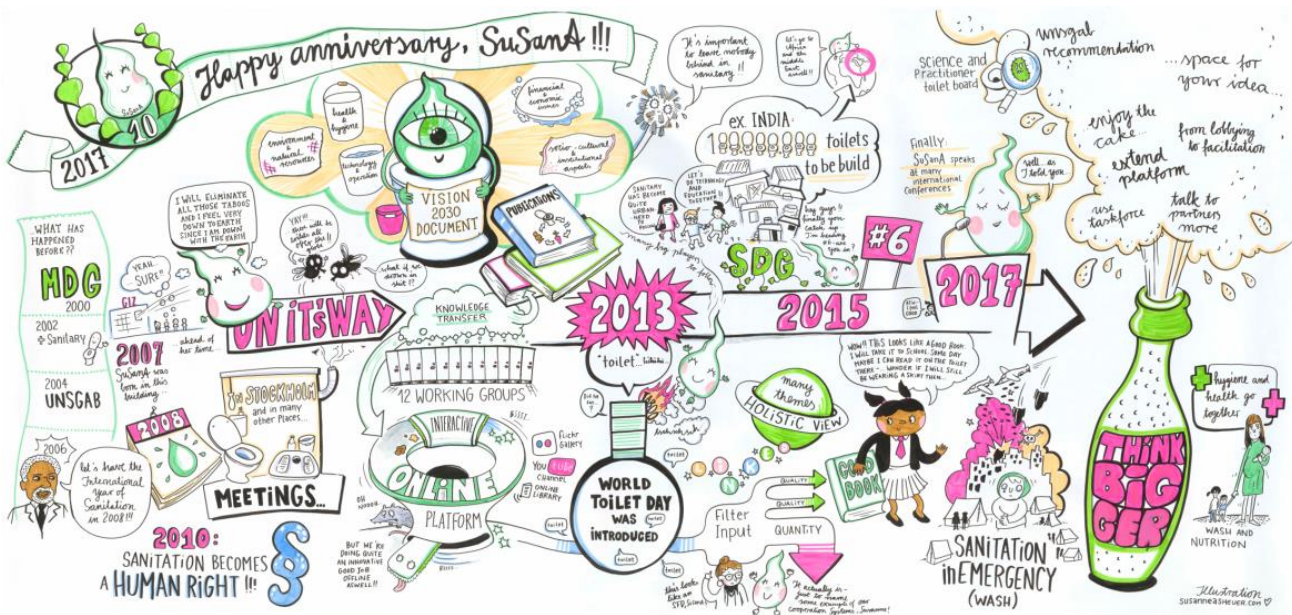


10 years SuSanA: How the changed sanitation paradigm contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals

Outcome report of the 10th SuSanA Anniversary Celebration
January 2017
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sustainable sanitation alliance

10 years SuSanA: How the changed sanitation paradigm contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals

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Celebration

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1. SuSanA turns 10 years

On the 17th of January 2017, the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) celebrated its 10th anniversary at the GIZ headquarters in Eschborn, Germany. The celebration took place under the theme "10 years SuSanA: How the changed sanitation paradigm contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals".

During the event, SuSanA's achievements, milestones, and impact in the sanitation sector were reflected upon. Moreover, SuSanA's future was discussed as well as SuSanA's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. More than 90 representatives of SuSanA's partner and donor organisations e.g. BMZ, World Bank, SDC, Oxfam, WaterAid, SEI, BORDA, former UNSGAB, eawag, UN-Habitat, German Toilet Organisation, CSE, Ecosan Services Foundation, cewas, and GIZ were present and participated actively in the numerous discussions at the event. The anniversary was organised by the SuSanA secretariat, held by GIZ, and funded by The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This report comprises an overview of the main presentations, key observations as well as recommendations provided by the participants of the event with regard to SuSanA's future in the context of the Agenda 2030.

2. Looking back - SuSanA's milestones and impact

At the first session "Looking back – SuSanA's Milestones and Impact," SuSanA's milestones and impact over the last 10 years were reflected upon. Thilo Panzerbieter (GTO), together with the inputs from several SuSanA members, recounted their version of "the story of SuSanA".

