partner(s): ASB Niger and Adkoul

Specific approaches:

The project enhances climate-sensitive WASH services by **rehabilitating water points, constructing inclusive sanitation facilities, and promoting safe hygiene practices in conflict-affected communities.** Furthermore, the project strengthens disaster preparedness by establishing water management committees, training local actors in risk reduction, and implementing community-based early warning systems. Inclusive approaches ensure the participation of women, children, and displaced populations in all activities. By integrating environmental risk assessments and sustainable water management strategies, the project supports long-term resilience and improved WASH access for communities in vulnerable situation in the Tahoua region.

Mali

Target areas: 26 villages in Gao department

Implementing partner(s): arche noVa Mali and NoHo

Specific approaches:

In Mali, arche noVa and partner NoHo implement climate-sensitive WASH initiatives to improve water access, sanitation and hygiene in conflict-affected communities. The project strengthens **governance structures for sustainable water management, rehabilitates water points, and promotes innovative irrigation techniques like solar-powered drip systems.** Inclusive community participation ensures that women, youth, and vulnerable

groups shape decision-making processes. Additionally, early warning systems and environmental risk assessments help communities adapt to climate change. Through capacity-building, advocacy, and engagement with local authorities, the project enhances resilience, supports sustainable livelihoods, and fosters long-term environmental stewardship in the Gao region.

Somalia

Target areas: 10 IDP settlements in Galmudug State

Implementing partner(s): arche noVa and ASEP

Specific approaches:

In Somalia, the project adopts a community-led and **conflict-sensitive approach** to ensure activities align with “Do No Harm” principles. Local, trusted staff with strong knowledge of conflict resolution mechanisms are engaged to provide feedback on potential impacts of project activities on local tensions. Moreover, **close collaboration with local authorities** and community representatives helps identify beneficiaries and ensures activities are implemented in ways that promote ownership and sustainability. Furthermore, **locally appropriate technologies and materials are prioritized,** empowering communities to lead and maintain project interventions. All of this then followed by strict data management protocols to safeguard confidentiality and support conflict-sensitive programming.

Somaliland

Target areas: 5 villages in Hawd Region

Implementing partner(s): arche noVa and OWDA

Specific approaches:

The project is driven by close collaboration with authorities at all levels, ensuring alignment with national and regional WASH and DRR strategies and securing government support for sustainability. **Active community participation, with equal involvement of men and women, fosters local ownership and inclusive decision-making.** Strong partnerships with local authorities, community leaders, and NGOs enables coordinated responses tailored to community needs. Capacity building efforts equipped both communities and partners with the skills to maintain WASH systems long-term and DRR plan, while effective teamwork among project staff ensure smooth implementation and timely delivery of activities.

Bangladesh

Target areas: 9 wards in Khulna Region

Implementing partner(s): CDD

Specific approaches:

The intervention focuses on enhancing **inclusive climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, WASH, health, and rehabilitation services,** by emphasizing the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and women in the community. The approach stresses **the development of localized early warning systems, sustainable livelihoods, and climate migration support while strengthening existing humanitarian and disaster management committees.**

Myanmar

Target areas: 10 villages in Kachin Region

Implementing partner(s):

arche noVa, Sopyay Myanmar Development and Ethic Equality Initiative

Specific approaches:

The intervention concentrates on addressing the **urgent humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Kachin State by providing essential support in gender-sensitive WASH, shelter, and learning opportunities for affected communities.** While not

part of an international appeal, the intervention aligns with local and sectoral strategies to maximize impact through collaborative efforts.

Indonesia

Target areas: 4 villages in Central Java and Yogyakarta Special Territory

Implementing partner(s): ASB South and Southeast Asia, Fidakama and FDTP

Specific approaches:

To bridge the gap in **safe water, sanitation, and disaster preparedness** in the target villages, ASB SSEA implements an **inclusive, community-driven approach** that combines **sustainable sanitation and hygiene practices** (following the five pillars of Community-Led Total Sanitation/STBM in Indonesia) with **disaster resilience strategies.** This ensures that all community members—especially those most at risk—have access to **clean water, safe sanitation, and the knowledge and systems needed to prepare for and respond to disasters.**

The Philippines

Target areas: 6 barangays in Southern Leyte and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Implementing partner(s): ACCORD

Specific approaches:

In the Philippines, **rainwater harvesting** has been identified as a key solution for disaster preparedness, particularly in water-scarce and hazard-prone areas. Additionally, through **NEAT+ assessments and community consultations,** strategically placed rainwater harvesting facilities were installed to ensure reliable water access during emergencies, with inclusive designs benefiting women, children, and persons with disabilities. This approach also strengthened DRR efforts by integrating environmental considerations into municipal planning. As NEAT+ expands to the provincial level, it continues to drive policy improvements, community advocacy, and sustainable WASH practices, enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable communities

ECT WASH in Numbers

from October 2023 - March 2025

COVERAGE

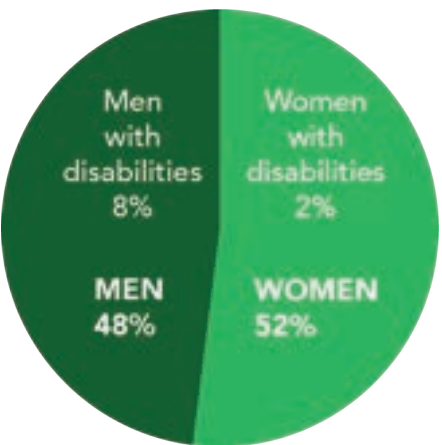
128 villages/communities

in 13 countries are being intervened.



422.588 people

are potentially benefiting from the project.



STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED, ENGAGED AND TRAINED

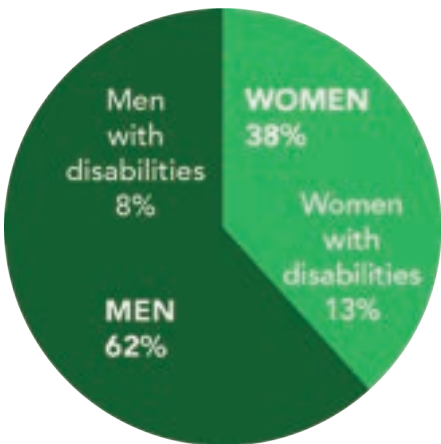
621 organisations

and 1308 relevant individual stakeholders are identified to engage



40

committees (WASH/DRR) have been formed/ strengthened/ reactivated



1131 project staff and local WASH actors have been trained in different 107 WASH training.

1346 project staff and local representatives have been trained in 58 DRR training.

295 project staff and local representatives have been trained in NEAT+ training.

43 local organisations have been trained on Climate Charter and Green Humanitarian Approach.

WATER SUPPORT



2149 households

are benefitting from the emergency WASH support, including chlorine provision, rainwater harvesting, water trucking, temporary sky hydrant, water channel rehabilitation, water bottle distribution, inclusive toilets at public and household levels and hygiene promotion activities.

39.687 households

are benefitting from the non-emergency WASH support, including solar panel system installation, barehole construction, water point rehabilitation, rain water harvesting installation, drinking water filter distribution and solar-powered device distribution.

882 hectares and 35 kitchen gardens

benefiting from the irrigation, including water supply rehabilitation and drip irrigation installation.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE SUPPORT



87 measures are done in 12 countries

at household, schools, health facilities and public level in providing safe sanitation and hygiene facilities, including hygiene kits provision and education activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS



15 communities

are discussing environmental risks analysis through NEAT+ to assess the climate risks and inform the program decisions.

THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CHARTER



12 implementing partners,

2 headquarters and

12 external organisations

have signed the Climate Charter.

WASTE MANAGEMENT



59 measures have been done in 7 countries

including provision of communal waste disposal unit, menstrual bins, cleaning tools and waste management plans development as well as waste management education.



A woman fetch water from the water point installed in the Philippines.

Real Stories, Real Changes

Behind every statistic, every project milestone, and every intervention lies a human story; one of determination, adaptation, and impact. In communities facing environmental and climate challenges, access to safe water, sanitation, and climate knowledge is not just about infrastructure or training; it is about people coming together, embracing change, and building resilience in ways that truly matter.

This section, *Real Stories, Real Changes*, brings the voices of those at the heart of these transformations. From young leaders tracking rainfall to families rethinking how they use water, these stories show how simple actions—when shared and sustained—can create lasting change. They remind us that true impact is not just measured in numbers but in the lives improved, knowledge passed down or on, and the communities strengthened.

Strengthening Local Climate-sensitive and Universal WASH Capacities Using and Disseminating the Green Humanitarian Aid Approach

Clearer Water, Renewed Hope:

How a Community Came Together for Nature-Based Safe Water in Honduras

In the small, close-knit village of La Ceiba, Honduras, Delcid Yakeline stands at her kitchen sink, watching clear, clean water flow from the tap. For many, turning on a faucet is routine—but for Delcid and her neighbors, this simple act represents a hard-earned victory.

For years, the families of La Ceiba counted on unreliable and often contaminated water sources, forcing them to boil water, filter out debris by hand, or simply take their chances. But now, thanks to a community-built filtration system, everything has changed. Before, water would reach homes filled with dirt and debris, leaving families concerned about their health. Now, the difference is striking. *“Now we drink clean water. It comes clearer, without dirt in the catchment. Even more water reaches our home,”* Delcid shares, the relief evident in her voice.

The new system, developed with support from the ECT WASH project, captures water from a natural spring, filters it through layers of sand and gravel, and channels it into a storage tank for safe distribution. The result? Water that is not only safer but also trusted—a powerful change in a community where water scarcity and contamination were once the norm. For Delcid, the clarity of the water represents more than just physical cleanliness. It symbolizes security, dignity, and the promise of a healthier future.

BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

This transformation wasn’t the work of outsiders—it was the result of neighbors coming together, carrying heavy materials, clearing pathways, and building a system that now serves them all. The journey was far from easy. Heavy rains made transportation difficult, and the remote location of the water source added extra challenges. But through sheer determination, the community pressed forward. *“The hardest part was moving the materials up to the water source during the rainy season. It made everything more expensive and difficult,”* Delcid recalls.

Yet, through these struggles, something powerful happened: a deep sense of shared ownership took root.



A woman feels relief to get the water right in her house.

This was not just a project installed in their community—it was a system they built with their own hands. *“Now we know that the water we drink comes from something we helped create,”* she says with pride.

A FUTURE BUILT ON OWNERSHIP AND RESILIENCE

Delcid is hopeful but realistic. She knows that a system is only as strong as its maintenance. Regular cleaning, repairs and monitoring will be essential to keeping the water flowing safely.

“We need to take care of it, improve it, and make sure it doesn’t fall into disrepair,” she says.

Her words reflect a shift in mindset—from **relying on external aid to taking responsibility for their own future**. The filtration system is not just about water but about self-reliance, collaboration, and resilience.

Delcid’s story is a testament to the power of community-driven solutions. The clean water flowing into La Ceiba’s homes is more than just a bare necessity: It is proof that when communities are actively involved in creating solutions, those solutions last.

This is not just a story about a filtration system but **how small, tangible improvements can inspire collective action, strengthen social bonds, and build a future where communities are not just surviving, yet thriving.**



< A man helps women fetching water in Niger.

A New Dawn for Garin Issa, Niger: Clean Water Brings Life and Hope

In the remote village of Garin Issa, nestled in the Tahoua region of northwest Niger, water has always been a scarce and precious resource. Like so many communities across Niger, reliable access to clean water was a daily struggle. Even when water was available, it was often dirty, cloudy, and teeming with harmful microbes. For decades, Garin Issa depended on an aging well, built back in the 1970s. Over the years, the well had fallen into disrepair. Plastic waste and debris collected at its opening, contaminating the water below. With

no proper cover, the well became a magnet for dirt and disease, posing serious risks to everyone who relied on it.

As the village grew, so did the distance many families had to walk just to collect water. For Mariama Salouhou, a resilient woman in her sixties, this daily walk became an exhausting ordeal. With limited strength and no means to hire help, Mariama often found herself walking for hours to fetch just a few jugs of water — especially during the dry season when the old well would run completely dry.

For nearly ten years, **Mariama endured this backbreaking task.** Every afternoon, the villagers would see her pass by with her small cart, loaded with four faded yellow and green jugs heading to a distant water source. She could only manage this journey once a day; it took every ounce of strength she had. Fetching water from an old, pulley-less well was not just hard work, it was exhausting. Mariama's struggle was mirrored by her young grandchildren, who also had to fetch water before and after school, carrying five-liter containers over

long distances. Bathing was a luxury, and personal hygiene suffered, affecting their health and school performance. The lack of clean water also dashed Mariama's hopes of starting a small poultry and sheep farm to support her family.

Everything changed in November 2024, when the ECT WASH project staff in Niger gathered the villagers and community leaders to introduce a life-changing initiative; one that would not only bring safe, accessible water to the community but also promote better hygiene and sanitation practices. Eager to contribute, Mariama stepped up and joined the newly formed Water Management Committee, where she was entrusted with the role of treasurer, a position often given to elderly women in Niger, valued for their honesty, discretion and trusted status within the community.

A DREAM BECOMES REALITY

By December 2024, Mariama's world had transformed. A gleaming new water tower stood tall near her home, fed by a solar-powered borehole reaching 190 meters deep. With a 30m³ stainless steel tank, a hybrid submersible pump, and a 31.8 kW solar field, this modern

system delivered clean water with ease. The village now had a double-tap water point, hygienic latrines, and improved sanitation facilities—all managed by the local committee.

For the first time, Mariama could walk just a few short steps to collect water—no longer a distant, exhausting trek. With her cart and containers in tow, she filled them effortlessly in minutes, her face glowing with relief and disbelief. *"I never imagined I would see something like this in my lifetime," she said, her voice trembling with emotion. "We were always sick from the dirty water and exhausted from walking so far. Now, we have clean, pure water right here, and it's changing everything, from our health to our livelihoods."*

A RIPPLE EFFECT ACROSS THE VILLAGE

The impact extended far beyond Mariama's household. Clean water has enabled families to start small-scale livestock farming, growing poultry, goats, and sheep. Children now arrive at school clean, healthy, and ready to learn, free from the constant stomach illnesses caused by contaminated water. Women are also using the water point to start

small vegetable gardens, enhancing family nutrition and creating new income streams.

Clean water has also brought peace to Garin Issa. In the past, families would argue or even fight over access to the limited supply from the old well. Now, with a steady, reliable source, those tensions have eased. People gather at the water point not to argue but to talk and help one another.

A VILLAGE TRANSFORMED

Today, Garin Issa is thriving. Trees are sprouting in home gardens, animals graze peacefully, and every household is healthier and more hopeful. Cases of cholera, dysentery, and other waterborne diseases have vanished. Hygiene practices have improved, and families are now taking pride in maintaining the water system, treating it as their own treasured asset.

For Mariama, the sight of the water tower brings her joy every day. *"This water is our source of life, our source of happiness,"* she says with a smile. *"With this water, our children can grow up healthy, we can farm, raise animals, and build a better future."*

From Open Fields to Open Doors: A Community's Sanitation Breakthrough in Ethiopia

For 14 years, Mohamed Mohamud—a dedicated village health extension worker and father of seven—has been at the frontline of healthcare in Bare village. Yet, despite his commitment to promoting hygiene and sanitation, he faced a personal struggle: his own health post had no toilet. He was forced to either use open spaces or rely on the generosity of others, a challenge that not only caused discomfort but also undermined his ability to advocate for proper sanitation. The situation was especially difficult for mothers and lactating women, who often avoided the health post due to the lack of a toilet. That all changed with the ECT WASH project, which built a high-quality, barrier-free restroom with two stances and handwashing facilities at the health post. For the first time, Mohamed and his community had a safe, dignified place to relieve themselves. The impact was immediate—mothers and women could now visit the health post without hesitation, and Mohamed no longer felt embarrassed when welcoming visitors. With this new facility in place, Mohamed's confidence soared. No longer burdened by the daily challenge of finding a toilet, he now speaks with conviction about the dangers of open defecation and the importance of sanitation. "I'm proud to share my knowledge with the community because I've seen firsthand how a simple bathroom can change lives," he says. Thanks to the project, Mohamed can now focus on what he does best: caring for his community and helping them lead healthier, more dignified lives.



A man is standing in front of the public toilet constructed by the programme in Bare Village, Ethiopia.

Mohamed's experience highlights the real, life-changing impact of investing in climate-sensitive and inclusive WASH solutions. A single commode not only improved hygiene conditions but also empowered a frontline health worker enhanced healthcare access for women and strengthened community resilience. **His story underscores how small, well-targeted interventions can create ripple effects, improving dignity, health, and social inclusion.** This impact report demonstrates that sustainable WASH investments don't just change infrastructure; they transform lives.

From Traditional Farming to Agroecology: Hussein Youssef's Journey in Lebanon

For more than two decades, Hussein Youssef, a 44-year-old farmer from Fneideq in Akkar, Lebanon, relied on traditional farming techniques to support his family of seven daughters and one son. His livelihood depended entirely on agriculture, yet persistent challenges—excessive weeds, plant diseases, and rising costs—made it increasingly difficult to sustain. Hussein used surface irrigation, a method that drained his small pond and

encouraged the growth of weeds, making farming labor-intensive and costly. Despite years of experience, he struggled to find a way to break free from these recurring setbacks.

That all changed when Hussein was selected by Mada Association to transition 1,000 m² of his land to agroecological practices. The shift was a leap of

faith. As the sole provider for his family, he was initially hesitant, worried about the time, effort, and risks involved in trying something unfamiliar. Yet, with Mada's technical guidance and in-kind support, he embarked on a learning journey that would transform his relationship with farming.

A NEW WAY OF THINKING AND FARMING

One of the most significant changes was the redesign of his land. He learned to organize his fields into raised beds, install a drip irrigation system, and create structured pathways, improving efficiency and reducing water waste. The change was striking: Not only did his land look different, but it also required less water, allowing his small pond to meet his farm's needs without running dry. The once-uncontrollable weeds diminished, reducing the time he spent battling them by hand.

Perhaps the most profound shift was in Hussein's approach to soil health. He abandoned chemical pesticides and fertilizers, a bold move for a farmer accustomed to conventional methods. Instead, he learned how to

prepare his own plant extracts and organic fertilizers using compost, cow, and chicken manure. These changes not only cut costs but also enriched his soil, setting the foundation for healthier, more resilient crops.

Despite being in his first year of practicing agroecology, Hussein was astonished by the results. His crops grew well, and his yields met expectations. Selling his produce locally, he saw firsthand that this new method was not just environmentally sustainable: It was also financially viable. Encouraged by his success, he became more confident in continuing down this path.

A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS

Hussein's farm quickly became a learning hub for other farmers in Fneideq. Seeing his success, neighbors, and fellow farmers visited his land, eager to understand the techniques behind his thriving crops. He happily shared his knowledge, offering guidance on how they, too, could make the shift. What began as a personal transformation sparked curiosity and inspiration in his



A man standing in front of compost to be used in his agroecology land.

community, encouraging others to reconsider their farming methods. Hussein's journey is not just about adopting new farming techniques; **it is about the power of knowledge and the courage to embrace change.** For years, he followed traditional practices, unaware of the possibilities that agroecology could offer. Through hands-on learning and support, he discovered an approach that not only solved his most pressing challenges but also improved his confidence, financial stability, and environmental impact. His story is a testament to how access to the right knowledge can empower individuals to make lasting, meaningful changes. By turning his land into a model for others, Hussein is not only securing a better future for his family but also paving the way for a more sustainable farming culture in Fneideq.

