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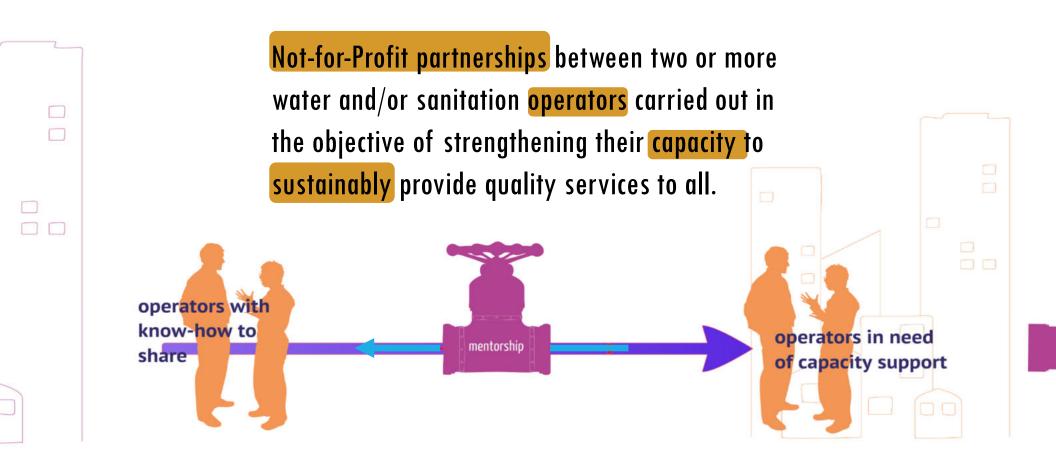
## Water Operators' Partnerships: A Global Perspective

Julie Perkins
Officer in Charge, GWOPA UN-Habitat

Asia Water Forum Side-Event on Improving water utilities' sustainability through effective partnerships and future-focused utility transformation

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs)





## The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA)

- A recommendation of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Water and Sanitation Advisory Board Hashimoto Action Plan to scale up peer capacity development
- UN-Habitat established GWOPA in 2009 as a global network to support peer support capacity development partnerships between water and sanitation service providers
- Comprised of Public water and Sanitation operators from all continents, development partners, labour unions, civil society organizations and private operators
- Founding Charter establishes Principles for the Alliance: building on past and supporting all





### **GWOPA (Global WOPs Alliance) Timeline**



UNSGAB recognizes the potential to build the capacity of water utilities through the WOPs mechanism.

Hashimoto Action Plan 1

#### **UNMHABITAT**

UNSG requests UN-Habitat to set up a global centre to make WOPs more effective and systematic.



GWOPA is founded in Nairobi as an international multistakeholder alliance, working to scale up effective WOPs.

GWOPA formally constituted



EU Parliament encourages the promotion of public-public partnerships in water facilities in developing countries, in line with GWOPAs efforts.



While absent from the UNFCC COP 21 document that forged the global deal to combat global climate change, water is widely recognized as the means through which climate change makes its greatest impact. Country level commitments to the convention can be met in part by equipping utilities to adapt to deregulated hydrological regimes and heightened disaster risk, as well as to mitigate climate change by reducing their GHG gas emissions.

COP 21, Paris Agreement

PARIS 2015



The UN framework that endeavors to re the occurrence and negative impact of disaster effects globally. WOPs can conmost to its targets d) to Substantially redisaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, and f) to substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries th adequate and sustainable support.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOP

#### OPMENT GOALS

s commit to reducing

rtion of the population

le access to safe drinking



UNGA calls upon states and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to help, in particular, developing countries to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Human Right to Water and Sanitation



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replace MDGs framework. Goals call for the expansion of international cooperation and capacity building support that promotes equitable, efficient, safe, financially viable, resilient, participatory, innovative and integrated water and sanitation activities and programmes. (SDG, 3.3, 3.9, 6A, 6B, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 11.5. 12.4. 17.3. 17.6. 17.91.

