





GWOPA Annual Report

2022

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Cover photo

Tanzania: KASHWASA / KUWASA and HAMBURG Wasser team evaluating the results of the Jar Test © Ezat Hanif Kaserkandis.

Foreword

This Annual Report reflects the activities and achievements of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance in 2022.

It has been a year since the Covid-19 pandemic finally began to subside while new major conflicts emerged along with a pronounced energy and food crisis, increases in cost of living and climate disruption. Ecosystem degradation is increasingly aggravating vulnerabilities and tensions.

The water and sanitation services providers that we work with are themselves prone to the world's rising challenges—working day by day to overcome water scarcity, water pollution, and access to financial resources, all exacerbated by climate change.

The UN World Water Development Report 2023 states that progress towards all the targets of SDG 6 is off-track and in some areas, the rate of implementation needs to quadruple, or more. In this context, strengthening the capacity of water operators is crucial to expand their potential and contribute to secure access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

Through the efforts of GWOPA, 43 more water and sanitation operators have in 2022 begun capacity for improved services through Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs), in their work to serve more than 83 million end-users. GWOPA piloted the Partnership Management Platform

to help water operators plan, monitor, visualize progress, and report their WOPs. The year saw GWOPA's Communities of Practice host close to 1,000 members around issues of sanitation, water and wastewater management, and services to low-income communities, linked to UN-Habitat's strategic areas of work.

The Alliance worked on the development of a stronger sanitation strategy as a core element for broader partnerships. It also expanded its role as a global advocator of WOPs at key events such as the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Stockholm World Water Week, IFAT Munich. World Urban Forum, and COP27.

The ripple effect of Water Operators' Partnerships is what truly illustrates the accelerator potential of this low-cost, solidarity-based approach. Seeing water operators that were initially mentored through GWOPA's efforts graduate last year as mentors in our new projects illustrate the value of these capacity-building investments.

The year closed on the eve of preparations for the milestone UN 2023 Water Conference. Going forward, the GWOPA Secretariat and membership will continue to scale up its efforts to facilitate partnerships between local water and sanitation service providers, as crucial actors in urban development and sustainable water and sanitation management in cities.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

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GWOPA

Connecting water and sanitation service providers to improve services for everyone

What is GWOPA?

Local water and sanitation services providers are key to the Sustainable Development Goals, yet many struggle to provide quality services that people can access and afford and that are sustainably managed. GWOPA is an international network hosted by UN-Habitat to support water operators through Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) working globally on peer support exchanges between two or more water operators. With a not-for-profit approach, the Alliance aims to strengthen operators' capacity, enhance their performance and enable them to provide better service to more people.

Vision

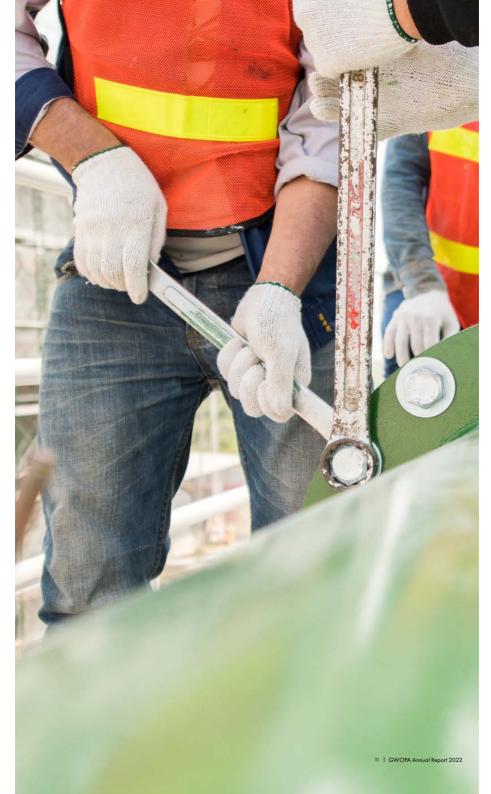
Water and sanitation service providers, connected in a solidarity-based network, are sharing and helping one another improve services for all, to achieve local and global objectives.

Mission

To work as an effective global alliance to inspire, mobilize support for, catalyze, guide, monitor and enable Water Operators' Partnerships that improve lives.

Strategic Objectives

- WOPs are scaled up.
- WOPs are contributing to water and sanitation service providers' improved capacity and performance, and local realization of the SDGs, to the benefit of all, particularly the poor.



GWOPA Key Highlights 2022

The GWOPA Secretariat has since its establishment led global Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs), supporting 500 utilities in more than 70 countries, serving an estimated 50 million people. GWOPA today has 150 institutional members and 1,000 individuals from over 100 countries. As a global thought leader on WOPs, GWOPA has organized Global WOP Congresses and developed key normative products including the Global WOPs Database, the Partnerships Management Platform, and a WOP guidance series 'How-To WOP'.

Supporting Water Operators' Partnerships

In 2022, WOPs began building capacity in 43 Water and sanitation operators, who serve more than 83 million end users through Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) within the Alliance.

24 new Water Operators' Partnerships were launched in 2022 in partnership with the European Union Water Operators' Partnerships (EU-WOP) programme (21 WOPs) and UNICEF (3 WOPs) helping one another to improve their capacities and performance.

Sodo Town Water and Sanitation Services mentored through the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) GWOPA WOP programme 2019-2022, was awarded 'best-performing utility of the year' by the Ethiopian regulators, and became a mentor for its peers under the new UNICEF WOP programme in 2022.

Raising the Profile of WOPs

The Alliance has been highly active at international conferences and fora, showcasing technical excellence of the WOPs experience and contributing to policy processes. The voices of water and sanitation operators and Water Operators' Partnerships as important accelerators for the SDGs were well positioned in the international water sector.

GWOPA is collaborating with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education to publish a <u>Special Issue on Water Operators'</u>

<u>Partnerships: Principles and Practices</u>. The peer-reviewed academic journal will be discussed and reviewed throughout 2023 and published in February 2024 in the International Water Association Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development.

Strengthening Knowledge Exchange

By end of 2022, a total of 718 water operators are registered members and beneficiaries of the Alliances WOPs and mentorship programme. 350 operators have participated as mentees and 156 as mentors, with 49 having acted in both roles.

Through its WOPs Observatory, GWOPA has tracked as of December 2022, 447 Water Operators' Partnerships globally.

GWOPA's Partnership Management Platform has been used during the year by more than 180 water sector practitioners.

The GWOPA Community of Practice platform counts over 1,000 individual members and enables them to exchange information and engage with each other. This membership based discussion forum counts a general market place and 10 technical groups implemented with the support from WaterWorx and EU-WOPs.