This is the story of one farmer's transformation **but its impact extends far beyond his own fields.**



Installed drip irrigation for agroecology in Lebanon.

One Garbage Can at a Time in Mali

Meet Aissata Abdoulaye, a dedicated mother of five from Bagoundié village in Gounzoureye Commune, Mali. As a member of the community-based group for economic interest (GIE/Groupe d'Intérêt Économique) **"Bagoundié Propre,"** Aissata's journey from frustration to inspiration is a testament to the power of local action, partnership, and determination. Just a few years ago, Bagoundié was drowning in waste. Trash piled up along streets and alleys, filling the air with awful smells and turning public spaces — schools, markets, places of worship, even the health center — into breeding grounds for disease. For Aissata and her neighbors, this environmental crisis made daily life not only harsh but dangerous, exposing families to preventable health risks.

THE GIE'S EARLY STRUGGLES
When "Bagoundié Propre" was formed in 2020, it faced numerous challenges. The group lacked training, equipment, funding, and most importantly, recognition. Without the tools or skills to effectively manage waste, their vision of a cleaner, healthier community seemed out of reach. Few people believed in their work; some even dismissed them as dreamers. However, in **July 2024**, everything began to change, when "Bagoundie Propre" participated actively in the workshops conducted by Nouveaux Horizons (NoHo) and arche noVa. Through the ECT WASH, the group received training in waste collection



A group of people standing in front of a cart after collecting garbage in the community in Mali.

and transportation techniques from the Regional Directorate for Sanitation (DRACPN). More than just knowledge, they were also equipped with practical tools: a **donkey and cart** to help with collecting garbage. This support completely transformed their operations.

Today, "Bagoundié Propre" manages a **household waste collection service**, providing 250 families with trash can and regular collection for a small monthly fee of **1,000 FCFA per can**. The group's monthly income has **more than doubled** (from **100,000 to 250,000 FCFA**), giving them the resources to reinvest in their work and plan for the future.

The most remarkable shift, however, has been in community attitudes. **"At first, people thought I was crazy,"** Aissata recalls with a smile. **"One person who refused to accept a garbage can at the beginning is now asking me for one."**

A CLEANER FUTURE ON THE HORIZON

With cleaner streets and improved public hygiene, Bagoundié is gradually reclaiming its reputation as a model village in the Gao region. The group's ambitions do not stop there. Aissata and her fellow members hope to expand their reach by **securing 1,000 additional cans** and at least **four motorized tricycles** to improve waste collection efficiency. Their vision extends beyond collection: They dream of transforming waste into **compost** to support local agriculture, producing **biogas** to reduce deforestation, and even converting plastic waste into **paving materials** for community infrastructure.



A man demonstrate how to install individual water filter in the community.

Building Unity and Safe Water in Nam Ma Na Village in Myanmar

Daw Mary, a passionate leader from Nam Ma Na village in Mogaung Township, Myanmar, wears many hats. Not only is she the chairperson of the village women's network, but she also supports her family by trading goods at local markets. Beyond her own household, Daw Mary has long been committed to improving life for her entire village. She volunteers with **Yaung Zin Su** and **Thurein Tun** microfinance groups, collaborates with legal professionals, and helps farmers and villagers understand land laws through awareness sessions. For Nam Ma Na, the ECT-WASH project marked a turning point. It

was the first time the village had experienced such a project, and it came at a crucial time when access to safe drinking water and basic hygiene knowledge were severely lacking. Before the project, families relied on dirty, unsafe drinking water, leading to frequent cases of diarrhea, waterborne illnesses, and even chronic diseases. More than just improving water and hygiene, the project helped rebuild something deeper: **trust and unity**. In the past, development projects had sometimes created divisions within the village, with villagers feeling more isolated than empowered. But with the ECT-

WASH, the whole community came together around a shared goal: improving their health and living conditions. By forming committees, learning about hygiene practices and participating in development efforts, besides gaining knowledge they also rebuilt connections with each other. Every household now has a local water filter called **LifeStraws**, distributed by arche noVa and partners, providing safe drinking water every day. Daw Mary has seen first-hand how **clean water and cooperation can spark new hope**, and her village is learning that **unity in diversity** can lead to lasting change. Even with these improvements, challenges remain. With no phone signal or internet access, it is difficult for villagers to communicate or coordinate when they are busy with family or farm work. Still, Daw Mary remains hopeful. She dreams of a reliable water supply system by 2025, more awareness sessions and training opportunities for youth, and better waste management systems. She also hopes to see tree-planting initiatives to improve the village environment and make Nam Ma Na healthier and greener for future generations. Daw Mary's story is a powerful reminder that **safe water and community cooperation go hand in hand**. In remote villages like Nam Ma Na, access to clean water is not just about health but bringing people together, restoring trust, and building a foundation for future development. Through **the leadership of local women like Daw Mary**, the ECT-WASH has helped shift attitudes, build confidence, and empower the community to take ownership of their future.

A woman and her child in The Philippines are happy to be able to use their own toilet supported by the program.

Breaking Barriers, Building Equity:

Advancing Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

True impact is measured not just by the infrastructure we build, but by **who benefits, who participates, and who is empowered**. Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) are not just priorities within the ECT WASH Project: they are **fundamental principles** shaping how we design, implement, and sustain change.

Across our interventions, we have seen firsthand how **women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups** often face the greatest barriers to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), particularly during disasters. Limited

access, exclusion from decision-making, and deep-seated social norms can reinforce cycles of vulnerability. But when inclusion is intentional, climate-resilient WASH becomes more than a service: it becomes a **catalyst for dignity, agency, and resilience**.

This section of the impact report highlights the **real stories of change**—stories of **women stepping into leadership, communities ensuring accessible WASH facilities, and systems shifting toward equity**. Through these experiences, we see that **when everyone is included, entire communities thrive**.

Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction:

The Lesson Learned from the Twin-track Approach in South and Southeast Asia

In South and Southeast Asia, ASB SSEA (Indonesia), CDD (Bangladesh), and ACCORD (The Philippines) have long been at the forefront of disability inclusion, particularly in disaster risk reduction (DRR). As active members of the Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN), ASB SSEA and CDD champion a **twin-track approach** in the ECT WASH program. The approach then followed by ACCORD as a regional partner of ASB SSEA. **This approach allows the program to enable the empowerment process of persons with disabilities and their self-help groups as well as to strengthen their leadership in disaster preparedness efforts. Simultaneously it builds the capacity of key DRR stakeholders—including local governments, humanitarian agencies, and village committees—by providing targeted training on inclusive DRR strategies, policy implementation, and accessible infrastructure design.** Together, these two avenues ensure that disability inclusion is both community-driven and systematically embedded in disaster resilience planning

In Indonesia, ASB SSEA has collaborated closely with two Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) from the project's inception, ensuring their voices shape disaster preparedness efforts, and simultaneously support local governments, DRR team members and volunteers at the village level on inclusive training on WASH and DRR solutions and plans and establish accessible infrastructures such as toilet and disability marker data collection to understand the needs. As a result of this approach, one of head village in Indonesia is now able to construct an inclusive toilet in their office by their own budget, making sure that persons with disabilities are comfortable using the restroom when they are in village government office.

Similarly, in the Philippines **the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC)** has been strengthened by ACCORD to ensure its members understand their DRR responsibilities while integrating disability-inclusive planning. This is achieved through a dual approach: first, by training local representatives of persons with disabilities to advocate for their needs and participate in decision-making processes; and second, by equipping BDRRMC officials with practical tools and guidelines to institutionalize inclusive DRR strategies. As a result, disability inclusion is not only championed by the affected communities themselves but also systematically embedded in governance structures.

In Bangladesh, CDD works with WASH and DRR committees in all wards (village) on inclusive training on WASH and DRR related topics, ensures the diversity of the members, and constructs inclusive early warning systems in the community. At the same time, CDD, together with OPDs, advocate local government understand inclusive DRR plan and budgeting.

Across the region, ECT WASH partners ensure that **people with disabilities take an active role in village DRR structures and community-based DRR activities**. By placing them at the heart of disaster preparedness planning, the program is not only recognizing their needs but also valuing their contributions, ensuring that resilience truly leaves no one behind. Moving forward, there is an urgent need to scale these efforts across South and Southeast Asia, ensuring that disability inclusion becomes an integral part of all disaster risk management policies and practices. The lessons learned from these initiatives offer a valuable blueprint for expanding inclusive DRR to other regions facing similar challenges



TOP—A person with disability announced early warning during cyclone Remal in 2024 in Bangladesh.

MIDDLE—A woman in wheelchair is holding a sign to take care of the environment for climate adaptation during green campaign in Indonesia.

BOTTOM—a man in a wheelchair holds a hygiene kit in a bucket distributed by the programme in The Philippines.

Rising with the Tide:

Women Taking Charge in Water Management in Somaliland

For years, Sowda Mohamed Hassen, a housewife from Bali-Gubadle District, struggled daily to secure clean water for her family. In her rural community, water scarcity was a constant challenge, forcing her to wait in long lines or collect water from unsafe sources. The borehole system was unreliable, frequently breaking down due to a faulty generator and high fuel costs, leaving families without access to clean water for days. The unpredictability of water access made life exhausting, especially as she juggled household responsibilities and caring for her young daughter.