#### **NEW URBAN AGENDA**



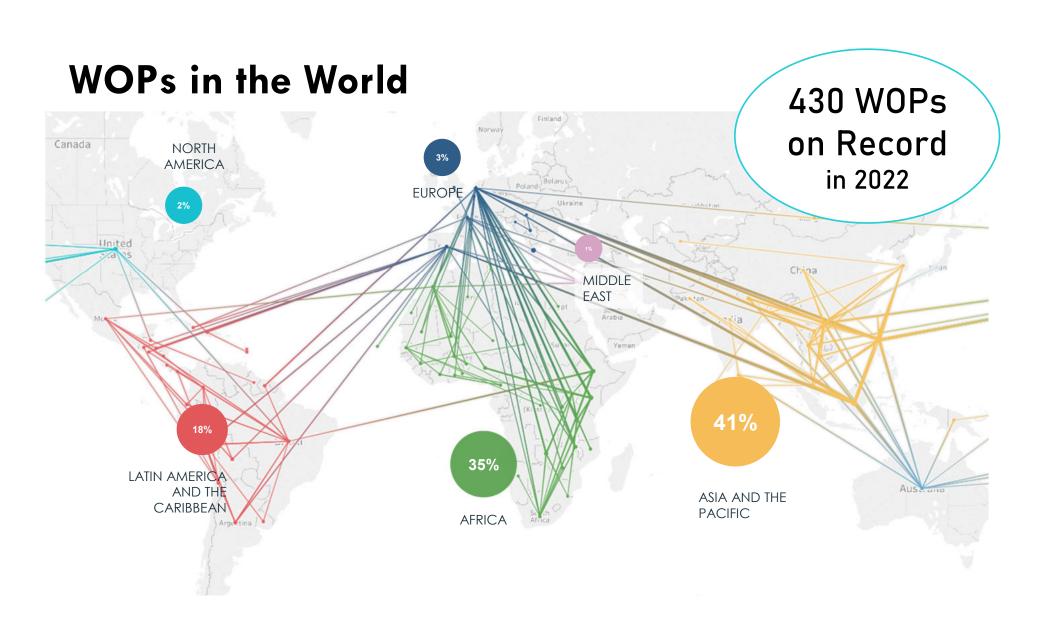
The High Level Panel on Water commits itself to take action on a new approach to water management to help achieve 2030 SDGs. The panel acknowledges and supports the WOPs practice. (2).



The New Urban Agenda presents a shared vision for the future of sustainable cities and communities, where 'the rubber hits the ground' in realizing the SDGs. The Agenda comm "to equip public water and sanitation utilities with the capacity to implement sustainable v management systems" (NUA, paragraph 120) and recognizes the need for sustainable and water and sanitation services in its vision of cities an communities where "no one is left be The NUA also emphasizes peer-to-peer capacity development and partnerships.



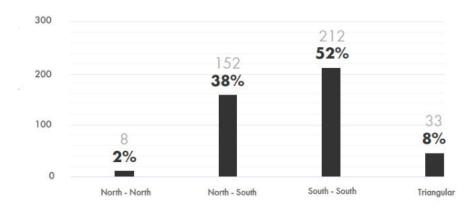




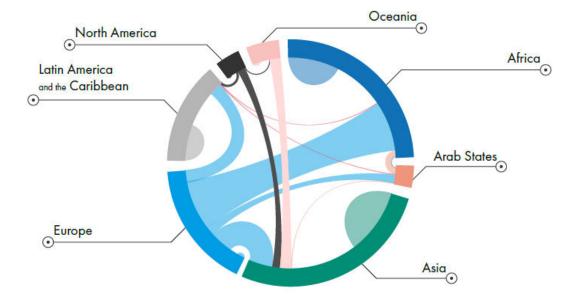




#### **WOPs Global Context**



### WOPs Interaction between and within Regions





- Operational efficiency (NRW, M+E..)
- Future Facing (Climate, Gender, Digitalization)