This highly interactive platform counts over 1,000 posts and messages generated through 39 distinct training sessions and 2 dedicated Online Course groups on Drinking Water Safety Planning, in collaboration with WHO, and 'How to Prepare for a Water Operators' Partnership.'

Expanding Outreach

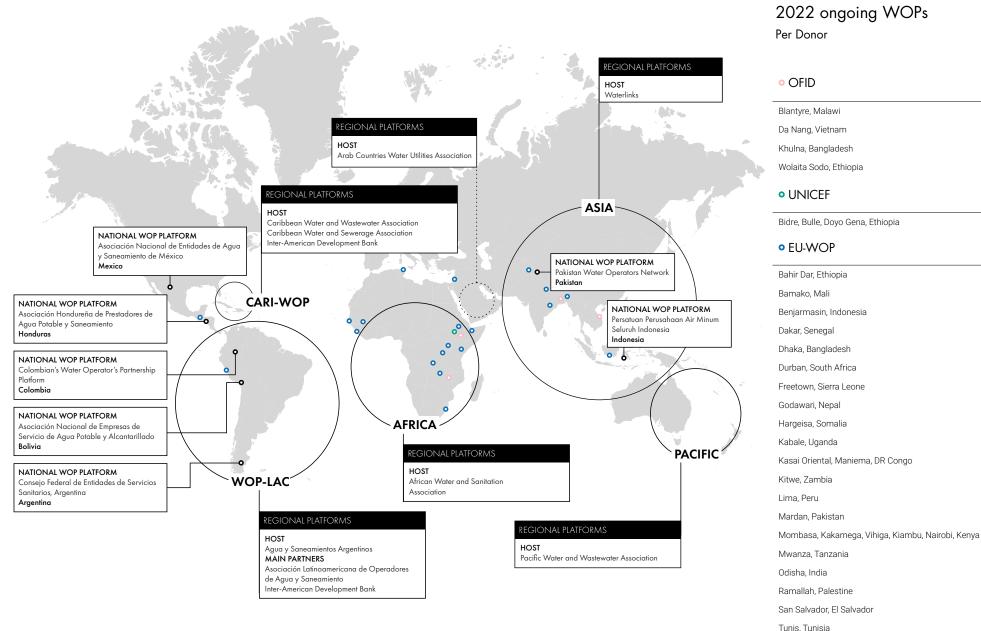
The acceleration of the Alliance's membership campaign in 2022 successfully gathered the commitment of more than 100 institutional members.



 $\ensuremath{\texttt{@}}$ Hamburg Wasser – KASHWASA and KUWASA.

GWOPA Platforms GWOPA Platforms

GWOPA Platforms







GWOPA Projects

The four-year project funded by OFID (OPEC Fund for International Development) on Sustainability Improvement Plan WOP Programme wrapped up at the beginning of 2022. The project proved the WOP model to be resilient and effective even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Out of the initially targeted 5 utilities (3 in Asia and 2 in Africa), 4 have significantly improved their capacities, offering better and more sustainable services to approximately 8.5 million people.

The implementation of the EU-WOP Programme began in 2022 with 22 partnerships selected through a competitive process. The year focused on kicking off cooperation of 21 WOPs, in depth diagnosis, site visits, and training.

GWOPA and UNICEF kicked off a Water Operators' Partnerships project in Ethiopia. The initiative Building the Capacity of Three Ethiopian Water Services Providers through Water Operators' Partnership will improve newly established utilities in the Bidre, Bulle and Doyo Gena towns, through an alliance of one international mentor from the region and two local mentors.

Aligning with UN-Habitat's Strategic Priorities

GWOPA's work continues to contribute to the outcomes of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020—2025

Reduced Spatial Inequality and Poverty in Communities Across the Urban-Rural Continuum

GWOPA's expanding work on improving access to water and sanitation services through the Water and Sanitation Partnership focuses on the right to adequate water and sanitation as part of reducing spatial inequality.

In addressing Leaving No One Behind, GWOPA in 2022 led a Low-Income Customers Community of Practice group that involved people working for or with water utilities to provide water, sanitation and hygiene. The group shared knowledge through training events and discussions on inclusive service delivery policies and approaches focusing on low-income customers in harder-to-reach neighbourhoods.

Enhanced Shared Prosperity of Cities and Regions

GWOPA works to improve spatial connectivity and productivity, increase local resource mobilization and decent jobs through the water operator profession, including engagement of more women in the profession. GWOPA's Asset Management Group is for practitioners aiming to balance between Cost, Performance, and Risks within the utility operations providing best "value for money".

Strengthened Climate Action and Improved Urban Environment

Water Operators' Partnerships are instrumental in supporting utilities to transition to energy-efficient infrastructure, and services helping cities to achieve climate target and reduce carbon emission and improve services for all. GWOPA's Water Resources Resilience and Climate Change COP has in 2022 shared knowledge and good practice on utilities' mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts on their operations and planning.

Effective Urban Crisis Prevention and Response

In exploring how to use WOPs to address some of the challenges facing Ukrainian water utilities, GWOPA proposed building on the EU-WOP model and aligning with the wider UN-Habitat urban recovery proposals to make use of WOPs to support the region.



Session 'The Power of Peer Partnerships: EU-backed Mentorship for Utility Improvement' at the 9th World Water Forum. From left to right: Enabel Water Expert Mr. Thibaud Chazal; SWDE Head of International Projects Ms. Minazola Miantuadi; ONEE Head of R&D Department Mr. Mokhtar Jaait © GWOPA / UN-Habitat.

Human Rights

UN-Habitat underpins its work with a human-rights-based approach to ensure that those further behind are targeted first. Clean water and safe sanitation are widely recognized human rights. Strong water utilities ensure that these basic rights are met by everyone, regardless of origin, age, gender, ability, income or geography.

GWOPA sets water and sanitation utilities to the front line in realizing the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. With its EU-WOP programme, the Alliance aims to build the capacity of the service providers to fulfil their role in securing these rights.

GWOPA participated at the Social Forum in Geneva in November and highlighted water operators' role in achieving the human rights to water and sanitation. In this year's edition, the Forum focused on water for human rights and sustainable development, linking to the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028. The conference aimed to make a human rights contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference, the midterm review of the Decade taking place in March 2023.

Youth

In acknowledgement of the vital role played by young professionals in the water and sanitation sector, GWOPA and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships joined forces in 2022 to produce a compelling short film. Shot on location in Mali and Tanzania, this film features young professionals who offer insights into their daily contributions to water utilities and share their visions for the sector's future. The film make its debut during a special event held alongside the UN 2023 Water Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It aims to provide an expansive and prominent platform for young water and sanitation professionals to raise awareness and advocate for their profession's intricate challenges and solutions. Watch the short film "Water Generation – Young professionals shaping the future" on the EU International Partnerships YouTube channel.