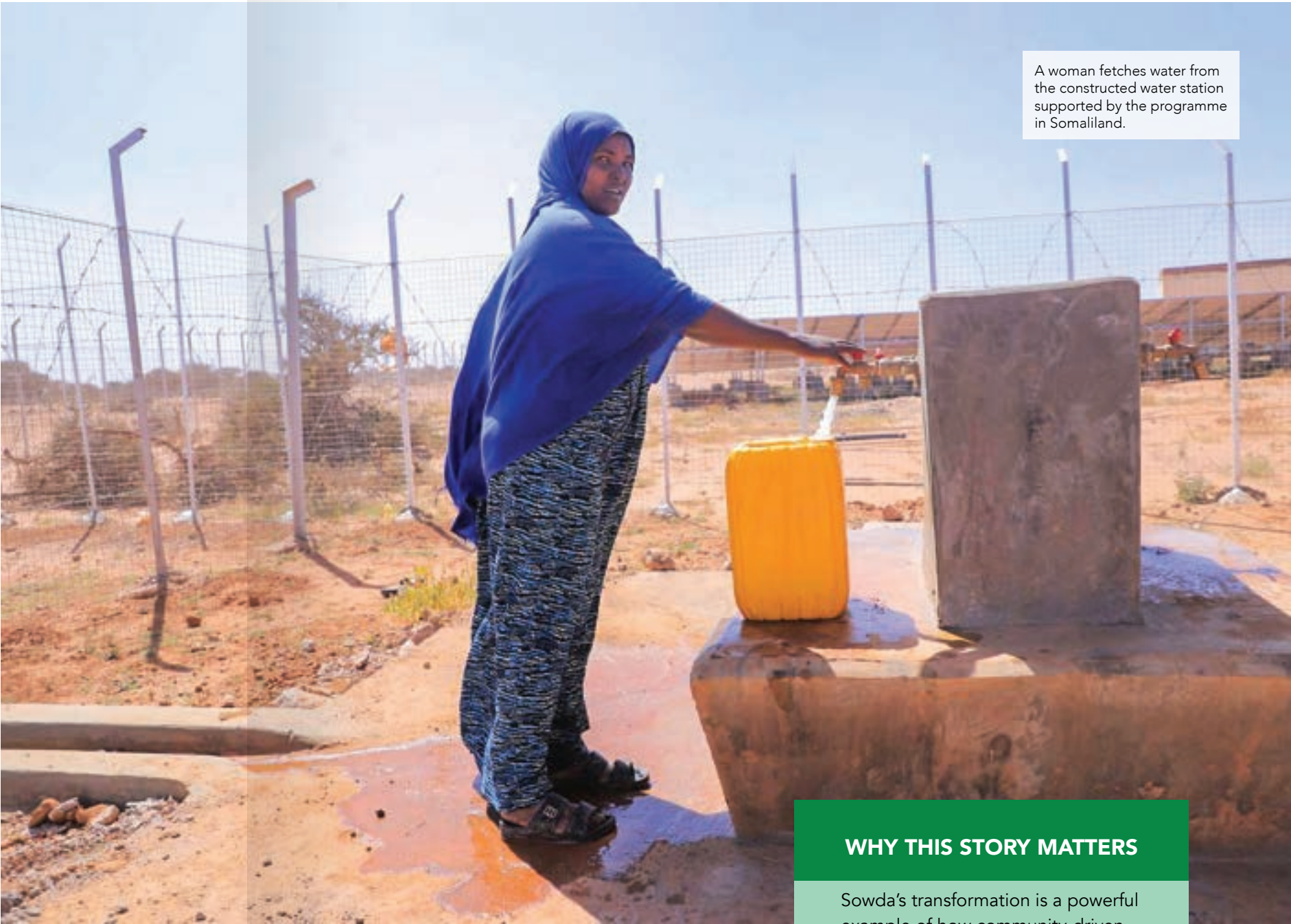
That all changed when Sowda joined the borehole rehabilitation initiative, implemented by OWDA with support from GFFO and arche noVa. The project not only rehabilitated the borehole but also introduced a solar-powered system, reducing dependency on expensive fuel. More importantly, it actively involved the community—especially women—in water management. At first, Sowda attended awareness sessions to learn about solar power and sustainable water use. But as she gained confidence, her role expanded. She took part in managing water points, ensuring fair distribution, and advocating for clean water access for both people and livestock.

Before this project, Sowda had never been involved in community decision-

making, especially in male-dominated areas like water management. She had no prior experience with infrastructure maintenance or resource management. However, as she acquired new skills, her perspective shifted. She found her voice, actively participating in discussions on borehole protection and water sustainability.

The most profound change for Sowda was not just access to clean water: it was her own sense of empowerment. Once excluded from key decisions affecting her daily life, she now had the confidence to contribute meaningfully. She also challenged cultural norms by proving that women’s involvement in community resource management leads to better, more sustainable solutions. Despite initial difficulties balancing household duties with her new leadership role, she persevered, breaking barriers and inspiring other women to step forward.

Sowda’s journey does not end here. She is now committed to sharing her knowledge with other communities, organizing awareness sessions, and encouraging more women to take part in decision-making. She envisions a future where women are fully included in managing essential resources, ensuring water security for generations to come.



A woman fetches water from the constructed water station supported by the programme in Somaliland.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Sowda’s transformation is a powerful example of how community-driven solutions, combined with inclusive participation, create lasting impact. **Her journey proves that investing in women’s leadership in water management not only improves access to clean water but also strengthens community resilience.** This story is a testament to the ripple effect of empowerment: When women gain knowledge and confidence, they uplift entire communities, shaping sustainable solutions for the future.

A girl with her mother monitor the climate through rain gauge in Nicaragua.



Ashley's Rainfall Diary:

How One Girl's Daily Task Strengthens a Community in Nicaragua

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Ashley and her family's journey are a powerful reminder that climate action starts at the community level. With knowledge, trust, and collaboration, even the smallest actions can create lasting change.

Her story is not just about measuring rain: Indeed it is about how one girl's commitment, a family's dedication, and a community's willingness to share knowledge can build resilience against climate threats, and how a simple morning routine can empower people, strengthen communities, as well as inspire a new generation to take charge of their future.

Ashley is proof that when young people are given the tools and trust to participate, they not only learn—they lead.

In the quiet village of Las Chácaras, Nicaragua, 13-year-old Ashley starts her mornings with a task that is changing the way her community prepares for an unpredictable climate. At 6 a.m., she carefully checks a simple rain gauge installed through the ECT WASH project, noting the measurements in her notebook before sharing them with the Agroclimatic Youth Network in the community via WhatsApp. What might seem like an ordinary habit is instead a powerful act of resilience—helping her family and neighbors make informed decisions about their water supply, crops, and safety.

A FAMILY THAT TURNS DATA INTO ACTION

Ashley's dedication is more than just a personal commitment; it is a family effort. Her mother, Doña Clementina, a respected community leader trained through the ECT WASH project, actively supports Ashley's learning. Her father, Arturo, a farmer, found that the rainfall data she collects directly affects his work. Before, farming was a guessing game, but now, with real rainfall measurements, he can decide when to plant, when to protect his crops, and when to brace for heavy rain. "At least now we have a way to measure it," Arturo says. "Before, we had no idea how much it rained. Now, when we see the gauge fill up, we know what to expect." What started as a simple training on how to use a rain gauge has grown into something much bigger: a shift in the way an entire community understands and responds to climate challenges.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

For Ashley, the biggest change has not just been learning how to measure rainfall, but understanding why it matters. Before, when the nearby river would suddenly rise, she and her family could only guess why. Now, thanks to the data she collects, she sees the connection between rainfall and rising water levels. "Now, when it rains a lot, I understand why the river swells," Ashley explains. "We know how much rain has fallen, and we can warn others if the river is likely to overflow."

This knowledge is transforming the entire community's preparedness. Community leaders use Ashley's data to alert neighbors when heavy rain might lead to flooding. Farmers in the area rely on the Agroclimatic Youth Network to anticipate dry spells or heavy downpours. By sharing information openly, Ashley's family has sparked a culture of collective responsibility—where people not only think about their own survival, but about how they can support others. "We share this data because it doesn't just help us," Arturo says. "It helps the whole community."

SMALL TOOLS, BIG IMPACT

Despite occasional challenges like power outages or limited phone access, the rain gauge remains a game-changer. The simplicity of this tool is its greatest strength: easy to use, reliable, and effective.

"We don't need complicated technology," Doña Clementina (Ashley's mother) says. "We need tools we can actually use, and this one makes a difference." Ashley's story proves that building climate resilience does not always require expensive solutions: Sometimes, **it starts with a girl, a notebook, and a simple rain gauge.**

A Leader's Mission:

Turning Knowledge into Action in Haiti

In the remote community of Terre Rouge, Haiti, where access to clean water and sanitation remains a daily struggle, one woman stands at the forefront of change. Jeanne Nadine Dominique, a dedicated leader and tireless advocate, wears many hats: coordinator of the communal board (CASEC), chairwoman of the local civil protection committee (CLPC), health officer, farmer, and community mobilizer. But above all, she is a problem solver, driven by a vision of a safer, healthier future for her people.

For years, Jeanne has been deeply involved in shaping her community's development. Through solidarity mutual funds, she has helped families gain access to small loans for income-generating activities. Through local organizations, she has worked to improve healthcare, education, and disaster preparedness. Yet, despite her efforts, she knew that real transformation would require more knowledge, better tools, and stronger collaboration. When the ECT WASH project arrived in her municipality, she saw an opportunity not to just learn but lead.

FROM TRAINING TO ACTION: TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO CHANGE

As a key community representative, Jeanne was invited to participate in WASH project training covering hygiene practices, gender and inclusion, and disaster risk management (DRM). The sessions were not just theoretical but practical, eye-opening, and deeply relevant to the challenges her community faced. Through the training, she gained insights into how poor sanitation, gender inequality, and climate-related disasters intersect to create hidden vulnerabilities. She learned how to take proactive measures before, during, and after environmental crises, ensuring that her community could respond more effectively.

