

# Climate change is a water crisis but is that reflected in funding solutions?

Global climate finance investments are far from the scale they need to be. This is especially true for the investment of climate finance into water and sanitation. With over 90 per cent of natural disasters being water-related weather events, water is the primary means through which we feel the effects of a changing climate.

This highlights the urgent need to raise our voices on the issue to leaders, funders and other actors with formal decision-making power. Likewise, we need to better communicate and articulate the connections between water, sanitation and climate resilience, champion and evidence its position as a valid climate adaptation and mitigation measure.

## What can you do?

Learn more about the issue and take our latest WASH Systems Academy course: Climate finance: The basics.

[bit.ly/ClimateFinanceWSA](https://bit.ly/ClimateFinanceWSA)

When it comes to climate finance for water and sanitation, here's what you need to know:

- 1 THERE'S TOO LITTLE CLIMATE FINANCE AND NOT ENOUGH OF IT IS TACKLING THE WATER CRISIS.** Global climate finance targeting basic (and climate-resilient) water supply and sanitation specifically, accounts for just **0.3% of global climate finance investments**<sup>1</sup>.
- 2 CLIMATE FINANCE IS MORE THAN CLIMATE FUNDS, SO WE HAVE TO GET CREATIVE.** Although climate funds are a welcome new source of finance. The mechanisms to unlock them are complex and require a lot of resources and evidence. Luckily, climate finance is more than climate funds and there are some promising alternatives.
- 3 RESILIENCE LIES IN FUNDING SYSTEMS, NOT JUST INFRASTRUCTURE.** Climate finance investments need to take a systems approach, funding and expanding its investments beyond just capital expenditure if it wants to contribute to meaningful change.
- 4 CLIMATE FINANCE IS UNJUST.** While climate change affects everyone in society, its impacts are not equally shared. Water supply and sanitation systems in lower income countries are not only weaker, but also more vulnerable to climate impacts<sup>2</sup>. What's more only 2% of global climate finance was directed to least developed nations and worse yet, adding another layer of burdensome, crippling debts<sup>3</sup>.

# CLIMATE FINANCE FOR WATER AND SANITATION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

<sup>1</sup> **Why Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Must be Top of Your Agenda.** UNICEF, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> **Climate Change, Water Resources and WASH Systems** Water For People and IRC, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> **Global Landscape of Climate Finance.** Climate Policy Initiative, 2023.