In 2007, SuSanA was established with the aim of raising awareness and lobbying for sustainable sanitation in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In its early days, the alliance represented a loose network of a small number of organisations and individuals, working in the sanitation sector. Over the years, SuSanA has evolved into an essential knowledge management platform and community of practice and has grown into a network of about 300 partner organisations and 8000 individual members. Besides highlighting the importance of sustainability issues in sanitation and bringing together sector professionals as well as enabling exchanges, SuSanA had begun and continues to encourage its members to actively engage in different sanitation themed working groups and to address a broad spectrum of sustainability issues.

With regard to the MDGs, their deadline passed in 2015. The MDG target for sanitation was one of the least on-track targets of the 21 MDG targets. It was acknowledged that although many countries had very good strategies, yet they were unable to translate theory into practice. The MDGs were followed in 2015 by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The Agenda 2030 and the SDGs set the path for continuing efforts and aim to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.

Against this background, participants of the anniversary celebration commented on SuSanA's milestones and impact over the last 10 years. A compilation of some of the statements and comments is provided hereafter.

Click [here](#) to see the videos of the session "SuSanA's milestones and impact".





2.1. Key comments on SuSanA's milestones and impact

Different voices were raised commenting on SuSanA's impacts and achievements over the last 10 years. It was stressed that *"not enough"* was achieved under the MDGs. Consequently, and based on statistics, the overall *"sanitation mission"* cannot be considered as accomplished. Apart from that, it was said that the MDGs had merely served as a development agenda aiming at halving issues. Yet, with the Agenda 2030 now in place, the context for the sanitation sector and SuSanA has changed.

Reflecting on SuSanA's achievements, it was acknowledged that thanks to SuSanA's engagement and advocacy work, sustainable sanitation today is on the political agenda and is widely considered within a holistic approach. This comment was underpinned by a member who indicated that SuSanA had not only contributed to the integration of sanitation into political agendas but also into the agendas of various institutions such as United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). Nevertheless, it was also stressed that SuSanA's advocacy work should not be considered as being concluded. It was claimed that still a lot needs to be done especially at the local level, in cities and putting into consideration diverse contexts. Besides that, it was raised, that it is more important to focus on processes on how to achieve newly set up targets rather than on finding consensus on the importance of sustainable sanitation, as the majority of the sector already agrees upon this.

With regard to SuSanA's role over the last 10 years, there was clear acknowledgement of SuSanA's role as a facilitating body in initiating collaborations, partnerships, and connecting multiple sectors. Furthermore, it was elaborated that the Agenda 2030 and its accompanying SDGs reflects SuSanA's already longstanding philosophy. Therefore, SuSanA's

objectives and goals had been ahead of their time and do not need to be reformulated.

2.2. Recommendations

Based on the reflections of SuSanA's milestones and impacts, a couple of recommendations for SuSanA's future were provided by different participants. It was claimed that by having a specific SDG on sanitation, more engagement and increased focus on processes leading to sustainable sanitation, rather than on the provision of sanitation, is required from SuSanA. It was recommended that SuSanA should continue working on finding more arguments to promote and further push for sanitation on political agendas. In addition to that, a plea was made to strengthen global partnerships in order to be able to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG no.6. Moreover, it was highlighted that SuSanA, besides serving as platform for debates exchanging information, should work increasingly on knowledge exchange on the context specific usage of tools and procedures. It was, furthermore recommended that SuSanA should continue to function as an inclusive platform, to solve the sanitation challenge.

Similar to calling for increased focus on processes, it was stressed that it is time to bring change to the ground, whereby SuSanA should function as a facilitating body. With regard to that, it was recommended that SuSanA should work more on the hardest to reach as well as the most vulnerable.