But knowledge alone wasn't enough: Jeanne was determined to put it into action. For instance, on hygiene, she is developing protocols to integrate good hygiene practices into everyday life, from kitchen safety to handwashing habits in homes, schools, and community spaces. Meanwhile, on Gender and Inclusion, Jeanne is assembling a team to challenge gender stereotypes, foster inclusive decision-making, and raise awareness through community discussions, posters, and videos. Similarly on Disaster Preparedness, she is mapping high-risk areas, training community members on emergency preparedness, and collaborating with urban planners to mitigate environmental risks. *"Before, we reacted to disasters as they happened. Now, we understand how to prepare in advance, follow the right protocols, and protect our people."*

< A woman sitting on her desk smiles for her involvement in the programme.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Jeanne's journey is a testament to how knowledge empowers communities—but she knows that sustainable impact requires resources, commitment, and ongoing collaboration. She is not just waiting for change but instead mobilizing her people to advocate, implement, and push for long-term solutions. She believes that with the right investments, Terre Rouge can become a model for resilience, preparedness, and community-driven development. *"We don't just want temporary fixes. We want lasting solutions that give our children a better future."*

Her story is not just about one leader's efforts: **We are talking about the power of community-led action.** Through her determination and vision, Jeanne is proving that when **people are equipped with the right knowledge and tools, they don't just adapt to challenges; they transform them into opportunities for lasting change.**

How Isra Led the Way for Girls' Participation in School Sanitation in Somaliland

For Isra Ahmed Shine and her classmates in Kabad-galbed, Bali-gubadle District, attending school was often a challenge; not because of the lessons, but because of the lack of safe and private toilets. Without proper sanitation facilities, many girls struggled daily, often waiting until they got home or using unsafe alternatives. The situation was not only uncomfortable and unhygienic but also discouraged some from attending school regularly.

That began to change when a new initiative introduced barrier-free restrooms at the school. But this was more than just a construction project: It was a chance for students—especially girls—to have a say in improving their learning environment. **Isra stepped forward to share her experiences and ideas**, ensuring that the new facilities were designed to be clean, private, and accessible for all, including students with disabilities. For the first time, Isra felt empowered. She was not just benefiting from change; **she was helping lead it**. Once the bathrooms were built, she took an active role in raising awareness among her peers, teaching them about proper hygiene, the importance of maintaining the facilities, and how clean and safe sanitation could

improve their school experience. She organized cleanliness campaigns and encouraged other girls to take ownership of their shared spaces. The impact was significant. With safe and accessible toilets, girls felt more comfortable staying in school, and attendance improved. But beyond the physical changes, Isra witnessed a shift in attitudes: Girls felt more confident in speaking up about their needs, and the school community became more engaged in supporting student well-being. Isra's experience has inspired her to advocate for better sanitation and greater student participation in decision-making. She believes that when girls are given a voice, they can drive meaningful change—not just in sanitation but in other aspects of their education. Looking ahead, she hopes to see similar initiatives expand to other schools, along with better access to clean water and hygiene education.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Isra's story is a powerful reminder that small changes—like building safe toilets—can open doors for bigger transformations. **When girls are involved in shaping their school environment, not only do they benefit from progress; they become the leaders who make it happen.**

A girl stands in front of the constructed latrine in Somaliland.

Emergency Response: Saving Lives, Restoring Hope

In the ECT WASH, we also act on emergency response. Our efforts aim to provide immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience. This section highlights how we have worked closely with affected communities, local partners, and other stakeholders to address urgent needs through timely interventions.

Beyond delivering lifesaving assistance, we prioritize restoring hope by supporting people to rebuild their lives with dignity. The following best practices demonstrate the resilience of communities and the impact of coordinated humanitarian action. Each practices reflects our commitment to inclusive, people-centered approaches that ensure no one is left behind—especially the most vulnerable groups affected by emergencies.

Two men approach a person on the wheelchair informing about early warning during cyclone in Bangladesh.



Responding with Dignity:

Championing Inclusive Recovery Amid Crisis in Indonesia

When floods inundated Grobogan Regency, Indonesia in February 2024, the effects were swift and devastating. Livelihoods were lost, homes submerged, and necessities became scarce. Among those hardest hits were persons with disabilities—often overlooked in conventional emergency responses. Recognizing this gap, the Forum Komunitas Difabel Grobogan (FKDG) and Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) South and Southeast Asia mobilized a swift, locally led response that placed **inclusion and dignity at its core**.

From the outset, the response was designed to **listen first, act second**. Virtual coordination between FKDG, ASB, and local disaster management agencies laid the groundwork for a rapid assessment. Over three days, 50 households—comprising 160 individuals, including 56 persons with disabilities—were assessed. The findings were eye-opening: **stories emerged of people left stranded due to inaccessible evacuation routes and families of persons with disabilities who had slipped through the cracks of traditional aid systems**. These insights reinforced the urgency of

crafting a solution tailored to the real, on-the-ground needs of the most vulnerable.

To meet these diverse needs, the FKDG rolled out **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)**, a choice-driven solution that enabled families to purchase essentials like food, cooking fuel, and home repair materials, including specific needs for persons with disabilities. By providing cash rather than in-kind goods, recipients regained **agency over their early recovery**, deciding what was best for their household rather than receiving

a one-size-fits-all package. The assistance was delivered through bank transfers where possible, while direct distributions ensured that households without financial access were not left behind.

CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED

Delivering aid in the aftermath of the floods was a complex and demanding task. The FKDG faced several significant challenges throughout the response. One of the main hurdles was the **remoteness and scattered locations of affected households**. Families in need were spread across vast areas, often requiring hours of travel through difficult terrain. Mud-soaked roads and damaged infrastructure slowed the delivery process, making it challenging to reach everyone promptly. In some cases, **poor road conditions extended working hours well into the night**, as the team navigated these obstacles to ensure timely assistance.

Communication also posed a challenge. Despite efforts to inform households about the cash assistance program, **some recipients misunderstood aspects of the support**, which highlighted the importance of delivering clear, accessible information. Ensuring that instructions were understandable to people with various disabilities required continuous adjustments to communication methods.

Despite these obstacles, the team gained valuable insights that improved the response. **Strategic team deployment**—dividing into smaller groups—allowed FKDG to reach more households efficiently and reduce delays. **Community-centered planning** played a vital role; by gathering

household representatives at central locations when possible, the team minimized travel burdens and reached more people in less time. **Investing in local capacity** was another key lesson. FKDG's strong ties to the community, combined with previous training in inclusive disaster response, proved pivotal in navigating local contexts and building trust with affected families.

Furthermore, the response emphasized the value of **continuous feedback loops**. Post-distribution monitoring allowed the team to gather insights directly from recipients, identify misunderstandings, and make necessary adjustments for future interventions. This ongoing dialogue not only improved the immediate response but also laid the foundation for more effective, and inclusive humanitarian action in the future.

Beyond immediate relief, this response **set a precedent** for what inclusive disaster management should look like. By **putting** the voices of persons with disabilities at the center, the intervention not only addressed urgent needs but also **strengthened their existing capacity and community resilience** for future disasters. Local leadership through FKDG ensured that solutions were not parachuted in but **built from within, fostering ownership and sustainability**. These efforts extend beyond Grobogan Regency. The lessons here underscore a fundamental truth: **inclusive humanitarian action is not just the right thing to do; it is essential for effective, equitable recovery**. As climate-related disasters become more frequent, such practices must become standard, ensuring no one is left behind.



Multi purposes cash assistance delivery to the affected family in Grobogan.

A Lifeline in the Drought:

How Emergency Water Trucking Saved Lives in Docol Village in Somalia

In the heart of Docol village, nestled within Galmudug state, 45-year-old Fartun Mohamud Ahmed lives with her family of eight: four women, four men, and two young children under five. As a lifelong pastoralist, Fartun's livelihood depends on her camels and goats, providing milk, meat, and the little income her family relies on to survive. Like countless families across rural Somalia, Fartun's life was upended by consecutive droughts that swept through the region, drying up water sources and leaving her livestock—her only source of income—at risk. With no local water points to depend on, survival became a daily struggle.

Fetching water became a grueling task. Every day, Fartun and her family walked up to **12 kilometers** in search of water, a trip that drained their energy and stole precious hours needed for caring for their animals and children. The drought across Galkacyo District only made matters worse, pushing already vulnerable pastoralist communities like hers to the brink. *"We were barely holding on,"* Fartun recalled. *"The drought took so much from us—our animals, our health, our strength. But water was our biggest worry."*

In the face of this crisis, the ECT-WASH project, stepped in with a critical lifeline: **emergency water trucking**. Between November and December 2024, over **2,100 households** across Galkacyo and South Galdogob districts, including Fartun's, received 45 liters of clean water per day, delivered directly to their communities. For Fartun and her family, this was nothing short of life-saving.

Before the support arrived, water scarcity had driven prices to unaffordable levels, cutting off

vulnerable families from the safe water they so desperately needed. The lack of water led to widespread livestock deaths and crop failures, further eroding families' ability to survive. Women and girls, including Fartun and her daughters, bore the brunt of the crisis; forced to walk long, dangerous distances to fetch water, increasing their risk of **gender-based violence** along the way.

With clean water delivered directly to the village, Fartun's daily burden eased dramatically. No longer spending hours walking for water, she could turn her attention back to caring for her livestock and spending more time with her children. The water truck dispensed not only water but also gave her time, security, and a renewed sense of hope.

