



International Water
Management Institute

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered: From: 1st January to: 31st December 2022

Statement of continued support

Mark Smith, Director General

Dear Stakeholders,

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and purpose that the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) unequivocally reaffirms its commitment to championing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and rigorously upholding the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.

As a leading research-for-development institution, we stand at the forefront of addressing the world's most pressing water scarcity challenges. Our deep-rooted understanding of the multifaceted complexities surrounding sustainability in diverse human and ecological contexts motivates us to consistently prioritize decisions with lasting, positive impacts on our planet's invaluable resources.

The projects we champion are a testament to our resolve. They are not just mere undertakings, but catalysts for innovation, driving the momentum for substantial, transformational change. Change that doesn't merely tip the scales in favor of sustainability but firmly anchors our global society to it. Our dedicated teams work towards mitigating climate change impacts by not only curbing greenhouse gas emissions but also fortifying vulnerable communities against the impacts of a changing climate. We are wholeheartedly invested in fostering water security for all as a driver for sustainable development and a climate-resilient future.

We extend an invitation for you to delve into our projects and witness firsthand the efforts of IWMI teams across the Global South. Together, we are not just envisioning, but actively constructing a brighter, more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Smith', written in a cursive style.

Mark Smith

About IWMI and the United Nations Global Compact

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is not merely a participant in but works at the vanguard of the global pursuit of water security. Through an intricate tapestry of projects and groundbreaking research, ranging from innovative financing mechanisms for agriculture to advanced groundwater monitoring, we are shaping the future of water management on a global scale.

Our mission at IWMI is inextricably intertwined with the United Nations Global Compact's (UNGC) advocacy for environmental stewardship. The significance of water transcends its elemental nature; it is the lifeblood of economic buoyancy, the bedrock of physical health, and a cornerstone of fundamental human rights. As such, it is pivotal to the realization of the Ten Principles of the UNGC.

In the subsequent pages, you will discover a showcase of IWMI projects that are not just reflections of our dedication but are emblematic of our unwavering allegiance to the Ten Principles of UNGC. These endeavors are a testament to our commitment, vision, and drive to ensure a water-secure world for all.

Description of Actions

NEXUS Gains: Realizing Multiple Benefits Across Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems



Photo: Nirman Shrestha/IWMI

The CGIAR NEXUS Gains initiative promotes systems thinking to avoid unintended consequences, enhance sustainable development, and realize multiple benefits across the water, energy, food, and ecosystems nexus. Spanning five international river basins (the Aral Sea, Ganges, Indus, Blue Nile, and Limpopo/Incomati Basins) and, initially, the following countries—Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sudan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe—NEXUS Gains aims to boost water productivity and water storage management to improve food and nutrition security. It also aims to strengthen water, energy, food, and ecosystems nexus governance to support socioeconomic development and help overcome siloed approaches and adopt new tools to support systems approaches.

IWMI's leadership of NEXUS Gains has demonstrated why a systems approach is needed to tackle some of the most pressing global challenges in its three major activities. An assessment of 20 sand dams in the Shashe catchment—a sub-basin of the Limpopo shared by Botswana and Zimbabwe—indicated that sand dams present a promising yet underutilized water storage option: with sand dams, water was available for an average of 4.4 additional months a year, and 3.9 additional months during a drought year. IWMI has developed strategies to reduce risk of aquifer over-extraction in Pakistan's Punjab region through groundwater vulnerability mapping, which allows policy makers to customize solar irrigation business models and deployment strategies to fit local contexts. In Nepal, to help the country better understand irrigation water use, researchers from NEXUS Gains partnered with government departments to gather data from three irrigation projects in the western region of the country.

The work translates to UNGC Principles 7, 8, and 9 on the environment as well as to Principle 1 through its commitment to human rights.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 15: Life on Land

Nature-based solutions to promote water security in the Middle East



Photo: Javier Mateo-Sagasta/IWMI

Together with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Al Murunah project, funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, seeks to increase water security in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Egypt through the integration of nature-based solutions for water (NBSW) and agricultural water management (AWM). The programming is designed with a strong emphasis on local community empowerment and engagement, and with gender and inclusion mainstreamed throughout. It aims to ensure capacity development within and across institutions to build ownership and capacity strengthening to support the co-delivery of the impact.

The project is developing action-oriented field demonstrations and recommendations to improve the resilience of crop, livestock and fisheries production systems while protecting, sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems. It is anticipated that the site-specific project interventions will also attract important investment opportunities for the participating countries.

The work directly translates to UNGC Principles 7, 8, and 9 due to promoting environmentally friendly solutions.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Fragility to Resilience in Central and West Asia and North Africa



This CGIAR initiative aims to respond to the climate, nutrition, and agrifood challenges most affecting the Central Asia, West Asia, and North Africa region. The project aims to create innovations in partnerships, policies, and platforms for the efficient, inclusive, and climate-resilient transformation of agrifood systems. Another objective is to facilitate genetic innovations, seed systems, and agrobiodiversity conservation for climate-resilient food and nutrition security.