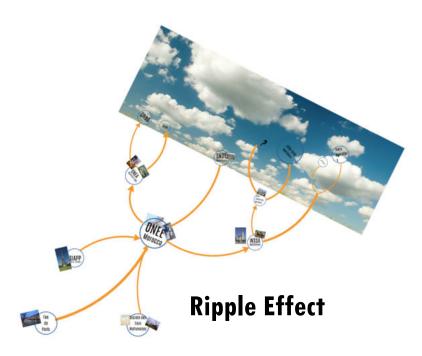
## **How WOPs Make an Impact**



Improving Capacity and Performance towards SDGs

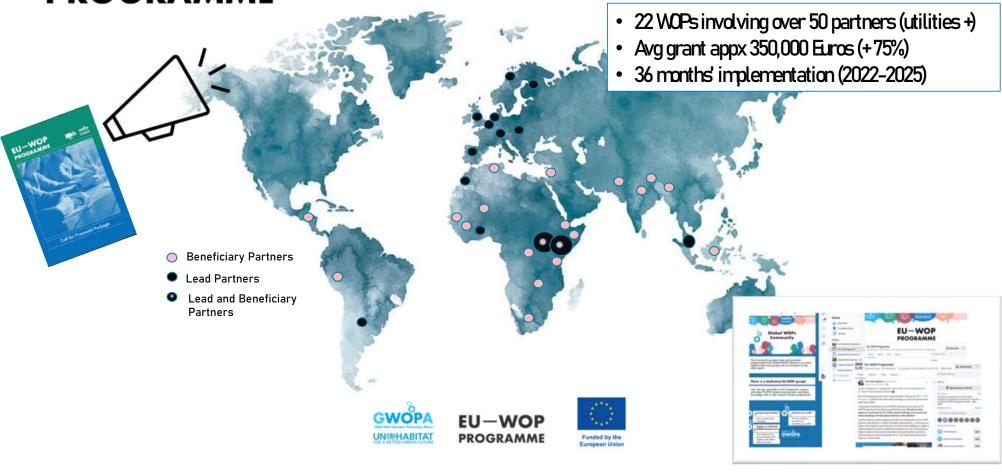


**Financial Leverage** 





## EU-WOP PROGRAMME



# GWOPA Charter and Strategy



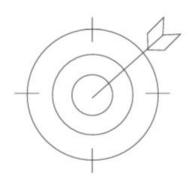


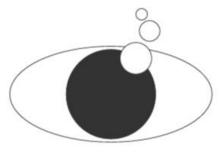




### Vision

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

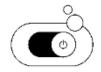
To work as an effective global alliance to inspire, mobilize support for, catalyze, guide, monitor and enable Water Operators Partnerships that improve lives.







## What GWOPA Does



#### **Enable WOPs**



- Global advocacy and communications to build awareness and commitment
- Enabling frameworks
- Financial Linking





### Guide with Knowledge

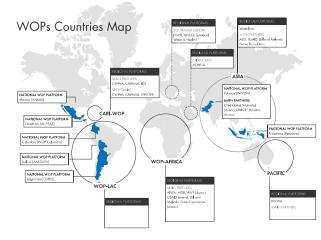
- WOPs Data Dashboard
- Case studies
- Learning events and training
- Knowledge Development
- Communities of Practice
- Partnership Management Platform





#### Mobilize Alliance

- Membership for Movement
- Programme development
- Regional/National WOP Platforms
- Global WOPs Congress



## Sample of GWOPA Tools

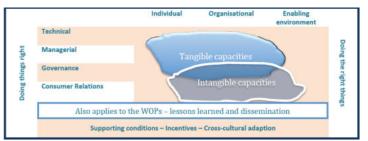
- > GWOPA Partnership Management Platform
- ➤ Global WOPs Community and thematic COPs



## Partnership Management Platform

PMP
Partnership
Management
Platform

- Online platform for monitoring and reporting
- Based on institutional change theory and practice
- Responsibility shared by the WOP partners
- Transparency and visibility
- Common result framework