2. Looking ahead - SuSanA in the context of the Agenda 2030

After the discussion on SuSanA's milestones and impact, Roland Schertenleib (former eawag) and Elisabeth Kvarnström (consultant) presented SuSanA's revised vision document to the public for the first time, with its new title: 'Contribution of sustainable sanitation to the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development'. The document was elaborated prior to SuSanA's anniversary and agreed upon by SuSanA's Core Group ahead of the event. The revision of the document was undertaken in response to the new context of the Agenda 2030 and the opportunities the Agenda 2030 offers for SuSanA as well as the sanitation sector. Furthermore, the document responds to how major actors, including SuSanA can, and should function in the changed context and what role they should play. In the presentation of the document, Roland Schertenleib and Elisabeth Kvarnström highlighted that the Agenda 2030 and its accompanying SDGs go further than the MDGs and unlike the MDGs, all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) are now considered. Additionally, it was stressed that the SDGs are now universally applicable to all countries in the world and are as a whole, more integrated with interlinked targets. This led to the question on how SuSanA should deal with the universality of the SDGs and was answered by explaining that SuSanA will continue to focus on low- and middle income countries, and at the same time use developments from high-income countries as showcases and alternative approaches.

With regard to SuSanA's definition of sustainable sanitation, its objectives as well as goals in the light of the changed context, it was indicated that it is not necessary to adapt them as they were already ahead of their time. Apart from that, as result of the fact that the SDGs are more comprehensive and complex, many interlinkages between sustainable sanitation and several SDGs beyond SDG no. 6 were identified by SuSanA. These interlinkages were elaborated upon ahead of the anniversary in another document with the title "Sustainable sanitation and the SDGs: interlinkages and opportunities". Cecilia Rodrigues (SuSanA Secretariat/GIZ) presented the identified interlinkages during the anniversary. They stressed that the interlinkages across multiple SDGs represent holistic approaches to scale up sustainable sanitation.

Regarding SuSanA's function and role in the context of the Agenda 2030 and having identified several interlinkages between sanitation across the SDGs, it was highlighted that SuSanA will continue to function as an inclusive platform where consensus can be built by learning from people with different experiences and opinions, not only from the North but also from the South. Furthermore, it was raised that SuSanA will continue to serve as a knowledge exchange platform, however more importantly, SuSanA will increasingly focus on its facilitating role rather than its lobbying role.

Key note presentations on the development of the Compendium of Sanitation Technologies in Emergencies (by Robert Gensch, German WASH Network), on WASH in Schools (by Oliver Schmoll, WHO Europe), and on Sustainable Sanitation in Cities (by Barbara Evans, University of Leeds) underlined the interlinkages of sanitation with other topics and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration.

Following the presentations on SuSanA's future, the audience had the chance to give comments which are compiled hereafter.

Click [here](#) to see the videos of the session "Looking ahead"

Click [here](#) to see the videos of the keynote presentations: [Robert Gensch](#), [Barbara Evans](#), [Oliver Schmoll](#)





2.1. Key comments on SuSanA's future

The main comments made referred to SuSanA's revised vision document and included that the document can be considered as a "window" for the outside world that will help to convince different stakeholders about the importance of sustainable sanitation. Additionally, it was said that the document has the potential to foster the link between humanitarian crisis, urban expansion, and the need for basic services. SuSanA was congratulated for advocating with its revised vision document for a sanitarian revolution rather than a sanitation revolution. Furthermore, the document was acknowledged to highlight the need to consider all components of sustainable sanitation.

2.2. Recommendations

Recommendations for SuSanA's future included that within SuSanA, increased attention and work should be put into linking humanitarian and development work. Additionally, SuSanA was advised to work on finding ways on how to enhance cooperation between the two. With regard to SuSanA and WASH in Schools, it was stressed that SuSanA should revisit its vision document and reconsider the decision to focus exclusively on middle- and low-income countries. It was also mentioned that if progress is supposed to be made within WASH in Schools, the education

sector should be strongly involved in the ongoing discussions. Moreover, shifting focus from WASH in Schools to WASH in Institutions, including health facilities, was suggested to be considered within SuSanA.