The project is also looking at the sustainable intensification of farming systems for climate-resilient reduction of yield gaps; integrated food, land, water and energy systems for climate-resilient landscapes by strengthening inclusive policies and governance; and applying innovations and digital tools for climate-resilient food value chains by seeking to leverage, assess, accelerate and scale the use of digitally innovative solutions to climate change-induced challenges.

The work translates to UNGC Principles 7, 8, and 9 due to promoting climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, environmental health and biodiversity, as well as to Principle 1 through its commitment to human rights in terms of gender equality, youth and social inclusion, poverty reduction, livelihood, and jobs.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

CGIAR Initiative on Diversification in East and Southern Africa: Ukama Ustawi



Photo: Agricom

IWMI is leading the CGIAR Initiative on Diversification in East and Southern Africa, also known as Ukama Ustawi, which aims to address food and nutrition security risks in the region arising from an overreliance on maize through a climate-resilient, water-secure, and socially inclusive approach. An innovation of Ukama Ustawi and the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa (AICCRA) project, IWMI launched a “farmer makeover show” about farmers, for farmers, the first reality TV series of its kind in Zambia. Munda Makeover packages information on climate-smart agriculture or climate information services and delivers it to audiences, which also include market networks and agribusinesses, through the national television network, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC). Munda Makeover supports the diversification of smallholder agriculture systems to promote resilience in Zambia and the region. Launched in November 2022, Munda Makeover promotes best farming practices for crop, tree and livestock production, and marketing. It shares advice on market information services, farmer cooperation, the consumption of nutritious foods, and clean cooking practices. There is also a particular focus on the roles of women and youth within the farming community.

The project reflects the Ten Principles that address strengthening food security, improving resilience to climate change, and advancing gender and social equity.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Securing the Food Systems of Asian Mega-Deltas (AMD) for Climate and Livelihood Resilience



The project aims to create resilient, inclusive, and productive deltas, which maintain socio-ecological integrity, adapt to climatic and other stressors, and support human prosperity and wellbeing, by removing systemic barriers to the scaling of transformative technologies and practices at community, national, and regional levels.

The initiative is focused on the Mekong, Ganges, and Ayeyarwady deltas covering Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India. By 2025, AMD aims to scale up diversification of agri-food systems in deltas, to accelerate adaptation by 150,000 smallholders and improve management of 100,000 hectares of land.

The project considers UNGC principles 7, 8, and 9 in aiming to ensure systems can adapt to and mitigate the effects of salinity, flooding, drought, terminal heat and sinking land; promoting more coherent water-agriculture-environment policies and strategies; and ensuring plans/policies incorporate inclusive and climate-proof approaches to food systems transformation.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Building Systemic Resilience Against Climate Variability and Extremes (ClimBeR)



Photo: Pradeep Liyanage / IWMI

This initiative aims to transform the climate adaptation capacity of food, land, and water systems in six low- and middle-income countries—Guatemala, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, and Zambia—ultimately, increasing the resilience of smallholder production systems to withstand severe climate change effects like drought, flooding, and high temperatures.

The project is helping to reduce risk for producers' livelihoods and in value chains by employing agricultural risk management, climate-smart innovations, and digital services to reduce the impact of variable weather and extreme events on smallholder farmers. It is seeking to improve understanding of climate security risks and identifying paths to climate-resilient peace, to ensure policymakers have the evidence necessary to develop urgently needed, holistic and context-specific policies, as well as untangling complexities across natural and social sciences that hinder progress. The project will also help to scale climate finance, with innovative mechanisms that increase farmers' access to finance at the local level and help policymakers identify new opportunities at the national level, among others.

The project is in line with IWMI's commitment to the Ten Principles addressing key challenges of food security, resilience to climate change, and advancing gender and social equity.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 1: No Poverty, **SDG 2:** Zero Hunger, **SDG 9:** Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, **SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities, **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities, **SDG 13:** Climate Action, **SDG 15:** Life on Land, **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, **SDG 17:** Partnerships for the Goals

CGIAR Research Initiative on Resilient Cities Through Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Agrifood Systems



The CGIAR Research Initiative on Resilient Cities generates evidence, technologies and capacities that help improve urban food systems and secure equitable job and business opportunities, healthy diets for all, human and environment health, and a reduced carbon footprint.

As part of this initiative, IWMI has been working with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to ascertain why, how much, and where food is being wasted by different sectors in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In a series of case studies, researchers from IWMI and the FAO examined food waste at nine sites across five sectors to reveal the volume of food being wasted along with the causes of waste generation. Strategies were identified to reduce food waste. One major hotel, which had been wasting around one-third of the food it produced, was able to cut its daily food waste from 540g to 200g per customer. Additionally, IWMI supported the FAO with the development of the National Roadmap on Urban Food Waste Prevention and Reduction which was accepted by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment in 2021. The Ministry established a steering committee with key actors and players involved in the food waste system in order to operationalize the road map.

