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## WSSCC approved to become the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund



GENEVA (ots) -

The Steering Committee of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) took a landmark decision on Monday by approving WSSCC's new 2021-2025 strategy, which paves the way for WSSCC to evolve into the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, a scalable and global Fund to effectively support the world's poorest and most left behind in achieving the sanitation and hygiene related Sustainable Development Goal.

Today, ensuring access to adequate levels of sanitation and hygiene is more urgent than ever: Lack of access to adequate sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health and hygiene stands as one of the greatest impediments to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving large numbers of people exposed to not only outbreaks or pandemics of infectious disease, such as diarrheal diseases, cholera, Ebola and Covid-19, but also maternal and neonatal death, inadequate sexual and reproductive health, the spread of anti-microbial resistance, sepsis and malnutrition.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poor sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health which negatively impacts their safety and dignity from sanitation-related gender-based violence, mobility, freedom of choice, health and their access to employment, and social and economic power. Yet, at the current rate of progress, the Sustainable Development Goal target on sanitation and hygiene is projected to be only reached in the 22nd century.

The Sanitation and Hygiene Fund therefore calls on global leaders, including national governments, to drastically scale up their investments in sanitation and hygiene in schools, health care centers and at the household level and to ensure the necessary innovation that supports better sanitation and hygiene.

WSSCC has already reached millions of people around the world with essential and often life-saving interventions in sanitation and hygiene. Building on WSSCC's achievements and the support provided by its longstanding donors and partners, the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund will support eligible countries to access increased and catalytic financing to close the gaps in their national sanitation and hygiene strategies.

"Today, we recognize the need for a global approach, a transformative approach, and a long-term approach. With the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, we are calling upon world leaders to help us fill a void in the international response to the sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health crisis," says Hind Khatib-Othman, Chair of WSSCC.

### About WSSCC

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council is a UN-hosted membership organization with 30 years of expertise working to improve sanitation and hygiene for those most left behind and least able to respond. WSSCC has been focusing on

SDG 6.2 (sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health). Learn more on our website ( <http://www.wsscc.org> ) and connect with us on <https://www.facebook.com/WatSanCollabCouncil/> and <https://twitter.com/WSSCCouncil> .

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For more information on the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund and to request an interview, contact: Hiro Saito, Head of Corporate Communications and Advocacy Tel: +41 22 552 5212; Mobile: +41 79 684 3598 Email: [info@SHFund.org](mailto:info@SHFund.org)

#### Medieninhalte



Community leaders in Kenya's Muranga County wearing their menstrual bracelets in a show of commitment to promoting menstrual health and hygiene. ©WSSCC/Jason Florio. More information via ots and [www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2](http://www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2) / Editorial use of this picture is free of charge. Please quote the source: "obs/WSSCC/Jason Florio"



A villager in Kenya demonstrates her handwashing station next to a latrine made of interlocking bricks - a local market-based solution for sustainable sanitation. ©WSSCC/Jason Florio. More information via ots and [www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2](http://www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2) / Editorial use of this picture is free of charge. Please quote the source: "obs/WSSCC/Jason Florio"



With approval of its 2021-2025 strategy, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council has reached a milestone to evolve into the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund. More information via ots and [www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2](http://www.presseportal.ch/de/nr/100020693?langid=2) / Editorial use of this picture is free of charge. Please quote the source: "obs/WSSCC"

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