Scan here

In addition to the nine thematic communities of practice (CoPs), one dedicated to Young Water Professionals was launched within the Global WOPs Community and rose to almost 100 members. The group was created for youth in the water sector and youth ambassadors to learn from each other and share opportunities, ideas, challenges and solutions to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation for all.

SWOPs:

A Focus on Sanitation

Sanitation service provision is an intrinsic part of the water operators' portfolio worldwide, while non-sewered sanitation (NSS) is rarely featured among the WOPs. In 2022, with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GWOPA has broadened its WOP focus to support learning and peer support partnerships that embrace a city-wide and inclusive approach to sanitation and close the knowledge gap towards NSS.

This year, GWOPA has launched the sanitation and wastewater community of practice. This CoP offers a unique space for sanitation and wastewater practitioners to directly share and exchange information, discuss with peers and experts globally, and join or establish sanitation-focused Water Operators' Partnerships (SWOPs).

GWOPA advocacy for including sanitation into the water strategies of cities and communities has been well received in the various international technical conferences and policy processes fora in 2022, including the 9th World Water Forum, the 11th World Urban Forum, and the African Water Association Digital Congress. Here, the alliance raised awareness and discussed the roles utilities need to take to ensure more comprehensive, ecologically sound and inclusive sanitation services at city-level and the potential of SWOPs for building utility capacity to do so.



From left to right, EU-WOP Projects implementing partners NWSC Director of Business and Scientific Services Rose Kaggwa, SOMAPEP General Director Bakary Coulibaly, and EIB Senior Water Sector Engineer Emmanuel Chaponniere, during the special session 'The Power of Peer Partnerships: EU-backed Mentorship for Utility Improvement' at the 9th World Water Forum @ GWOPA / UN-Habitat.

Expanding Our Knowledge Services

The Partnership Management Platform

When partnering, water operators need to outline at the onset clear goals and objectives, define their performance and capacity development indicators, and establish communication and regular evaluation channels. This can often be to help the monitoring process of Water Operators' Partnerships, in 2022, the GWOPA Secretariat developed and rolled out the Partnership Management Platform (PMP) as a free and tailor-made online tool to:

Promote Accountability and Participatory Planning

As an online tool where users from different organizations, in different parts of the world can simultaneously view and contribute, the platform helps stakeholders involved in a WOP to have an organized and shared plan of activities while helping each other be accountable for their commitments and meet their objectives.

Facilitate Communication

The platform facilitates communication between WOP partners by providing a common framework for discussing progress and challenges, and sharing a common understanding of the targets and progress indicators.

Promote Knowledge Sharing

The platform captures not only quantitative data, targets and indicators, but also allows partners to do narrative descriptions on their activities, outputs and outcomes, and upload document functionalities, promoting knowledge sharing and well-documented lessons learned between the partners and potentially with other WOPs.

As of the end of 2022, three WOP programmes, involving more than 79 organizations, are engaging on the platform.

The Global WOPs Community

In 2022, GWOPA's thematic Communities of Practice, commonly referred to as CoPs, experienced remarkable growth and development. These vibrant and moderated communities, facilitated by the GWOPA Secretariat for all individual GWOPA members, are hosted within the Global WOPs Community—an online platform that unites water and sanitation professionals globally. What Individual GWOPA Members can access through the Global WOPs Community:

Global Networking

Connect with WOP practitioners from across the globe and collaborate in achieving SDG6 objectives.

Knowledge Enhancement

Elevate skills through peer learning, knowledge exchange, and capacity development programs, all available in multiple languages.

Innovation Catalyst

Harness the power of diverse online collaboration tools to accelerate innovation and co-creation.

Inclusive Partnership

Be part of a community that values inclusivity and fosters a shared sense of ownership.

10 Thematic CoP Groups	Number of Members Dec 2022
CoP Commercial Operations	159
CoP Enabling Environment	145
CoP Low Income Customers	155
CoP Water Resources Resilience and Climate Change	115
CoP Young Water Professionals	77
CoP Water Production	197
CoP Asset Management	212
CoP Water Distribution	211
CoP Sanitation, Wastewater and Utilities	322
CoP Utility Organization and Strategy	115

Local Snapshots

Kota Surabaya, Indonesia Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, KWASA, Bangladesh

Programme Sustainability Improvement Plan WOPs funded by the OPEC Fund for International Development-OFID (2020—2022)

In Khulna, Bangladesh as a result of this Water Operators' Partnership (WOP), KWASA monitors and efficiently ensures the reliability and sustainability of water supply in new areas, through the creation of two functional District Meter Areas-DMAs.

The knowledge acquired from the WOP will contribute beyond the partnership duration since the utility is already planning to multiply the number of DMAs on the basis of their newly acquired competence.

45 mentee utilities attribute their operational or capacity performance improvement to a WOP.

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Data from 68 ongoing WOPs within the Alliance in 2022.



Khulna, Bangladesh © Nur Ahyani.



Godawari, Nepal © Ayush Shakya.

Vatten och Avfallskompetens, Norr VAKIN, Umeå, Sweden Godawari Municipality, Godawari, Nepal

EU-WOPs (2022-2025)

The WOP assists Godawari to identify local gaps and inequalities and work on solutions in reaching SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2. The partnership works on a well-planned and community-coordinated expansion of their water network in benefit of the population of Lele.

Godawari is also gaining from the shared tools and technical knowledge to set up of new waste collection and segregation process at a waste center.

EU-WOPs contributes to SDG 6, especially Targets 6.1 and 6.4

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Data from 68 ongoing WOPs within the Alliance in 2022.

Società Metropolitana Acque Torino, Italy Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board, India

Programme Sustainability Improvement Plan WOPs funded by the OPEC Fund for International Development — EU-WOPs (2022—2025)

In India, the mentee utility staff is benefitting from the capacity development programme built jointly by the mentors specifically for the staff needs.

This involves different training webinars, online courses and workshops, exchange forums, with a special focus on sanitation and gender inclusivity. As a result, the utility now has trained staff in wastewater treatment, water reuse in industrial, agricultural, and domestic purposes. They can always refer to the courses and content even beyond the duration of the WOP. This will help capacitate the staff to be onboarded in future too.

278 Mentee utility staff having improved their capacity through a WOP.

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Data from 68 ongoing WOPs within the Alliance in 2022



Koraput, Odisha, India © Shreemay Amitav.



