Our Newsletter

This second edition of the newsletter shares the progress made in the area of resilience to climate change, resulting in the Declaration on Resilience that we will be sharing at COP26. It is thanks to the generous contribution of our Expert Committee Members and the Board Members that this has been achieved.

Additionally, we are making strides in the area of human right indicators for the achievement of SDG 6.1 and 6.2. The monitoring of these indicators will help to give local authorities the knowledge to improve access to drinking water and address some of the most challenging issues facing vulnerable people in sanitation and contaminated water.

This newsletter summarises new publications, highlights of the webinar series, the country coordinator programme, and updates on our country programmes.

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Message from the CEO

Our first year of operation was marked by the well-attended AGM in May – a testament to members support (thank you) and recognition that we provide a valuable service. It has been an extraordinary year, with the global pandemic influencing our lives and work, and compelling us to search for ways to support vulnerable people however we can. We are proud of our efforts, resulting in two very important and innovative research studies into resilience to emergencies (climate and health) and on human rights-based indicators to support local authorities to monitor ways to achieve SDG 6.

The declaration on Resilience was founded on a year’s research in 25 countries, with the generous support of White & Case. We also have a very dedicated team working on all these projects, without whom none of this could be achieved. I am very grateful to the unerring support of our technical team, including Geraldine Gene as Legal Director, Gabriella Casanova, Imanol Aguilera, Bonolo Mogotsi, Gabrielle Salerni and Jake L-Ames. Thanks to the Team!

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<td>28th Apr</td>
<td>The Human Rights Based Approach for Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>14th Jul</td>
<td>Resilience to Climate and Health Emergencies, launch of declaration by Expert Committee</td>
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<td>11th Aug</td>
<td>A legal and Policy Based Youth Perspective on Human Rights to Water &amp; Sanitation</td>
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<td>Business and Human Rights, good practices in water and sanitation</td>
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<td>Funding Youth Programmes on Water, and who invests in young people</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>COP26: Resilience to Climate Change through the human rights to water and sanitation</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>Human Rights Indicators on water and sanitation, and examples in practice</td>
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Webinar topics linked to human rights to water and sanitation

The webinar series continues with a string of thought-provoking and educational topics that bring together experts connected through the nexus between water, human rights, climate and health.

The July webinar enabled the launch of the Declaration on Climate Resilience (see below) and brought together experts on climate change and community-based approaches in preparation for a follow-up event at COP26.

In keeping with the focus on youth, we also supported Imanol in his workshop on Youth Engagement with the World Youth Parliament on Water this August. Recordings and summaries of all events are on our webinar page.
Panamá Law

The most recent of the legal studies to be added to our Library, is the legal mapping of Panamá. It is one of 25 countries that have published reviews. These studies capture the international treaties and rights that are integrated into the national law and constitution, and follow a structured approach to review and reference the laws that support the human rights to water and sanitation.

These reports are a freely available resource for developing agencies, governments and stakeholders in the water sector to access, and can be useful for assessing the areas of law that need to be strengthened.

Other recent publications available in this library include reviews of Ecuador, Colombia and South Africa, available in Spanish and English.

Read reports in our Library.

Expert Committee: Declaration on Resilience and COP26

The Expert Committee of HR2W, led by Michel Jarraud, and supported by a group of renowned experts in human rights law, water governance, WASH and climate change, have endorsed a Declaration on Resilience to Climate and Health Emergencies. Based on a benchmarking study of 25 countries, and supported by research from White & Case, the declaration was derived from the areas of need highlighted in the report. For example, the need for continuity of supply during an emergency, the importance of clarity of communications, and emergency planning.

The Declaration was launched at the July webinar with the support of Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation and will be followed up at COP26 with co-convenors from WMO, The Green Climate Fund, UNESCWA, OAS, and others from our expert membership.
Human Rights-Based Approach: A Practical Guide

The term ‘Human Rights-Based Approach’ (HRBA) was recognised by Kofi Annan as early as 1997 when he advocated for its implementation across the UN system. This is the first publication that sets out a practical guide for using an HRBA in water and sanitation programmes, incorporating elements of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, along with the transversal principles of the HRBA.

Adopting an HRBA means incorporating human rights and human rights principles into any and every aspect of a working project. It goes beyond focusing on outcomes and draws attention to the entire process, implementing human rights principles in every step of the project design, planning and operation.

This publication is freely available in the library on our website and provides a step-by-step guide for development programmes.

Human rights indicators: Kenya

Human Right 2 Water is partnering with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) to develop human rights indicators.

The programme focusses on two counties (Garissa and Marsabit) where the partners have completed a situation analysis of the challenges being faced by each community. Using the ‘Leave No-One Behind Tool’, human rights indicators are being developed to focus on the needs of vulnerable groups that are struggling to access safely managed water and sanitation.

The draft indicators are currently being shared with the communities to establish feedback and set up monitoring processes for tracking the progression towards SDG 6.1 and 6.2.

Alongside this work, HR2W has also been working in Mexico enabling us to develop a general approach to the development of indicators. Our policy brief is available to read on this topic.