

# Event Program | Accelerating WASH Innovations to Scale Impact

## ○ DAY 1 | 18 MARCH 2025 | UN CITY COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

### ○ 8:30 - 9:20 | BREAKFAST: Guest arrival and check in

### ○ 09:30 -10.00 | Official Welcome

- [Simi Jan](#), TV2 Journalist, UNICEF Denmark Ambassador, Master of Ceremonies
- [Thomas Davin](#), Global Director, UNICEF Office of Innovation
- [Ole Thonke](#) - Undersecretary for Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark

### ○ 10:00 -11:00 | Plenary Moderated Panel

Moderator – [Larry Madowo](#), CNN International Correspondent

Discussion: Scaling WASH innovation and driving meaningful change

- Karin Poulsen - Department of Green Diplomacy and Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark
- [Mads Helleberg Dorff](#) - Director, Danish Industry. Head of DI Danish Water Industries, Denmark
- [Tommy Ka Kit Ngai](#) – Head of WASH, WaterAid, UK
- [Isha Basyal](#), Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Global Water and Sanitation Center at AIT, Thailand
- [Yasmin Farah S. Abdulkadir](#), Youth Advocate, Ministry of Environment and Climate, Somalia

### ○ 11:00 - 11:25 | COFFEE BREAK

### ○ 11:30 - 13:00 | Breakout Sessions: BLOCK 1

#### • Innovative Approaches to Blended Finance in WASH

Facilitator: Juan Luis Coderque Galligo, Head of New Financing Models - International Committee of the Red Cross, Humanitarian Innovative Finance Hub (HIFHUB)

This session explores innovative partnerships and financing, including blended finance models, to improve WASH access in humanitarian crises, using case studies from DR Congo and Iraq and examining a pipeline of similar projects to identify key lessons learned

Or

#### • Scaling Innovations for Universal Access: Systems Thinking to Bring Innovations to Scale

Facilitators: [Betelhem Gebeyehu Hailegiorgis](#), Research and MEL Officer, [John Butterworth](#), Director Global Programme - [International Water and Sanitation Centre \(IRC-WASH\)](#), [Shri G. Mathivathanan](#), Director General, State Administrative Training Academy and Centre for Good Governance, Government of Odisha

This session identifies approaches to overcome barriers to scaling WASH innovations through diverse contexts, focusing on changing incentives within and outside the sector, using examples like the “drink from TAP” mission in India and the professionalization of rural water supply in Malawi.

### ○ 13:00 - 14:20 | LUNCH

- **14:30 - 16:00 | Breakout Sessions: BLOCK 2**

- **Transforming WASH SMEs: Unlocking Private Sector Potential for the Last Mile**

Facilitator: [Tim Foster](#), Research Director - [Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS](#)

This session explores how to empower WASH small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to accelerate SDG6 progress, examining challenges, solutions, and pathways to scale, drawing lessons from other sectors and focusing on finance, policy, regulation, and government partnerships.

Or

- **Nature-Based Solutions: What's Needed for Scale**

Facilitator: [Alejandro Jiménez](#), Director of Water and Sanitation Department - [Stockholm International Water Institute \(SIWI\)](#) , [Swedish Environmental Research Institute \(IVL\)](#)

This session examines the enabling factors and barriers to Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) adoption by WASH service providers, presenting global experiences and research findings on the enabling environment needed for NBS up-take, followed by interactive discussion on recommendations for the accelerated scaling of NBS in WASH.

- **16:00 - 18:00 | Poster Session: Innovations**

A market-stall layout where innovators showcase their solutions alongside posters, enabling engaging one-on-one interactions with participants

- ⊙ **DAY 2 | 19 MARCH 2025 | UN CITY COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

- **8:00 - 9:00 | BREAKFAST: Guest arrival and check in**

- **8:15 - 9:00 | Breakfast session: Innovative Products to Scale**

Facilitator: [Fiorella Polo](#), Innovation Strategy and Partnership Facilitator, [UNICEF Product Innovation Centre -Supply Division](#)

This session explores product innovation in development settings, addressing how to communicate product needs and challenges, questioning perspectives on supply vs. demand, defining the customer in low-resource settings, and examining learnings from corporations attempting to address product innovation in these contexts.

- **9.10 - 10:00 | Plenary Moderated Panel**

Moderator – Larry Madowo, CNN International Correspondent

Discussion: WASH Innovation – visions for the future, goals and pathways to achieve them.

- [Prof. Francis de los Reyes III](#), Professor of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, North Carolina State University, USA
- [Tina Kollerup Hansen](#) – Senior Vice President Danish Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF – part of Investment Fund for Development, IFU) Denmark
- [Victor Ochen](#), Executive Director, African Youth Initiative Network, Uganda

- **10.10 - 11:40 | Breakout Sessions: BLOCK 3**

- **Blended Finance Approaches: Accelerating Implementation, Replication and Scale**

Facilitator: [Aleksander Rostami](#), Senior Advisor Sustainable Financing - [UNICEF Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub](#)

This session explores current best practices in blended finance for WASH, examining the roles of different actors, funding mechanisms, and concrete steps to further develop and accelerate the application of these models to scale innovative solutions.

Or

- **AI for Climate-resilient WASH: from Hype to Impact - Practical Applications for Scale**

Facilitators: [Olivier Mills](#), Founder - [Baobab Tech / WASH AI](#), [Katherine Hoffman Pham](#), AI Advisor - [UNICEF Office of Innovation](#)

This interactive session dissects real-world applications and opportunities of AI in WASH, focusing on scaling pathways and implementation challenges, using scenario-based learning to explore how AI can enhance or hinder climate-resilient solutions while considering data governance, ethics, and integration into decision-making.

- **11:40 - 12.50 | LUNCH**

- **13.00- 14:45 | Plenary: Bringing it all together - Pathways to Scale for Greater Impact, Faster**

Moderator: Simi Jan, TV2 Journalist, UNICEF Denmark Ambassador

Facilitator: [David Duncan](#), Senior Adviser, Innovation - [UNICEF Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub](#)

This session will start with facilitators from each break-out session giving key highlights and reflections from their sessions and addressing remaining gaps in areas that need to be addressed and included. Following on from this, the closing session will bring together perspectives to help outline potential pathways and strategies for scaling WASH solutions, focusing on identifying and removing bottlenecks and investing in relevant impact pathways to achieve scale, emphasizing the need for consensus on current challenges.

- **Closing Remarks**

Thomas Davin, Director of UNICEF Office of Innovation and David Duncan, WASH Innovation Hub Lead.

- **14.45 -16.00 | NETWORKING COFFEE & CAKE**