Mbale, Uganda © Stephen Butler.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Cardiff, Cardiff, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation, Mbale, Uganda

EU-WOPs (2022-2025)

With a goal to ensure water supply reach to the remotest areas of Eastern Uganda, this WOP benefitted 34 districts and rural growth centers of the region through a concerted focus on increasing water production, supply volumes, creating new piped connections and enriching water quality.

This has resulted in a jump in water sales by 20% in just 4 months, ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water to hundreds of villagers. The WOP team intends to build on this success and scale up the process in the coming years, even beyond the duration of the WOP.

83 million end users benefitting from water and sanitation service improvements.

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Data from 68 ongoing WOPs within the Alliance in 2022



Outcomes 2022

Outcome 1

WOPs are Well-known, Supported, Adopted, and Adequately Funded

In 2022, the GWOPA Secretariat worked with its global members to continue making Water Operators' Partnerships known and supported. WOPs contributed to the global and aspirational visions embraced by global development agendas, such as Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Declaration on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and others, and GWOPA continuously seeks to underline this link.

The need for capacity development to accompany any water sector investment is well recognized by the development community, and the value of peer operator partnership is growing in recognition.

GWOPA regularly connected with financiers such as regional and other development institutions within this year in a campaign to encourage their more explicit and active application of WOPs as a support to their lending activities. A key focus has been in supporting them to overcome current obstacles to fitting WOPs within the rules of their technical assistance mechanisms.

The report Enabling WOPs: Mobilizing European Actors for Solidarity-based Water Partnerships presented recommendations to scale up WOPs by European partners, showcasing examples of enabling frameworks and best practices to facilitate global partnerships.



- GWOPA engaged 444 participants in GWOPA co- organized events dedicated to lobby, advocate and mobilize resources for WOPs in 2022.
- Ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, GWOPA actively prepared events to raise the voices of local water and sanitation operators and position WOPs strategically as accelerators of the SDGs.
- Increased visibility of GWOPA in international events, particularly at UN fora attended by Member States, including the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- GWOPA hosted a European Enabler meeting to facilitate a growing number of public water utilities from EU
 Member States with interest in sharing their expertise with peers in lower- and middle-income countries through WOPs.
- Workplace saw an increase of 46% in number of users in 2022, and the Partnership Management Platform had 184 new users.

GWOPA Representation at Major Events

GWOPA contributed to international conferences from within the water sector and also beyond rangning from United Nations meetings, international fora and think tank events, and technical water expert conferences to shape the international water agenda and promote the concept of water operators' partnerships for sustainable development on global and local level.

Preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference

The GWOPA Secretariat with support from a dedicated Task Force was represented as part of UN preparatory conferences in New York in October 2022, highlighting the essential role of service providers and the opportunity to scale up utility partnerships.

High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

At the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda held in April 2022, GWOPA hosted a side event on the Water and Cities: The Role of Public Utilities and How to Strengthen them in a Rapidly Urbanizing World. The meeting highlighted WOPs contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

9th World Water Forum

GWOPA was showcased as a part of the German Pavilion at the 9th edition of the World Water Forum from 21 to 26 March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. GWOPA led an event focused on the EU-WOP Programme called "The Power of Peer Partnerships" showcasing four of these partnerships from the perspective of both mentee and mentor, as well as from the programme donor and partners.

Stockholm World Water Week

GWOPA co-convened an online session at Stockholm World Water Week titled "Valuing water—why utilities engage in Water Operators' Partnerships" jointly with GIZ, the Government of the Netherlands, WaterWorX and WaterAid focused on mentor and mentee utilities.

11th Session of the World Urban Forum

GWOPA introduced WOPs to major municipal networks at the World Urban Forum, in Katowice, Poland in June 2022. Peer utility partnerships were showcased in an event hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and for preventing and responding to crises in a session organized by Engagement Global and the German Municipal Associations' Connective Cities Programme.

COP27 Water Pavillion

GWOPA contributed to the implementation of the Water Pavilion in COP27 as a core partner and supported the development of the Water Pavilion Programme to contribute to the mainstreaming of the Water in Climate agenda, including representing and advocating for WOP practice, and preparation for UN-Water Action Agenda.

The Water Pavilion hosted a total of 59 events throughout the 10 thematic days, showcasing the role of finance, technology, science, Nature based Solutions (NbS), inclusion and holistic approaches in water-related climate change adaptation and mitigation. All day organizers reported at least 20 partners and organizations actively contributing to/supporting the events and the average number of contributing organizations involved in each day's activities was 34. In total, the Water Pavilion welcomed 450+ individual speakers and each of the sessions was well attended with a physical audience on an average of 230 people each day.

The Water Pavilion has been institutionalized in the Conference of Parties, which provides opportunities for GWOPA members to engage in and contribute to the climate and water nexus.

IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition

WOPs were the focus of a Keynote address delivered by GWOPA at the High-Level Summit of the IWA World Water Congress Exhibtion in Copenhagen in September 2022. WaterAid, VEi Dutch Water Operators and GWOPA co-convened the workshop "Online and hybrid approaches to knowledge exchange and capacity building for Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs)".

IFAT

GWOPA was strongly represented at IFAT in Munich, May 30 to June 3, 2022, the largest global conference and trade fair for the water food energy nexus, where it was visibly hosted within the pavilion of the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste, DWA. Collaborating with UNIDO-IDTP, GWOPA showed how WOPs were facilitating the sharing and uptake of utility innovations for the SDGs.

Outcome 2

WOP Actors Make Use of GWOPA (Co)produced Knowledge Products and Services

GWOPA has continued to implement the three main pillars that comprise the work on this outcome: documentation and research, establishment of the WOPs Data Portal, and support to WOP actors for effective practice.

In 2022, the GWOPA Secretariat produced and disseminated WOP guidance based on WOPs principles and good practice drawn from the documented cases and continued to lead the global monitoring, documentation and analysis of the WOPs practice through the Global WOPs Observatory, including the WOP database and the development of a dedicated web-based Project Management Platform (PMP).

- Open-access learning programme and materials on Water Safety Planning and How to WOP were offered on online
- 2022 was the year when the WOP management platform began its rollout in WOP programmes by UNICEF and EU-WOPs, and IADB funded WOPs in Latin America, involving 184 active users.
- 23 Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) and more than 180 water sector staff began using the GWOPA Partnership Management Platform to manage and monitor their WOPs. Several WOP initiatives, including the Asian Development Bank and the German Utility Programme are exploring the potential use of the PMP for better capturing results in their WOP projects.
- Over 1000 individual members and 10 technical groups are actively engaging in peer learning and sharing in the GWOPA Community of Practice.
- A knowledge management study seeking to understand the mechanisms of learning in WOPs got underway.