The health of her family improved, and her animals—the backbone of her livelihood—were saved from the brink. Thanks to the timely intervention, families like Fartun's not only survived a devastating drought but emerged stronger and better prepared to withstand future shocks.

"Emergency water trucking did not just quench thirst; it protected livelihoods, safeguarded women and girls, and gave vulnerable communities a fighting chance to rebuild their lives"



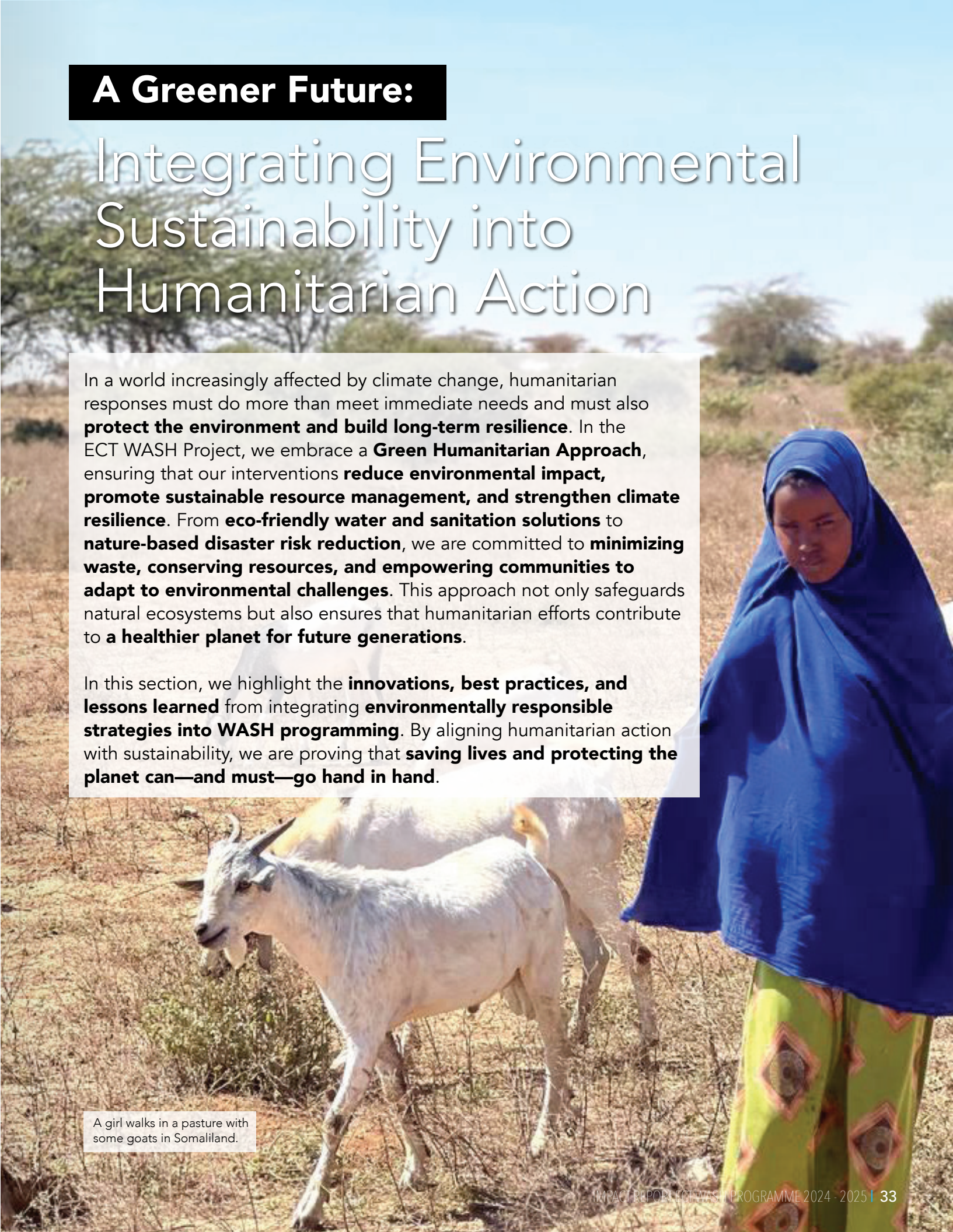
A woman standing in front of her house area informing the programme staff on how she benefitted the water trucking delivery.

A Greener Future:

Integrating Environmental Sustainability into Humanitarian Action

In a world increasingly affected by climate change, humanitarian responses must do more than meet immediate needs and must also **protect the environment and build long-term resilience**. In the ECT WASH Project, we embrace a **Green Humanitarian Approach**, ensuring that our interventions **reduce environmental impact, promote sustainable resource management, and strengthen climate resilience**. From **eco-friendly water and sanitation solutions** to **nature-based disaster risk reduction**, we are committed to **minimizing waste, conserving resources, and empowering communities to adapt to environmental challenges**. This approach not only safeguards natural ecosystems but also ensures that humanitarian efforts contribute to **a healthier planet for future generations**.

In this section, we highlight the **innovations, best practices, and lessons learned** from integrating **environmentally responsible strategies into WASH programming**. By aligning humanitarian action with sustainability, we are proving that **saving lives and protecting the planet can—and must—go hand in hand**.



A girl walks in a pasture with some goats in Somaliland.



Institutionalizing the Climate and Environment Charter at ASB S-SEA

In April 2024, ASB South and Southeast Asia (S-SEA) endorsed the Climate and Environment Charter, launching efforts to embed its principles across the organization. This began with awareness campaigns during National Disaster Preparedness Day and the ECT WASH program launch. The Charter's integration continued in ASB's National Team Meeting, where action plans were drafted. A dedicated team refined these targets, complemented by public campaigns, expert consultations, and translation into Bahasa Indonesia for wider accessibility. ASB SSEA also engaged local

governments and advocated for incorporating the Charter into village DRR programs. Implementation followed two phases: promotion and institutionalization. The promotion raised awareness and enthusiasm, while institutionalization ensured the long-term adoption of policies, programs, and operations. "Humanitarian organizations must act against climate risks. The Climate and Environment Charter strengthens our commitment to protecting lives while managing resources responsibly," said Nasrus Syukroni, Project Manager of the ECT WASH in Indonesia.

< A woman signs the commitment board to symbolize the commitment of climate charter together with relevant stakeholders in Indonesia.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

ASB S-SEA acknowledges that challenges occurred during the development of the action plan, including translating and contextualizing the Charter for local communities and securing commitment from partners. Equally important, strong policy support that considers local context was crucial for effective implementation. Despite these hurdles, key successes emerged. Six action targets were developed, promotional efforts spurred interest among other local partner organizations, and ASB S-SEA adopted eco-friendly practices like using AC condensate for irrigation, tree planting, and filtered water consumption.

Nevertheless, **it is acknowledged as well that setting realistic targets is essential, ensuring they align with available resources and organizational capacity.** Additionally, to make sure that it is embedded in the organizational values, there are efforts to fully integrate climate action into all program stages—from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation—to ensure sustained impact. It means **ASB S-SEA is also investing in capacity development for both staff and partners to strengthen climate knowledge and practical application.** By sharing these lessons, ASB hopes to inspire other humanitarian actors to embrace environmental stewardship for a more resilient future.

Cultivating Change: A Journey Toward Green Humanitarian Action in OWDA, Ethiopia

For **Mohamed Sheik Muktar**, leading the ECT WASH project in Ethiopia, the project was rather than only delivering water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services was also about embedding sustainability into humanitarian work. With **eight years at OWDA**, he has championed climate-sensitive approaches that go beyond immediate aid, ensuring long-term impact for communities.

Through **workshops and training on green humanitarian practices**, including the Sustainable Green Office guideline that developed by the program, Mohamed saw an opportunity to extend these principles beyond project sites and into **OWDA's own operations.** Determined to lead by example, he initiated discussions with senior management to make the office eco-friendlier. The result? **A drip irrigation system and a greenhouse**, transforming the workplace into a model of sustainability. This shift did not go unnoticed: Partners from the



A man takes care of some plants as part of his commitment for green humanitarian approach.

Shabelle zone visited to learn from OWDA's experience, taking inspiration back to their own communities. But the impact of this journey was not just external; it was personal. Working with **diverse partners** has expanded Mohamed's understanding of **collaborative climate action**, strengthened his leadership, and enhanced his ability to navigate challenges across sectors. From his early days at OWDA to now, he has grown into a **confident changemaker**, committed to **building healthier, more sustainable communities**—including for his own daughters in **Gode town**.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Mohamed's journey reflects a **larger shift in humanitarian aid**, one that prioritizes **sustainability, climate resilience, and long-term solutions** over short-term fixes. His experience shows that real change starts from within: By adopting **green practices internally**, organizations can inspire and influence communities and partners to follow suit. This story is more than a personal achievement; it is a **proof of concept** that **sustainable humanitarian action is possible**. It demonstrates the power of **leadership, collaboration, and innovation** in tackling climate-sensitive challenges. As climate change continues to threaten vulnerable communities, initiatives like this prove that **small, localized efforts can create ripple effects that lead to lasting impact.**

How OWDA commits to the sustainable green office?

OWDA, our implementing partner in Ethiopia has transformed its office into an eco-friendly area by incorporating native trees, green spaces, and a greenhouse within its grounds. These enhancements not only improve air quality, provide shade, and create relaxing communal areas for staff, but also serve as practical demonstrations of climate-sensitive practices, reinforcing OWDA's organizational mission and setting an example for environmentally responsible operations. In addition to creating green spaces, OWDA prioritized employee engagement by actively involving staff in the design, implementation, and ongoing care of the office's green features, including the greenhouse where organic vegetables are grown. Through hands-on learning, workshops, and regular discussions on sustainability and climate action, staff have gained valuable knowledge that extends beyond the workplace. This collaborative approach has fostered a culture of environmental stewardship within OWDA, empowering employees to adopt and promote sustainable practices in their personal lives and within their communities.