The project underscores the following principles of UNGC - Principle 1 (Human Rights): securing equitable job and business opportunities, Principle 8 (Environment): By focusing on reducing the carbon footprint, Principle 9 (Environment): through the research on food waste reduction and the development of the National Roadmap, the initiative supports the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies and practices.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Policy and Institutional Framework and Business Models for Out-Scaling Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems in Ethiopia



Photo: David Brazier/IWMI

In Ghana, IWMI partnered with Pumptech, a solar irrigation equipment distributor, to support smallholder farmers with a combination of off-grid solar irrigation technology and services. By engaging in market segmentation—breaking down the potential solar irrigation market into distinct categories—we tailored these bundled services to specific groups, allowing more women and youth to be included in the market. Pay-as-you-go credit allowed farmers to make regular yet flexible payments on the cost of irrigation equipment so that more farmers could afford to invest in solar irrigation technology. In 2021, Pumptech and IWMI created 17 distribution networks and identified 862 customers across Ghana and Ethiopia.

IWMI implements additional solar projects, including scaling solarization of agriculture across South Asia. Our solar irrigation work exemplifies Principles 7, 8 and 9 of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.

The project underscores the following SDGs: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

IWMI's Sustainability Initiatives

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is deeply committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Since joining the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), we have directed our efforts towards reducing our carbon footprint, and furthering sustainable practices within our operations and our extended network of suppliers and contractors. Here's a snapshot of our strides since our UNGC affiliation:

- 1. Carbon Footprint Analysis:** The base year carbon footprint was successfully completed for 2019. Emissions for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 are currently under calculation and are anticipated to be completed in the near future. Additionally, we are on track to report emissions for 2023 by the end of the same year. Furthermore, an assurance partner has been engaged to validate IWMI's carbon footprint reporting data. This validation ensures the accuracy of our yearly footprint data, enabling us to publish it with confidence.
- 2. Engagement with Suppliers & Contractors:** We believe that sustainability is a collective responsibility. Towards this end, we have engaged our suppliers and contractors to assess their sustainability maturity. A comprehensive questionnaire was shared with 245 suppliers and contractors, and we have received responses that will help us understand and guide them towards sustainable practices.
- 3. Training & Awareness:** To ensure that our suppliers and contractors align with our sustainability vision, we've provided them with targeted training sessions. More such training sessions are in the pipeline, aiming to heighten their awareness and commitment to sustainability. Additionally, core team members from various IWMI offices have also undergone sustainability training, embedding our commitment at every operational level.
- 4. Carbon Emission Reduction Initiatives:** Plans are being finalized to institute carbon emission reduction programs across all of IWMI's operations. This critical step towards operationalizing our pledge to combat climate change and reduce our carbon footprint.
- 5. Policy & Strategy Formulation:** IWMI is in the process of institutionalizing its commitment through a 'Sustainability & Environment Policy'. Additionally, a comprehensive 'Sustainability Strategy' is being charted out, which will provide a clear roadmap for our sustainability efforts in the coming years.
- 6. Energy Management:** Energy management remains a focal area. From our 2019 baseline, there's a concerted effort to reduce energy usage and enhance efficiency. This involves ongoing recording and monitoring of energy consumption data, promoting the purchase of energy-efficient appliances, and creating staff awareness about energy conservation. We're also actively exploring opportunities for the incorporation of renewable energy systems, with a particular interest in solar solutions.
- 7. Water management:** has seen a similar thrust. Efforts are channeled towards continuous monitoring of water consumption data, promoting the use of water-efficient appliances, and adopting landscaping strategies that favor indigenous, low-maintenance plants. Staff are educated on water conservation principles, emphasizing the tenets of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Innovative measures like rainwater harvesting are also on our radar.
- 8. Waste management:** is another area we're passionate about. We've set ambitious targets, including continuous year-on-year reductions in waste per FTE staff. This involves identifying authorized recycling centers and promoting procurement processes that inherently produce less waste. One of our more ambitious goals is to transition IWMI to a largely paperless environment.
- 9. Sustainable Procurement:** We've adopted a comprehensive Sustainable Procurement Policy that covers all facets of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic. Staff involved in procurement decisions are now better trained, and we actively encourage our suppliers to integrate sustainable practices into their businesses. Emphasis is placed on products that are recyclable, biodegradable, and free from toxic or ozone-depleting substances. We're also in the process of curating a directory of sustainable suppliers.

10. **Infrastructure**-wise, we're aiming for green certifications. We hope to see considerable portion of our building space (by floor area) green-certified. Carbon emission reduction from transportation is also high on our agenda, with targets set to reduce emissions from company-owned vehicles using 2019 as the baseline. Additionally, we're committed to reducing per capita carbon emissions from flights by the same year.
11. **Additional Noteworthy Endeavors:** IWMI's research and projects often have intrinsic sustainability components. Our work in promoting sustainable water management practices, for instance, has had tangible impacts on communities and ecosystems. We continuously seek collaborations, innovations, and best practices that can further our commitment to a sustainable planet.

Our journey is continuous, and every initiative undertaken is in line with our unwavering dedication to sustainability and our pledge to uphold the principles of the UNGC. We envision a future that is environmentally responsible and sustainable for all.



The International Water Management Institute (IWM) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWM combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWM is a CGIAR Research Center with offices in 14 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 30 countries.

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