Boosting Effectiveness of WOPs Programme

The programme, funded by the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) as a collaboration between GWOPA and IHE-Delft has this year supported knowledge generation and sharing related to the EU-WOP initiative in particular, while bringing its lessons and products to bear on the wider global WOP practice.

WOP Special Issue Journal

An IWA WASH Development Journal special issue dedicated to WOPs, edited by GWOPA and IHE Delft, is under preparation for publishing in early 2024. A call for abstracts was issued this year seeking contributions from academic-practitioner teams interested in conducting constructive critical analyses of WOP practice and its partnership dimensions.

Knowledge Management Study

Work began on research to understand how EU-WOP programme partners are identifying and responding to capacity and performance shortcomings in their partnerships. The study, involving interviews, surveys and the review of EU-WOP reports, will identify gaps in knowledge materials, tools and approaches that GWOPA and partners can work to fill under the BEWOP initiative.

Online Learning

The online learning programme involves the development and delivery of open access thematic courses relevant to drinking water supply operators and WOPs. In 2022, two programmes were delivered, one on "How to WOP: Prepare for a Water Operators' Partnership" and "Water Safety Planning" (in collaboration with WHO). A third programme on Gender and Diversity tools was under development for delivery in early 2023.

GWOPA Communities of Practice

In 2022, GWOPA's workplace platform grew tremendously in the number of members, number of focused technical and project-focused groups, and in activity. A major development that contributed to its growth was opening up the platform to a wider range of participants thanks to strong collaboration with the Dutch Water Operators' WaterWorX programme.

Partnership Management Platform

With fully operational software, and associated guidance and training materials, GWOPA held the first series of training workshops on its Partnership Management Platform tool, which is the key apparatus for monitoring WOP

project progress. EU-WOP partners used the platform to plan their first year of collaboration, and to monitor and report on their initial progress.

The Global WOPs Data Portal

The Global WOPs Data Portal has continued to provide main information about WOPs trends by displaying upto-date WOPs data in the Global WOPs Dashboard. The Data Portal will in the next year become the home of the Membership process and database, promoting a complete integration of all GWOPA information, and making the Global WOPs Data Portal a robust tool with useful data.



Guiding the Way. Ghana Water staff from their Low-Income Customer Support Department patiently clarifies water bill details for a new customer in a low-income community @ Obed Omane Frempong.

Outcome 3

GWOPA is a Strong and Fruitful Water Solidarity Network

GWOPA has continued to carry out its mission as a strong network of actively engaged and coordinated members, partners and platforms, raising its status as a convener, coordinator and catalyzer for the WOPs practice.

Along with expansion in other regions, GWOPA has in 2022 been assessing how WOPs can be helpful in addressing the challenges of water operators in Ukraine. GWOPA in working with its network partners in the region to map out the needs or operators and exploring types and sources of support that could be mobilized from their peers. German WOPs have been instrumental in supporting with material and technical support to ailing operators affected by this crisis, both in Ukraine and the neighboring countries.

The year saw inspiring examples of the ripple effect- when water operators mentored through GWOPA's support graduate to become mentors themselves. In 2022, the water and sewerage operator of Sodo, a city in south-central Ethiopia, volunteered and was selected to become a mentor for another small size operator from the region in the UNICEF Ethiopia WOP project, alongside with a more experienced mentor, National Water and Sewerage Corporation from Uganda. The Ugandan operator is coaching Wolaita Sodo Water and Sewerage Services Company under the guidance of GWOPA to finetune its mentoring skills. The local mentor Sodo has in the process both demonstrated its capacity of sharing its knowledge with its peer and its high spirit of solidarity by donating several hundreds of water meters.

- 21 WOP projects began implementation under the EU-WOP Programme, the EU's strongest commitment to
 peer partnerships in the water sector to date. These partnerships stand to benefit 6 million users in the countries
 where they are working to improve utilities' performance.
- A new WOP programme commenced in Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNICEF. The programme which will build
 the capacity of three Ethiopian water utilities, is part of growing adoption of WOPs by UNICEF and the Ethiopian
 government as a strategy for boosting water and sanitation services in the country.
- The Global WOPs Alliance gained 100 new institutional members under its new robust membership policy.

Main Activities

5th GLOBAL WOP Congress

As 2022 was an interim year between GWOPA's biannual Global WOPs Congresses, preparations were advanced in planning for the upcoming 5th edition of the Global WOPs Congress, taking place at the World Conference Center in Bonn in May 2023. A dedicated Task Force has led substantive preparations and thematic guidance. Over 200 suggestions by individuals and organizations to co-convene or contribute to the Congress' thematic session were received by the end of 2022.

EU-WOP Programme

Implementation of partnerships under the flagship EU-WOP Programme began in 2022, designed to help water and sanitation service improve capacity, performance and access to finance in three-year long Water Operators' Partnerships. Of the 22 partnerships selected through the competitive process in 2021, all but one began their partnerships in the first half of the year.

Staff from the over 50 EU-WOP Programme partners are sharing project updates in a dedicated Community of Practice within the Global WOPs Community. Through the portal, learning opportunities were provided to the project partners on communication, good WOP practice and WOP monitoring and reporting.

Citywide Inclusive Sanitation

GWOPA's ongoing strengthening of its sanitation focus aims to foster partnerships beyond public utilities that will include municipalities and local governments. It will highlight the need to focus more explicitly on how utilities engage with their communities on behavioral change in sanitation and the involvement of NGOs and the private sector in SWOPs. SWOPs should aim at scaling up mixed technologies, blended financing, pro-poor services, and private-sector participation.

Regional Collaboration

In 2022, the intense activity of the Communities of Practice and dedicated thematic exchanges drew large interest from regional members and led to a steep rise in individual membership to GWOPA.

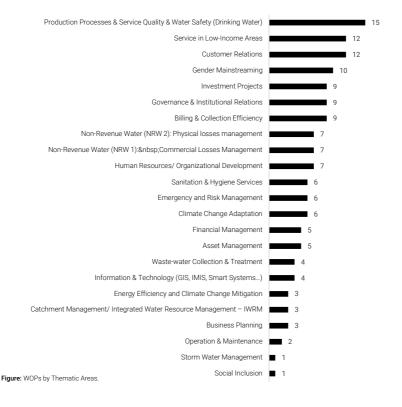
In rolling out GWOPA's New Charter, GWOPA reinvigorated its relationship with the regional platforms. A process for opening the opportunity for new platforms to come on board was initiated this year. The new charter provides a clearer definition for a regional platform and lays out its expected roles and obligations, including supporting GWOPA membership campaign in their geographical area and collaboration on knowledge and WOP implementation.