Some solar panels are installed in Lebanon.

Transforming Water Access with Solar Energy in Chan Region, Lebanon

The installation of a solar-powered water pumping system in Chan has revolutionized access to clean water, ensuring a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable solution for the community. By deploying 105 high-efficiency solar panels, the project has broken the region's dependence on unreliable electricity and costly diesel generators. This cutting-edge system now powers the local water station, supplying uninterrupted water access to over 4,000 residents in Chan and neighboring Khirbet El Jered, Lebanon.

This initiative has contributed to the sustainable impact by creating uninterrupted water supply in which solar energy has eliminated frequent disruptions caused by power outages, guaranteeing a steady flow of clean water for daily use and emergency needs. Additionally, **by shifting from diesel-powered pumps to solar energy, the initiative has reduced operational expenses by approximately**

60%, easing financial pressures on the municipality and lowering costs for communities. Eventually, we hope that by cutting greenhouse gas emissions linked to diesel fuel, the project aligns with Lebanon's national climate commitments and global efforts to combat climate change.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The solar system operates at full capacity during peak sunlight hours, ensuring reliable water access for 784 households across the two villages. Financial assessments confirm a dramatic drop in water supply costs, making clean water more affordable for the community. Additionally, residents have shared powerful testimonials on how the system has improved their lives, particularly during critical periods of electricity shortages. This initiative stands as a model for sustainable water solutions, demonstrating how innovation and renewable energy can drive lasting change in vulnerable communities.



A woman uses a WADI device to measure the purity of drinking water she uses in Bangladesh.

Purity in Sunlight in Rural Area in Bangladesh

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

This story matters because it highlights how **greener humanitarian solutions** can strengthen community resilience while protecting the environment. By embracing solar-powered technology, families like Hashi's can access safe water without harming the planet, proving that sustainable innovations can drive lasting change

For years, every morning started with the same worry for Hashi Rani: How would she find clean drinking water for her family? Living in Southkhali Union, a disaster-prone area in Bagerhat, safe water was always out of reach. With her husband's modest income as a day laborer, poverty shaped their lives. But no struggle was more relentless than the search for safe water. Dirty water meant constant illness, and medical bills drained what little they earned.

With no deep tube wells nearby, Hashi had no choice but to fetch water from a pond. She tried using alum to purify it, but the water was never truly safe. Boiling it required firewood, an expense they could not afford and one that harmed the environment. Waterborne diseases became a cruel reality for Hashi's family, keeping them

trapped in a cycle of sickness and poverty. She often feared they would never break free.

Everything changed when the WADI Device was introduced through the ECT-WASH project. This simple device uses sunlight to purify water: no firewood, no extra cost; just safe water and a cleaner environment. *"CDD showed us how to use the WADI Device, and now I can purify our water using only sunlight,"* says Hashi. *"We don't get sick like before, and we're saving money on firewood and medical bills—something I never thought possible."* With one small device, Hashi's family found health, savings, and peace of mind—all powered by sunlight. For Hashi, the WADI Device is more than technology: Indeed, it is hope in her hands.

Utilizing NEAT+ for Sustainable WASH Solutions in Humanitarian Contexts in The Philippines

The NEAT+ assessment was conducted in six target villages/ barangays in Southern Leyte and (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to inform sustainable WASH interventions in emergency and humanitarian settings. Actively involving Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) and community representatives (including women, persons with disabilities, and older persons), the assessment fostered inclusive decision-making. By engaging communities through focus group discussions and key informant interviews, it provided valuable insights into local environmental risks, ensuring that mitigation strategies were tailored to their specific needs while enhancing resilience to future crises.

The application of NEAT+ has played a crucial role in integrating **sustainability into WASH responses during emergencies**. During the 2023 Leyte floods, NEAT+ assessments guided the distribution of environmentally friendly hygiene kits, reducing plastic waste while addressing the urgent hygiene needs of affected populations. These kits featured reusable cloth drawstring bags instead of plastic packaging and included cloth sanitary pads, which were well-received by communities for their affordability and environmental benefits. This approach not only minimized waste in relief efforts but also promoted

long-term sustainable hygiene practices among beneficiaries. Capacity-building activities reinforced sustainable WASH practices by eliminating single-use plastics in training sessions. The use of reusable, eco-friendly materials set an example for both communities and local governments, encouraging them to incorporate sustainability into disaster response efforts. This shift demonstrates how NEAT+ can drive institutional change, influencing policies and practices toward environmentally responsible humanitarian interventions. Beyond emergency response, NEAT+ facilitated the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in areas vulnerable to water scarcity and natural disasters. Through participatory consultations, these systems were strategically placed in locations with limited access to clean water, including evacuation centers, to ensure availability during emergencies. The systems were designed with accessibility in mind, featuring easy-to-use levers and taps positioned at appropriate heights for wheelchair users and individuals with limited mobility, ensuring equitable access to safe water for all community members.

By embedding environmental considerations into WASH interventions, NEAT+ has strengthened community resilience in humanitarian settings. The promotion of sustainable materials,



Some community members participated in the discussion of NEAT+ in the Philippines.

the reduction of plastic waste, and the implementation of rainwater harvesting systems illustrate how locally driven solutions can enhance disaster preparedness and response. These best practices highlight the importance of integrating environmental sustainability into humanitarian efforts, ensuring that emergency WASH interventions are not only effective but also contribute to long-term resilience and climate adaptation. Moving forward, NEAT+ will be introduced at the provincial level to inform local policies and disaster risk reduction planning, ensuring that environmental mainstreaming becomes a key component of humanitarian aid. Partner local government units (LGUs) will be encouraged to integrate NEAT+ findings into their DRR strategies, fostering long-term sustainability and ownership.

At the community level, NEAT+ results will drive behavioral change by transforming applicable mitigation strategies into accessible advocacy initiatives and information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns. These efforts aim to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and empower communities to take an active role in environmental protection and disaster preparedness. Additionally, aligning NEAT+ results with Sphere standards should be considered in capacity-building, particularly in DRR-related activities. This approach will not only enhance awareness of environmental risks and mitigation strategies but also create opportunities for integration into local government planning, ensuring that sustainability and resilience remain central to future humanitarian efforts.

A group of people are standing in front of a toilet in Niger.

Partnership

In the face of complex humanitarian challenges, **no organization can drive lasting change alone**. The impact of our work is made possible through **strong, strategic partnerships**—alliances built on trust, shared vision, and a commitment to sustainable development. Across the countries where we work, our partners—local organizations, government agencies, civil society groups, and community leaders—have developed **innovative approaches** to collaboration. From engaging policymakers to strengthening grassroots networks, they have navigated unique challenges and uncovered **best practices** in stakeholder engagement.

This section highlights the **key lessons learned and best practices** from our partners on how to build meaningful, effective partnerships. Their experiences demonstrate that successful collaboration is not just about **aligning goals** but about **fostering relationships, adapting to local contexts**, and **empowering communities to take the lead**. By sharing these insights, we hope to inspire **stronger, more inclusive partnerships** that drive sustainable impact and resilience for the communities we serve.

Integrating NEAT+ into Humanitarian WASH Intervention through Collaboration:

A Lesson Learned and Best Practices from Myanmar

Operating in conflict-affected regions of Kachin State, the project successfully navigated complex logistical and security challenges to conduct comprehensive environmental risk assessments. By embedding NEAT+ within its WASH programming, the project not only identified and mitigated environmental risks but also fostered community-driven solutions that align with both ecological sustainability and local needs. **The translation of NEAT+ tools into the Myanmar language** further enhanced accessibility, ensuring that field teams and affected communities could fully engage with the assessment process and integrate environmentally conscious practices into infrastructure development.

A key lesson from the implementation was the **transformative impact of participatory approaches in addressing environmental risks**. **Early engagement with communities and local**

stakeholders enabled the co-identification of vulnerabilities and the co-creation of mitigation strategies, fostering a shared sense of responsibility for sustainable WASH practices. Despite operational constraints, including road restrictions and supply chain disruptions, the project team's adaptive strategies ensured the seamless integration of environmental considerations into service delivery. Moving forward, scaling up NEAT+ assessments across additional locations, strengthening contingency planning for logistical challenges, and expanding environmental awareness initiatives within communities will be essential to sustaining these gains. By institutionalizing environmental sensitivity as a core principle of humanitarian WASH aid, the project has set a precedent for embedding ecological resilience in future emergency and recovery efforts.



The programme field staff discusses with community in Myanmar to assess environment and climate risk through NEAT+.

Strengthening Sustainability through Community-Led Monitoring in Lebanon



Sustainability is at the heart of the solar-powered water project in Chan and Khirbet El Jered, Lebanon. To ensure long-term impact, **Community Monitoring Committees (CMCs)** were established, bringing together dedicated representatives from both villages. These committees serve as the backbone of local oversight, ensuring that the water system remains functional, well-maintained, and fully integrated into community life.

The CMCs have instilled a deep sense of ownership among residents, transforming them from passive beneficiaries into active guardians of their own water infrastructure. By fostering engagement and accountability, these committees ensure that the solar-powered water system is not just a temporary solution but a long-term asset for the villages. Their presence has encouraged the community to take pride in protecting this vital resource, strengthening the foundation for sustainable water access.

Beyond promoting ownership, the CMCs play a **critical role in monitoring and maintenance**. Equipped with local knowledge and hands-on training, members conduct regular inspections to identify and swiftly address technical issues such as leaks or pump malfunctions. Their proactive approach ensures that the system operates efficiently, minimizing disruptions and

maximizing benefits for all. By serving as the first line of response, the committees prevent small issues from escalating into major challenges, ensuring uninterrupted access to clean water.