Project description, team and key reference documents



Insert results framework data



**Easy reporting** 



Access global WOPs portfolio



**Progress monitoring** 



**Progress visualization** 

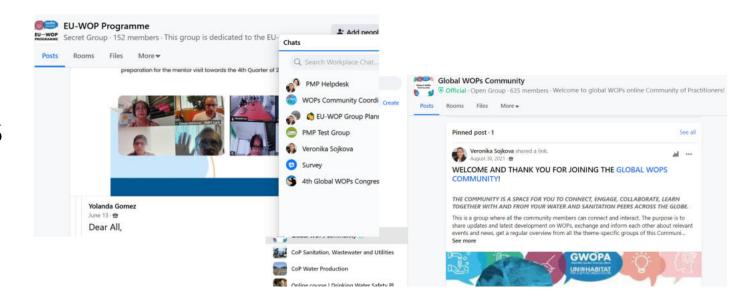


**Export and download** 



**Sync GWOPA database** 

## Global WOPs Community



- **Space uniting** all WOP practitioners, platforms and programs
- Knowledge exchange and learning within and across projects
- **Networking** and matchmaking options
- Co-creation and dissemination of new knowledge tools and solutions
- Peer-learning, skills and capacity development of individuals beyond projects and programmes

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## Strengthening Connections in Asia

Common Advocacy

Wealth of Experience

Strong Pool of Mentors and Mentees

**Innovation and Excellence** 

Norms and frameworks

....?



### GWOPA invites you to...



WASHDev Special Issue: Call for Papers GWOPA

Water Operators' Partnerships: Principles and Practices
Extended abstract submission: 15th September 2022
Full paper submission: 15th September 2023
Expected publication: February 2024



Submit a Paper



GWOPA members work together to strengthen public water and sanitation utility capacity and performance so they can provide sustainably-managed services for all.

Join the Community



Join the Congress



### Change consolidation stage for each working area

Stage 1

Stage 2

Stage 3

Stage 4

### Diagnosis & action planning

The project has started and at this point most initial needs in terms of needed capacity and resources have been identified and action plan developed and agreed by both partners. Some initial trainings might have been organized.

## Creating conditions for change

Mostly conditions for change have been co-created but there are no visible effective changes materialized. This might entail equipment procured, trainings implemented resulting in new knowledge to be applied by staff from mentee utility, etc.

### Visibility of changes

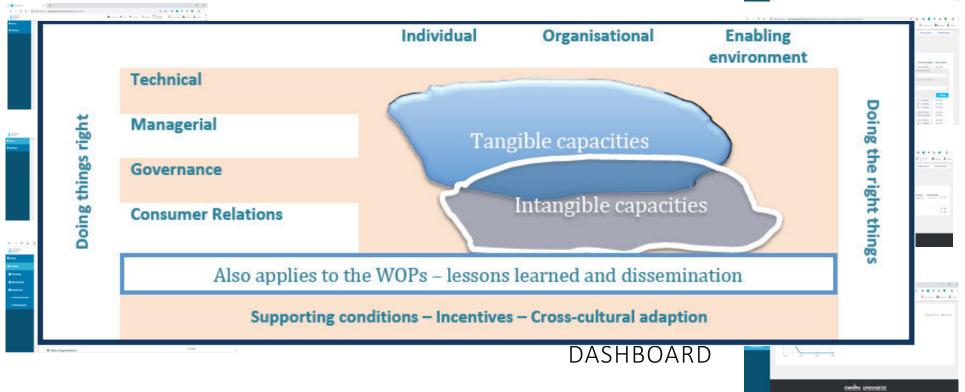
Mostly there are visible changes implemented in the working routines but there is need for additional support (training, supervision, top management support, others) for them to be fully consolidated

### Change consolidation

Most intended (and possibly unintended) positive changes are well consolidated and are becoming standard practice

### OUTCOME MONITORING





### Levels of capacity

Individual: staff of all disciplines - their competencies, skills and knowledge

**Organisational**: the water operator utility; community and consumer groups

**Sectoral**: all other relevant stake-holders

**Enabling environment**: laws, policies, and other enabling conditions

### **TANGIBLE** capacities

- Technical knowledge and skills
- Organisational functioning
- Laws, policies systems
- But NOT physical things

### **INTANGIBLE** capacities

- Operational: e.g. leadership, problem solving, communication
- Adaptive: e.g. analysis, learning, change management

## Tangible vs. Intangible capacity