WOP Themes and Interactions in 2022

GWOPA provides a dedicated service platform, the Data Portal and Partner Management Platform for information on Water Operators' Partnerships worldwide. Thanks to the Alliance's programmes and regional and national platforms, over 40 new WOPs could be documented in 2022, many with the characteristics of a triangular partnership involving local co-mentors or several mentees. GWOPA states this to be a growing trend shifting from intra-regional to South-South partnerships.

WOPs by Thematic Areas

Non-revenue water, operations and maintenance are the thematic areas most prioritized in the WOPs documented by GWOPA over the year. There is also a trend of increased number of water operators focusing their capacity development efforts on improving their service processes, service quality and water safety, as well as improving their service delivery to low-income areas. 15 WOPs out of 43 documented that started in 2022 are dedicated to this working area. Addressing gender mainstreaming is also a more present theme in the partnerships in 2022 than in previous years, although more effort is needed to sensitize operators to this area of performance improvement.



Outcome 3 Outcome 5

Regional Collaboration

GWOPA continued to engage with Bonn and German-based network partners. GWOPA collaborated with the German Institute for Development and Sustainability (IDOS) to host research students within Kenyan institutions working on sanitation. With the University Duisberg Essen, a proposal for water operators in South Africa is under preparation to recycle mine water as a new water source.

Strong regular communication and collaboration has been maintained with the German Utility Platform, the German WOP program led by GIZ, VKU and Engagement Global, participating in one another's events such as during the World Urban Forum in Katowitz, Poland.

The WOP platform for WOPs in Latin America, WOP LAC, hosted by AySA, the operator from Buenos Aires, Argentina, has maintained a high level of activities in 2022, with a return to in person technical training for its members and some webinars. GWOPA contributed to the organization of the technical workshop on non-revenue water in Buenos Aires in November 2022, attended by around 40 operators. The Inter-American Development Bank is a strong support of the network activities, with the funding of the workshops and training and an annual program of short-term regional WOPs.

Focus efforts also commenced in 2022 for GWOPAs expanded membership and outreach in the Middle East and North Africa region. This included preparations GWOPA engagement at the 6th Arab Water Week in 2023. GWOPA and the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACUWA) are planning a regional WOP discussion during the 5th Global WOP Congress in Bonn as part of the efforts to develop partnerships and mobilize resources to scale up the WOP practice in the region. In addition, GWOPA is also joining an UN-led regional initiative, the Water Scarcity Initiative, and in partnership with UNICEF MENA Regional Office to support the capacity building of the utilities through the WOP practice.

Abu Dhabi Department of Energy has agreed to extend a long-standing partnership with GWOPA funds for developing partnerships and resource mobilization for the MENA Region.

In Asia, a major review of the Asian Development Bank's WOP programme and fresh WOPs strategy for the region was launched in 2022 by ADB, rekindling interest by the ADB to collaborate with GWOPA in its rollout, particularly by offering GWOPA's tools with advocacy, communications, knowledge, and monitoring aspects of implementation.

Continued work in Africa as a key region of focus with the start of 10 new EU-WOP projects on the continent, and strong gatherings of WOP and CoP practitioners during African Water Association events.

In 2022, reengagement in the Southeast European subregion met with a strong rise in GWOPA members. The war in Ukraine brought further attention to the region's utilities and their need for immediate and longer-term support, particularly in Ukraine and Moldova.

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Supporting Outcome

GWOPA is Efficiently and Effectively Operated and Governed

Official GWOPA Office Opening

After two years of pandemic restrictions, GWOPA officially opened its office on the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, on Monday, May 9 May 2022. A high-level seminar on water, sanitation and urbanization, "Global Collaboration for Local Action to Implement Our Common Agenda," was held the same day.

GWOPA Governance

GWOPA held its 14th annual Steering Committee Meeting in conjunction with the office opening. Among the Steering Committee recommendations were to increase the prominence of WOPs within the UN 2023 Water Conference. The ISC Members also encouraged GWOPA to engage more civil society organizations for WOPs support and to widen the partnership.

GWOPA Membership

In 2022, GWOPA has a membership of 100 institutions and 1,000 individuals. Membership in GWOPA is free and open to all interested water and sanitation stakeholder organizations and individuals committing to adhering to GWOPA's principles and code of conduct in the implementation of partnership activities.

Secretariat Management and Updates

The Secretariat onboarded a P3 on Sanitation and finalized recruitment for the Head of Programme who joined the GWOPA Secretariat in December 2022. A Programme Manager Officer is also under recruitment to join by mid-2023. By the end of 2022, GWOPA counts a total of 8 staff members with additional volunteers, interns and external consultants.

Resource Mobilization

In 2022, GWOPA began implementation of a new phase of the BEWOP programme with the support of the Government of the Netherlands through collaboration with IHE Delft. Discussions have begun with the Government of Germany, the Hilton Foundation, the EU DG IntPa and the OPEC Fund for International Development on future collaborations.

Manging Risk

GWOPA has invested in tools to better capture evidence of WOPs' effectiveness and the sustainability of investments, which will be advanced further in 2023. GWOPA has strived to meet the demand of its membership and expand its outreach services, such as the Communities of Practice. The Secretariat is also working to diverse its funding.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony during the official inauguration of the GWOPA offices at UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, on 9 May 2022. From left to right: Mr. Günter Sautter, Director General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office; Ms. Ursula Sautter, Deputy Mayor of Bonn; Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Executive Director; Ms. Tania Vorwerk, Deputy Director General Global Health, Resilience, Equality of Opportunity at German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator of United Nations Volunteers © UN-Habitat/GWOPA.

GWOPA Commitments for 2023

2023 is a critical year for water, with the milestone UN 2023 Water Conference held to mobilize water action and create the political momentum needed to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. The UN Secretary-General called for a dramatic acceleration in resources and investment into the ability of all countries to reach SDG6.

As the year continues, GWOPA is committed to working with its membership to raise recognition of the vital role water operators play in achieving SDG6, and in the effectiveness of partnerships between them through WOPs.

The Water Action Agenda, the key outcome of the Conference, captured over 700 commitments aimed at driving transformation from a global water crisis to a water-secure world. As one of the commitments, GWOPA has pledged to engage at least 100 water operators in peer exchange and support to strengthen their capacity by 2030 to improve health, livelihoods, water, and food security.