In addition to maintenance, the CMCs are key advocates for education and behavioral change. They lead awareness campaigns on **water conservation, solar system upkeep, and hygiene practices**, ensuring that best practices are widely understood and adopted across generations. This knowledge-sharing strengthens community resilience, empowering residents with the skills needed to manage their water resources responsibly and sustainably.

The impact of the CMCs is already evident in tangible improvements. Local authorities report a marked increase in community awareness of **water conservation and hygiene practices**, with households demonstrating more responsible water use. Additionally, localized oversight has led to faster issue resolution, preventing prolonged disruptions and ensuring continuous access to clean water. By placing sustainability in the hands of the people, the CMCs have transformed water management from a technical intervention into a community-driven success story; one that will continue to benefit future generations.

A Model of Community-Driven Water Management in Al Alam, Iraq: A Best Practice in a Fragile Region

Years of conflict, displacement, and neglect left the Al Alam irrigation system in a state of severe disrepair. Once essential for supporting local farms, the channels were clogged with debris, overgrown with vegetation and coated in algae. Water could no longer flow to the farmlands that depended on it, leaving crops to fail and livelihoods to collapse. With agriculture at a standstill, families were discouraged from returning to the area, further delaying recovery after the conflict.

To restore this vital system, ASB Iraq took a participatory approach, working directly with local farmers and community leaders. Together, they cleared the blockages, repaired the side channels, and restored the flow of water to the fields. With water flowing again, farmers could irrigate their crops, revitalize their farmland, and begin rebuilding their livelihoods. More than just a technical intervention, this project marked the beginning of a broader community effort to reclaim ownership over their resources and their future.

What makes **the Al Alam Water Project** a best practice is its emphasis on sustainability through community ownership and local leadership. From the outset, ASB Iraq understood that infrastructure repairs alone would not secure long-term water access. To ensure lasting impact, the community formed a water management committee made up of local farmers and village representatives. This committee took responsibility for regular inspections, coordinating maintenance work, and mobilizing the community to prevent future blockages. By embedding responsibility for the irrigation system within the community itself, the project fostered a sense of collective ownership and accountability, helping to ensure that the benefits of the rehabilitation work would endure long after the project ended.

The project also showed how inclusive participation can strengthen both water governance and social cohesion. All segments of the community, including farmers, women, and youth, were engaged in decision-making processes, ensuring that diverse voices shaped the solutions. This inclusive approach not only made the process more transparent but also strengthened trust among community members, which had been eroded after years of conflict and displacement. Through



working together to restore a shared resource, the community rekindled a spirit of cooperation, building the social fabric needed to support future development efforts.

ASB Iraq also provided the water committee with practical training on channel maintenance, water quality monitoring, and even basic conflict resolution techniques to manage any disputes over water use. This investment in local capacity empowered the community to take charge of their water system, reducing dependency on external support and equipping them to respond to future challenges.

By linking improved water access directly to livelihood recovery, the project made the benefits of cooperation immediately visible. With restored irrigation, agricultural productivity increased, incomes improved, and families were more confident in their ability to remain in the area. The Al Alam Water Project stands out not just for the technical improvements it delivered, but for demonstrating how sustainable development is possible when communities are empowered to lead the process. It serves as a replicable model for other rural areas facing similar challenges, showing how infrastructure rehabilitation, community participation, and long-term capacity building can work together to create lasting impact.

Photovoices:

Voices That Matter

Photovoice is a participatory method that empowers individuals to share their experiences through photography and personal narratives. It provides a visual and emotional perspective on the important climate resilient WASH interventions and what matters to them. By using photos, community members document their realities, highlighting challenges, successes, and aspirations in their own way. This approach amplifies

voices that are often unheard, offering deeper insights into lived experiences. In this section, we showcase photovoice contributions from ECT WASH project participants across several countries, particularly from the marginalized groups. Their images and reflections bring to life the impact of climate-resilient WASH solutions in their communities.



CAPTURED BY RINI SUSILAWATI IN GUNUNG KIDUL, INDONESIA

"I took this picture of my son because he is my greatest strength. As a mother undergoing hemodialysis, I face many challenges, but thinking of him eases my pain and gives me purpose. My biggest priority is his health and future. The construction of a household wastewater channel in my home has brought me some relief, knowing that at least his environment is now safer and healthier."

Rini's quote highlights the intersection of health, sanitation, and family well-being and when ignored can added extra burden for individuals living in vulnerable situations.



CAPTURE BY MOHAMAD JAMA IN GOLGODOP DISTRICT, SOMALIA

"Water in Somali communities is very important. In the face of hardship, we really hope from the water trucking. Each drop of clean water I collect is not just a drop. It's a thirst-quenching live saving change. A change for my children to drink, a change for my goats to survive, and a chance for tomorrow."

This story highlights that water trucking remains a critical solution for survival, providing relief to families, livestock, and communities facing extreme water scarcity.

CAPTURED BY MARITES SABANDAL, BUENAVISTA, THE PHILIPPINES

"Our experience with accessing clean water in our area is that our Nawasa water becomes murky whenever it rains. As for drinking water, the water pump is quite far, so we usually buy mineral water. Sometimes, we boil water to make it safe for drinking."

This quote powerfully illustrates the daily challenges faced by communities in accessing safe and reliable water, and therefore the importance of advocating urgent investment in climate-resilient, accessible, and safe water systems for all.



CAPTURED BY MARVIN SANCHEZ IN EL JOBO, SAN JOSE DE CUSMAPA, NICARAGUA.

"Becoming a climate monitor and joining the agroclimatic network has turned into a family effort—especially with my son by my side. He eagerly helps read the rain gauge and analyze data, and knowing he will one day carry this work forward fills me with pride. It drives me to continue with passion, knowing that climate monitoring benefits not just my family but the entire community."

Marvin's story highlights the power of youth engagement in climate action and the ripple effect of fostering future leaders in community-based environmental monitoring.



CAPTURED BY A LOCAL PARTNER IN HELPING HAMDA MOHAMMED CAPTURING HER FEELING IN KELAFO DISTRICT, ETHIOPIA

"I no longer need to carry heavy loads or worry about the safety of the water. With the installation of the Sky Hydrant filtration system, it is now clean, accessible and has save more time for her and her family. I feel hopeful for the future of my children."

This photovoice highlights the importance of Sky Hydrant filtration system that has transformed daily life; reducing physical strain, ensuring water safety, and giving families, especially women, more time for other priorities. This change fuels hope for a better future.



< CAPTURED BY JENNY GALLENDEZ, BUENAVISTA, THE PHILIPPINES

"My view on disaster risks, especially for houses near the sea, is that they are highly vulnerable during storms, they can easily be flooded by strong waves. Ideally, there should no longer be houses built along the shoreline, although many families rely on the sea for their livelihood. When it comes to disaster preparedness, those living near the sea should evacuate to designated safe areas as soon as there is a warning, to ensure their safety."

This quote sheds light on the tension between vulnerability and livelihood for coastal communities and sharing this perspective, the picture calls for or advocating inclusive, community-informed approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate-resilient development.

CAPTURED BY RUBINA IN CHALITABUNIA VILLAGE IN SOUTHKHALI UNION, BANGLADESH

"There is a pond in the village, and everyone drinks from it. But the problem is that there is no fence around it. While we have another pond sand filter (PSF) nearby, it is broken and unusable. Garbage surrounds the pond, and no one cleans it. During the dry season, the water level drops, making it even harder for people to get enough water, including people like me with disabilities. Because of this, many children and people with disabilities are getting sick. If the pond is properly cleaned and the PSF is repaired, it could solve the village's water problems and keep people healthier."

This photovoice highlights that limited access to clean water disproportionately impacts people with disabilities and children. A simple solution—cleaning the pond and fixing the filtration system—could significantly improve health and daily life.

v



< CAPTURED BY SHAMINA IN SOUTHKHALI UNION, BANGLADESH

"Just like a baby needs its mother's milk to survive, a small plant needs care to grow—and the most important thing is water. If a plant does not get water for a day, it starts to drop. Even plants understand how important water is and for us, living in coastal areas, and specifically with disabilities, we know it even more. Every year, river embankments break and salty water floods ponds, canals, and fields—almost everywhere. This ruins our drinking water and damages crops, making life harder. That's why we must take action to stop salinity intrusion!"

This highlights that water is at the heart of survival, yet coastal communities battle constant threats from saltwater intrusion. Addressing this challenge is key to protecting water sources, agriculture, and livelihoods.



> CAPTURED BY ASIYA IN BALI GUBADLE DISTRICT, SOMALILAND

"I am a 12-year-old girl from a poor family. I dreamed of continuing my education all the way to higher levels to support my family and improve our lives. Unfortunately, that dream has been shattered. Our school lacks proper latrine facilities, and the absence of segregated latrines made it difficult for me to use the facilities, especially as a girl. Due to our cultural norms, I struggled, and eventually, I had to drop out and stay at home, losing the chance to continue my education."

Asiya's quote highlights the gendered impact on girl's education at the school level due to lack of segregated bathrooms in the school.

> CAPTURED BY ENIK ASTUTI IN GUNUNG KIDUL, INDONESIA

"This photo takes me back to how my backyard looked just two months ago—before the village government helped build a household wastewater channel. Back then, the stagnant water brought a foul smell and swarms of mosquitoes, putting my family's health at risk. Now, with the new channel in place, the difference is clear. I only wish my neighbors could have the same support so our entire community can enjoy a cleaner, healthier environment."

Enik's wish for his neighbors to also benefit highlights the need for equity, scalability and inclusivity, reinforcing why expanding such initiatives matters.



A woman led the discussion of menstrual health in the community in Indonesia.



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