With regard to the SDGs, it was stressed that they have to be clearly understood as a great opportunity to scale up SuSanA. Additionally, it was raised that SuSanA should support national governments in developing indicators to monitor the developments in the sanitation sector.

With regard to SuSanA's outreach, it was suggested that SuSanA could become the next high level voice advocating for sanitation, especially as the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) no longer exists. It was raised that UNSGAB's recommendation no.2 from its report 'The UNSGAB Journey' has a strong link to SuSanA's objectives and could be taken up by the alliance in order to reach higher level visibility. There was the request that SuSanA generally should think bigger and consider the possibility of initiating an Intergovernmental Panel on Water and Sanitation similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Concerning the existing technical knowledge, competency and experience among SuSanA members, there was an appeal to the members to find ways on how to use it better to bring more attention to sanitation as an essentially political problem.

3. World Café on SuSanA in the 2030 Agenda

As raised during the session looking ahead and the presentation on interlinkages between sustainable sanitation and the SDGs, the Agenda 2030 holds many opportunities for the sanitation sector to link sanitation with other sectors and other SDGs beyond SDG no.6. The implications and opportunities of the Agenda 2030 and of the interlinkages for SuSanA and its 13 working groups were discussed at seven thematic working tables in the afternoon session of the anniversary event. Below is a short overview of the outcomes of the discussions.





3.1. Outcomes of the discussions

It has been identified that capacity gaps in the sanitation sector exist which have to be overcome to achieve SDG no.6 and for sanitation to positively contribute to other SDGs. The identified gaps call for effective capacity building and institutional strengthening in the sanitation sector. How to conduct effective capacity building by means of e-learning provided by SuSanA was the topic debated at working table no.1 ***e-learning for WASH***.

The overall outcome of the discussion was that SuSanA should make use of different e-learning options. Yet, the options available have to be selected depending on the specified targeted audience. Additionally, questions on how to finance e-learnings and how to ensure good quality require further considerations.

How to enhance capacities in the sanitation sector in particularly regions; the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), was discussed at working table no.2 ***WASH in emergencies***. The implementation of a MENA regional chapter was discussed in order to strengthen knowledge and capacities of organisations and individuals in the sanitation sector in the MENA region. It was raised that the MENA region is very diverse and comprises of countries that are at different stages of development. To enhance regional exchange, it was concluded that SuSanA should participate and/ or hold in-country events.

At the working table no.3 ***WASH in Schools (WinS)***, the context of the Agenda 2030 was discussed. Particular focus was put on WinS indicators to monitor progress on the Agenda 2030 and particularly on SDG no.6 and the interlinked SDG no.4. It was highlighted that the SDG indicators for WinS have shifted from focusing on sanitation infrastructure to sanitation management, stressing the functionality and usability of sanitation facilities as well as the availability of water and soap.

Apart from that, the challenges of translating the Agenda and its respective indicators into national contexts and monitoring systems were debated. It was concluded that as the monitoring systems of the education sector now require including the SDG WinS indicators, the sector's engagement will increase, and its commitment to monitor and evaluate WinS will be enhanced. In order to support the education sector and the implementation of the new WinS indicators, it was decided that SuSanA working group no.7 will work on a WinS case-study collection, organise regular webinars and hold a thematic discussion on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in schools. Apart from that, it was agreed to expand the objectives of working group no.7 from WinS to WASH in institutions.

Improved hygiene and sanitation have been proven to reduce stunting and wasting especially in children. Based on that, SuSanA identified that SDG no.2 (target 2.2) focusing on ending all forms of malnutrition including stunting and wasting in children, and SDG no.6 are interlinked. What this interlinkage implies for SuSanA and WG no.12 was discussed at working table no.4 ***WASH and Nutrition***. Apart from that, emphasis was put on finding ways to enhance collaborations across working groups, particularly between working group no.12 and working group no.8 (Emergency and Reconstructions Situations). Above all, it was suggested to initiate joint webinars and publications.