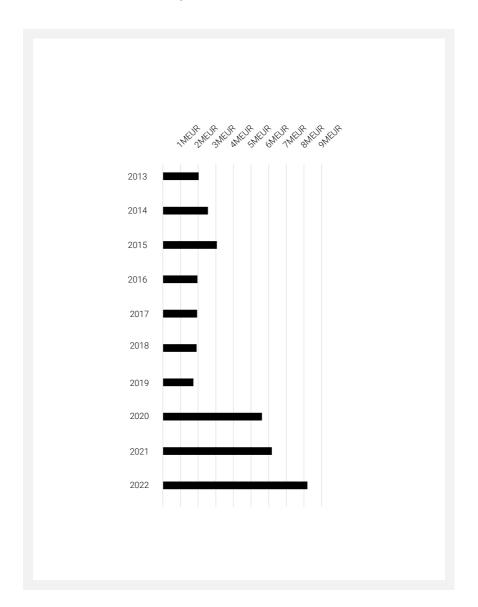
2023 is also the year of the 5th Global Water Operators' Partnerships Congress in Bonn, Germany, host city of the GWOPA Secretariat. The Congress provides a platform soon after the UN 2023 Water Conference for exchange and sharing of knowledge and new developments as we work to strengthen and expand partnerships and to increase our impact.

The Mid-term External Evaluation of GWOPA will be concluded mid-year and bring important recommendations for the second part of GWOPA's Strategy 2020-2024. The year presents an opportunity to consolidate our work and align our strategic efforts for the 2024 GWOPA Assembly and the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt. With approval of the 2023 Work Plan, GWOPA will continue to strive to partner with wider stakeholders, refine its services, promotes and facilitate the work of its members, and work to diversify its funding in support of Water Operators' Partnerships.

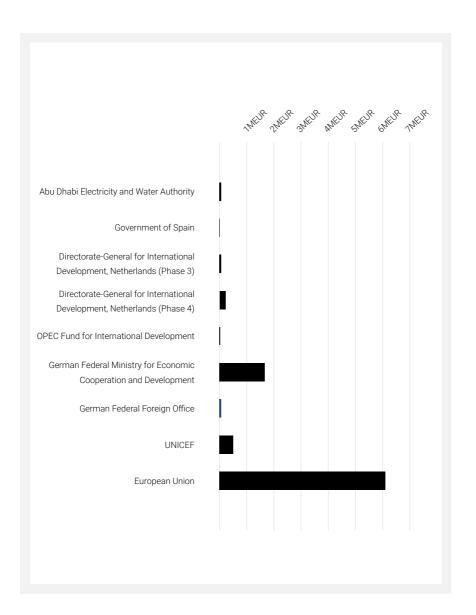


Financial Reporting

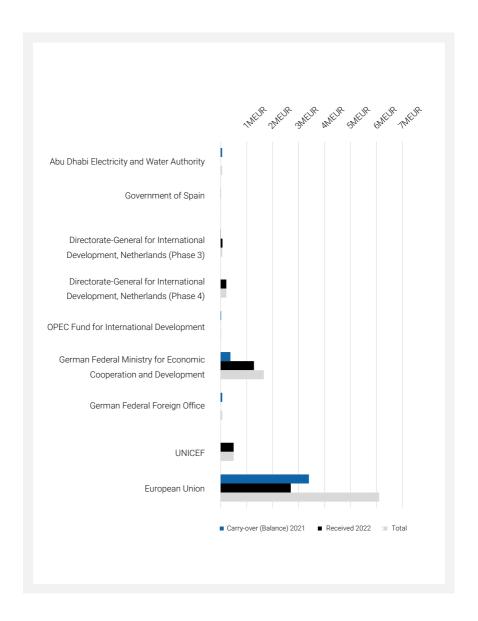
Available Funds by Year Since 2013



Available Funds 2022



Total Available Funds 2022



Annex 1

List of GWOPA International Steering Committee Members

ISC Member Category	Organization	Country
Public Utilities — Africa	Kisumu Water and Sewerage Company Limited	Kenya
Public Utilities – MENA	Office National de l'Electricité et de l'Eau Potable	Morocco
Public Utilities — Europe	Aqua Publica Europea	Europe
Public Utilities — Europe	VEI Dutch Water Operators	The Netherlands
Public Utilities — Europe	Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company	Greece
Public Utilities — LAC	Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas de Servicios Sanitarios Chile Ltda	Chile
Private Operators	AquaFed, The International Federation of Private Water Operators	Global
Development Partners/ Academic Institutions	Delft Institute for Water Education	The Netherlands
Development Partners/ Academic Institutions	International Water Management Institute	Sri Lanka
NGO	Integrated Social Development Center	Ghana
NGO	Ingenierios Sin Fronteras	Spain
Labour Unions	Public Service International	Global
Regional WOP Platforms		
Asia	WaterLinks	Regional
Caribbean	Cari-WOP	Regional
Africa	African Water and Sanitation Association	Regional
Latin America and Caribbean	WOP-LAC	Regional
Pacific	Pacific Waste and Water Association	

UNICEF (Ethiopia)

National WOP Platforms	
Indonesia	Indonesia Water Supply Association
Pakistan	Pakistan Water Operators Network
Mexico	Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento

Financial Partner European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation, Kingdom of the Netherlands Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Republic of Germany Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Abu Dhabi Department of Energy

Annex 2

List of GWOPA Members

Organization	Category
3R WASTE Foundation	Non-governmental organizations
Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority	Public water and sanitation utilities
Administracion Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados	Public water and sanitation utilities
African Water and Sanitation Association	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Agua Y Saneamientos Argentinos S.A.	Public water and sanitation utilities
Aguas de La Paz	Public water and sanitation utilities
Aguas de Puerto Cortes S.A de C.V.	Private water and sanitation utilities
Ambo Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Service Enterprise	Public water and sanitation utilities
Aqaba Water Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
Aqua Publica Europea	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Aquafed	Private water and sanitation utilities
Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime	Research and learning institutions
Transport	
Arab Countries Water Utilities Association	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority	Public water and sanitation utilities
Asociación de Suscriptores del Acueducto la Colonia	Civil society organizations
Associació de Municipis i Entitats per l'Aigua Pública	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Association de Santé Familiale	Non-governmental organizations
Association Pour la Sante et la Prevention des Maladies	Non-governmental organizations
Athens Water and Sewerage Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
Bahir Dar Water Supply and Sewerage Service	Public water and sanitation utilities
Baliwag Water District	Public water and sanitation utilities
Basra water Directorate	National and sub-national governments
	(including public asset holder companies)
Bayawan Water District	Public water and sanitation utilities

