

Improving opportunities for civil society to access climate adaptation funding for WASH



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to supporting community climate resilience, particularly ensuring that no one is left behind. Marginalised communities disproportionately experience the harsh impacts of climate change due to existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and fragile water sources that often fail in the face of droughts, floods and extreme weather. Women and girls are often excluded from decision-making even though they play important roles as custodians of water and community caregivers.

Why WASH?

WASH is a critical entry point for reducing community vulnerability to climate impacts, closing gaps on gender, education, prosperity and health inequalities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifies providing **water and sanitation services as one of the most effective measures to reduce climate vulnerability**. However, financing for climate resilient WASH services is not effectively reaching the most marginalised groups.

It is now clear that the US \$100 billion annually committed to help developing countries work on adaptation and mitigation falls significantly short of the funding required. At COP26 during the first-ever 'Needs Assessment Report', the cost of 78 Nationally Determined Contributions was estimated at US \$5.9 trillion, and 12 National Adaptation Plans were estimated at US \$135 billion. Yet the world's annual total climate finance has not gone above US \$681 billion. **Of that, only US \$12 billion has gone to water adaptation and only 0.1% of that amount to basic WASH.**

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WaterAid along with iDE, International Rescue Committee, University of Technology Sydney's Institute for Sustainable Futures, Plan International, and RTI International undertook a study based on secondary data from a desk review and primary data from interviews with key climate finance stakeholders to understand the barriers faced by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in accessing funds for climate resilient WASH, and opportunities for funders to improve accessibility.

What can CSOs do?

CSOs must find and support pathways to access climate funding

Based on a number of procedural, design and systemic barriers identified through the project, the following pathways are recommended for CSOs to increase access to funding for climate resilient WASH projects.

Pathways to access funding



— Provide clear evidence of climate related need for proposed project interventions



— Support sector-wide efforts to build the evidence base in support of WASH and climate change, both WASH's contribution to resilience and mitigation, and the impacts of climate hazards on WASH



— Link activities directly to climate mitigation or adaptation outcomes



— Understand, reference and build upon other climate initiatives



— Directly align with national targets and plans and build strong relationships with governments to obtain visibility and exposure to funding opportunities



— Collaborate with other sectors that have complementary skillsets including nature-based solutions, disaster management and food security to implement integrated ecosystem-based programs of which WASH is an integral component



— Build and maintain relationships with donors as well as the private sector and advocate on the inclusion of WASH in future programs