At working table no.5 it was discussed how to ***scale-up sanitation using SuSanA-tools*** to contribute to the Agenda 2030. Focus was put on how SuSanA can support in-country programmes; enhance partnerships across its working groups, and on how to increase engagement on the online discussion forum. Issues on how SuSanA is perceived by newcomers were addressed and suggestions included working increasingly on the regional level. In order to work on interlinkages of





sustainable sanitation with other sectors and to increase cross cutting group collaborations, it was raised that the communication among the groups could be improved, e.g. by creating a new communication element on the platform. Additionally, it was stressed that the existing working groups have been evolved into large networks which require rethinking their objective and role.

How working group no.6 (Cities) can contribute to activities that support Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) was discussed at the working table no.6 **FSM**. The overall issue that came out was the lack of human capacities in the FSM sector. To overcome the issue and to enhance the sector's contribution to the SDGs, different actions were proposed, including facilitating collaborations between organisations which are active in the sector. Furthermore, it was proposed to encourage SuSanA partner organisations to provide trainings for trainers. More connections to universities were proposed as well as focussing on FSM MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Apart from that, it was recommended that working group no.6 should make FSM as a sub-topic of the group and develop case stories focusing on FSM.

Working table no.7 dealt with **Resource Recovery** and its potential to contribute to the Agenda 2030. It was discussed how sanitation can help to address climate change and natural resource scarcity and therefore its interlinkage to SDG no.12 and no.13. It was concluded that optimised resource management including efficient use, treatment, recovery, reuse, and recycling of resources, can contribute, with direct and indirect benefits, towards addressing both climate change and resource scarcity. From the climate perspective, sustainable sanitation and especially integrated resource management were identified to contribute to both climate mitigation and climate adaptation. Additionally, for the resource scarcity dimension, it was concluded that sanitation can contribute to conserving and recovering key natural resources such as water, nutrients, organic matter, and energy. During the discussion, a SuSanA task force was formed which will continue moving forward with the topic and work on two discussion papers that link sanitation to the global climate change agenda and to natural resource scarcity.





3.2. Conclusion on the World Café outcomes

The interlinkages between sanitation and a variety of other sectors and SDGs became clearly visible in the World Café session on ‘SuSanA in the Agenda 2030’.

Under the umbrella of the SuSanA working groups, opportunities and challenges of the Agenda 2030 were discussed and specific activities to realise inter-sectoral cooperation were identified. The World Café thus forms the basis for future SuSanA meetings and SuSanA working group meetings to put the interlinkages between sanitation and the other SDGs into practice.

Click [here](#) to see the videos of the session “World Café”

4. Summary

At the anniversary celebration, SuSanA’s milestones and impacts over the last 10 years as well as challenges and opportunities for the future were addressed in the different sessions and working tables during the World Café exercise. The main conclusions are summarised in the box below:

Conclusions on SuSanA’s Anniversary

- Under the MDGs, not enough was achieved with regard to sustainable sanitation which is why increased efforts into fulfilling the newly set up targets of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs are required.
- The Agenda 2030, SDG no.6, and the many interlinkages of sanitation across most of the SDGs hold great opportunities to scale up sustainable sanitation as well as for the work of SuSanA.
- Over the last 10 years, SuSanA has been strong in advocating as well as lobbying for sustainable sanitation and significantly contributed to putting sustainable sanitation on the political agenda.
- A shift from lobbying to facilitating and focusing increasingly on processes of how to achieve sustainable sanitation as well as capacity building in the future is called for in the new context of the Agenda 2030.
- Increased efforts are required to enhance cooperation and collaboration within SuSanA and across sectors, and to put the “SDG-thinking” and multi-sectoral approaches into practice.





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Pictures on cover page:

Live drawing of SuSanA's 10 years' history, Eschborn, 2017

Group photo of participants in the event, Eschborn, 2017

Documentation

The full documentation of the SuSanA anniversary (presentations, video recordings and comprehensive summary of the World Café) is available on the SuSanA website:

<http://www.susana.org/en/resources/conference-materials-2/2017/536-10th-anniversary-susana>

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