

Climate resilient rural WASH

RWSN's contribution & next steps

Climate change



Impacts the **quantity and quality of rural water** sources, by increasing the frequency and severity of **droughts, floods and extreme weather events**.



Credits: Ny Menghor

This causes a **variety of problems**, including:

- Water scarcity
- Inaccessibility of water sources
- Damage to WASH infrastructure
- Pollution of water sources
- Increased risk of disease
- Increased water costs
- Climate migration

Climate resilient rural WASH

Encompasses both **disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation**, providing benefits under **current and future climate scenarios** and uncertainties.

Challenges include:

- Understanding the climate-related risks to rural WASH
- Identifying which communities and systems are more at risk
- Adapting WASH technologies for improved climate resilience
- Monitoring and documenting the lessons learned
- Generating evidence for governmental decision-making
- Building capacity on climate resilient rural WASH at all levels



Credits: Isaiiah Espisou

How RWSN has been contributing



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT

Part of RWSN's thematic scope since 2004

A way to **ensure the long term quality and security** of groundwater resources, which act as a natural buffer against climate change and climate variability. RWSN's contribution includes:

- Building capacity on drilling professionalisation
- Raising understanding on groundwater use, monitoring and management
- Fostering assessments on the quality and quantity of groundwater resources
- Maintaining an evidence base on groundwater availability and management in Sub-Saharan Africa (UPGro website)
- Supporting national (or state) governments to improve policies, standards and procedures for borehole drilling



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Part of RWSN's thematic scope since 2013

A way to **promote climate change adaptation** within households and communities, by providing an alternative water source during times of scarcity. RWSN's contribution includes:

- Enhancing the visibility of rainwater harvesting (focus on remote rural areas)
- Promoting joint learning and sharing on rainwater harvesting techniques
- Making rainwater harvesting knowledge products available (e.g. publications)
- Documenting experiences on the scaling up of rainwater harvesting systems
- Supporting the incorporation of rainwater harvesting into policy and practice



Credits: Water Mission

SOLAR PUMPING

Part of RWSN's thematic scope since 2018

A way to **decarbonise rural water supply**, reduce system running costs, and mitigate the impact of extreme weather and declining water levels. RWSN's contribution includes:

- Fostering discussions on current experiences on solar pumping techniques
- Promoting face-to-face and online trainings on solar pumping
- Collaborating with governments to improve institutional frameworks
- Mapping the existing knowledge, guidance and actors on solar pumps
- Fostering the generation of evidence on solar pumping systems



Credits: Winrock International

MULTIPLE-USE WATER SERVICES (MUS)

Part of RWSN's thematic scope since 2021

A way to **increase climate resilience**, health and livelihood benefits by holistically matching available water resources with all water uses. MUS is a new theme to RWSN and thus the network is focusing its efforts on:

- Improving the understanding of MUS among water practitioners
- Unlocking practical experiences and promoting capacity building
- Fostering data generation on the performance, costs and benefits of MUS
- Exploring the linkages between MUS and other RWSN themes
- Identifying approaches and tools for the systematic planning of MUS

What comes next for RWSN



Address our member's needs

- **3rd most common challenge:** Water scarcity, drought and climate change
- **Missing topics and themes:** Climate resilient WASH, Climate change adaptation etc.



Build capacity on climate resilient WASH

Especially on **how the current rural WASH technologies can be adapted** to account for climate-related risks



Make the best use of our global network to

- **Assess** the **climate resilience** of current **technologies**
- **Generate evidence** on climate resilient rural WASH
- And much more...