Organization	Category
Bekaa Water Establishment	Public water and sanitation utilities
Budapest Waterworks Private Company Limited by Shares	Public water and sanitation utilities
CEPT Research and Development Foundation	Non-governmental organizations
Conseil de Concertation pour l'Eau et l'Assainissement de Base au Togo	Civil society organizations
Container Based Sanitation Alliance	Registered international multi-stakeholder platforms/network organizations
COPASA	Public water and sanitation utilities
Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
DOO Regionalni Vodovod Crnogorsko Primorje	Public water and sanitation utilities
Drinking Water and Sanitation Unit - Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources	National and sub-national governments (including public asset holder companies)
Drinking Water and Santation Unit	Public water and sanitation utilities
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Private water and sanitation utilities
Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulators Association	Water and sanitation sector regulators
Empresa de Acueducto y Alcantarillado de Bogota	Public water and sanitation utilities
eThekwini Municipality - Water & Sanitation Unit	Public water and sanitation utilities
Ethiopian Urban Water Federation	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Ethiopian Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Service Federation	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas de Servicios Sanitarios	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
FNV Overheid	Trade unions
German Water Partnership	Registered international multi-stakeholder platforms/network organizations
Ghana Water Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
Godawari Municipality	National and sub-national governments (including public asset holder companies)
Guma Valley Water Compamy	Public water and sanitation utilities
Hamburg Wasser	Public water and sanitation utilities

Organization	Category
Hargeisa Water Agency	Public water and sanitation utilities
Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority	Public water and sanitation utilities
ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Registered international multi-stakeholder
	platforms/network organizations
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education	Research and learning institutions
Indah Water Konsortium Sdn. Bhd	Public water and sanitation utilities
Indonesian Water Supply Association	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Ingenieria Sin Fronteras - Engineering Without Borders	Non-governmental organizations
Integrated Social Development Center	Non-governmental organizations
International Arab Water Resources Association	Non-governmental organizations
International Association of Water Service Companies in the	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
Danube River Catchment Area	
International Institute of Water and Sanitation	Public water and sanitation utilities
International Water Association	Registered international multi-stakeholder
	platforms/network organizations
International Water Management Institute	Research and learning institutions
Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration	Public water and sanitation utilities
Jordan Water Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
JP-VODOVOD/KANALIZACIJA-d.o.o	Public water and sanitation utilities
Kakamega County Water and Sanitation Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority	Public water and sanitation utilities
Kisuma Water and Sanitation Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
KP "Buducnost" a.d. Laktasi	Public water and sanitation utilities
KP-VODOVOD ad Prnjavor	Public water and sanitation utilities
Lagos Water Corporation	Public water and sanitation utilities
Lekhnath Water Supply User Committee	Community water and sanitation operators
	and cooperatives
Local Water and Sanitation Corporation	Public water and sanitation utilities
Luapula Water Supply and Sanitation Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
Marmara Municipalities Union	National and sub-national governments
	(including public asset holder companies)

Organization	Category
Maynilad Water Services Inc.	Private water and sanitation utilities
Ministry of Water and Environment- Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation	National and sub-national governments (including public asset holder companies)
Ministry of Water Supply, Government of Nepal	National and sub-national governments (including public asset holder companies)
MM SPA	Public water and sanitation utilities
Mukundapur Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Users' Organization	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
mWater	Non-governmental organizations
Nakuru Rural Water and Sanitation Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
Nakuru Water And Sanitation Services Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
National WASH Commission	Water and sanitation sector regulators
National Water and Sewerage Corporation	Public water and sanitation utilities
National Water Commission	Public water and sanitation utilities
Nkana Water Supply and Sanitation Company Ltd	Public water and sanitation utilities
Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited	Public water and sanitation utilities
Obras Sanitarias Mar Del Plata S.E.	Public water and sanitation utilities
Observatorio de Servicios Sanitarios - Universidad Nacional del Litoral / Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias Hídricas	Research and learning institutions
Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board	Public water and sanitation utilities
Oldenburgisch Ostfriesischer Wasserverband	Public water and sanitation utilities
Pakistan Water Operators Network	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
PDAM Surya Sembada	Public water and sanitation utilities
PE Water Supply and Sewerage	Public water and sanitation utilities
Perumda Tirta Mayang	Public water and sanitation utilities
Perusahaan Umum Daerah Pengelola Air Limbah Domestik	Public water and sanitation utilities
Piple Water Supply and Sanitation Users' Committee	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
Public Service International	Trade unions
Salfeet Municipality	National and sub-national governments (including public asset holder companies)

Organization	Category
Sanergy	Private water and sanitation utilities
Simavi	Non-governmental organizations
Sistema de Agua Potable, Alcantarillado y Saneamiento	Public water and sanitation utilities
Societâ Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A.	Public water and sanitation utilities
Société Nationale d'Exploitation et de Distribution des Eaux	Public water and sanitation utilities
Society for Water and Sanitation	Registered international multi-stakeholder platforms/network organizations; / non governmental organizations
Sohag Company for Water and Wastewater	Public water and sanitation utilities
SOMAGEP SA	Public water and sanitation utilities
South Darfur State Water Corporation	Public water and sanitation utilities
South Western Umbrella Of Water & Sanitation	Public water and sanitation utilities
Stadtentwässerung Dresden GmbH	Public water and sanitation utilities
The Nature Conservancy	Non-governmental organizations
Tirana Water and Sewerage Utility	Public water and sanitation utilities
U.S. Water Partnership	Non-governmental organizations
UNAGUAS	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
Unidad Municipal Desconcentrada Aquas de Siguatepeque	Public water and sanitation utilities
Union of Palestinan Water service Providers	Associations of water and sanitation utilities
USAID's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Finance 2	Development cooperation agencies
Utilities Performance Monitoring Unit	Water and sanitation sector regulators
VEI B.V.	Public water and sanitation utilities
Vilin Lug	Public water and sanitation utilities
Vodovod i kanalizacija	Public water and sanitation utilities
Volunteer Corps Nepal	Civil society organizations
Waling Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation User Committee	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
Water and Sanitation Agency	Public water and sanitation utilities
Water Integrity Network	Registered international multi-stakeholder platforms/network organizations

Organization	Category
Water Sector Regulatory Council	Water and sanitation sector regulators
Water Supply and Sewerage Authority	Community water and sanitation operators and cooperatives
WaterAid UK	Non-governmental organizations
WaterLinks Management Council, Inc.	Non-governmental organizations
Wolaita Sodo Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation	Public water and sanitation utilities
World Waternet	Public water and sanitation utilities
Yarmouk water Company	Public water and sanitation utilities
Youth Association for Development	Non-governmental organizations
Youth Care Group Network International	Non-governmental organizations





GWOPA's work in 2022 would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors

















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