

sustainable sanitation alliance

Meeting Minutes SuSanA Advisory Board Meeting

August 25, 2024
08:00 – 10:30 CET

Stockholm (SEI offices) and Microsoft
Teams

Minutes taken by: Alexandra Dubois (SuSanA Secretariat)
Meeting called by: GSC and SuSanA Secretariat

Participants:

Name (Organisation)	Organisation
Advisory Board Members	
Patrick Ronoh	IWA
Kavita Wankhade	IIHS
Suresh Rohilla	University of Bradford
Vishwanath Srikantaiah	Biome Environmental Trust
Paresh Chhajed-Picha	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay / SuSanA Forum
Daniel Ddiba	SEI
Martin Gambrill	World Bank (Consultant)
Sean Furey	Skat Foundation
Lourdes Valenzuela	Aguatuya / SuSanA Latin America Chapter
Sareen Malik	ANEW / SuSanA Africa Chapter
Madeleine Fogde	SEI
John Sauer	PSI
Global Steering Committee Members	
Carla Liera	SEI
Dorothee Spuhler	OST
Secretariat	
Arne Panesar	GIZ
Bettina-Sophie Heinz	GIZ
Alexandra Dubois	GIZ
Guests	
Fanni Zentai	GIZ
Sarah Dickin	Uppsala University

	Agenda Item	Presenter/Moderator
1.	Introduction and tour de table	
1.1	<p>Reminder of Advisory Board’s role and responsibilities:</p> <p><u>Role:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the GSC and ensure that decisions are based on broad sector knowledge and representation • Act as a sounding board for strategic decisions and the development of SuSanA • Identify trends and priority topics that SuSanA should address <p><u>Responsibilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in quarterly to bi-annual virtual AB meetings of approximately 1-2h to assist GSC in its decision making • Attend special face-to-face meetings with the GSC in conjunction with major sector conferences (e.g. Stockholm WWWeek) 	Arne Panesar
1.2	<p>Looking ahead 2024-2025:</p> <p><u>Proposed priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitation and Climate → Climate Resilient Sanitation • Post SDG process → beyond 2030 • SuSanA and Artificial Intelligence • Resource Recovery Toolbox <p><u>Current developments to consider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMGF changed priorities (focus on RTTC) • Future of CWIS • FSMA closure by end of 2024 → next FSMA conference? • Focus on youth 	Arne Panesar
1.3	<p>Direct feedback on the presentation “Looking ahead” (roundtable):</p> <p><u>Suresh:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to connect sanitation with urban planning; UN Habitat is focusing on this. <p><u>Vishwanath:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize the need for practical engagement with authorities. Discussion should not stay at an intellectual level: practitioners must work with authorities (e.g., to avoid SFDs which are not being used). <p><u>Paresh:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore strategies on how to avoid slippages and manage failures. <p><u>Kavita:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With FSMA closing down, potential re-focus on sanitation workers. <p><u>Martin:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find an entry point to connect with the IPCC Climate Report team. • Pick-up and continue discussion on Climate financing initiated at the CRSC breakout session. • Despite BMGF change of priorities, CWIS remains significant at the World Bank, with a recent Call to action from multilateral banks. • Potential to better connect SuSanA with students and reach out to the youth through the University professors and researchers within the network. <p><u>Sean:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore jointly with RWSN the possibilities of AI for Knowledge Management. • Deepen the discussion on climate resilience versus traditional resilience. 	Open discussion with the meeting participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranfield University is shutting down its WASH department. • The SIRWASH programme (financing partly the Forum moderation) will end this year. • RWSN has started a small Community of Practice with the development banks on the topic of South-South Dialogue on rural WASH (ADB, AIDB, AfDB, World Bank, AMCOW) <p><u>Lourdes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider enhancing moderation through youth engagement (students). • Strengthen relationship between Latin America and Africa on the topic of FSM. • Next LatinoSan will take place in 2025 in the Dominican Republic. Wish for a SuSanA Meeting and a Booth. With the uncertainty of Stockholm World Water Week, one could consider opening the event to online participation, record the meeting and offer English interpretation. <p><u>Sarah:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address sanitation from the perspective of its impact on sea and ocean and consider other type environmental changes (biodiversity, health) • Explore the possibility for SuSanA to connect with Professor in Sweden who supervise PhD students from the global South. <p><u>Madeleine:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase involvement with the agriculture sector through the discussion on resilient food systems. • Consider the opportunities of the recent developments in Sweden: SIWI's shift away from WASH but the new SIDA director is the former director of SEI with a strong interest on water and research. • Explore ways to attract youth and Private Sector to the WASH sector with catchy concept such as Sanipreneur. <p><u>Bettina-Sophie:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to raise SuSanA's profile in universities also in the global north. <p><u>Carla:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance communication with governments and demystify the topic of WASH among officials. <p><u>Sareen:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider engagement in Cairo for the Africa Water Week and in Saudi Arabia for the next World Water Forum. • Should we add a SuSanA working group on the topic of governance? • Tap into the need of Middle East's for a Knowledge Hub. • BMGF called out by IRC, Water Integrity Network, and others regarding the impacts of their sudden shift in financing priorities. • Need for SuSanA to address gaps created by recent developments with SIWI and BMGF/FSMA: World Water Week in a more accessible location? <p><u>John:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better integration of the topic of Sanitation Market Development in SuSanA. • Move beyond CWIS frameworks towards action, particularly focusing on climate-resilient technologies. • Need for SuSanA to position itself and influence donors to fund sanitation initiatives. <p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of the discussion will be discussed at the next GSC-Secretariat meeting and considered as basis for future strategic decisions and prioritisation of activities 	
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2.	SuSanA Fund	
2.1	<p>Presentation of the concept and latest feedback from the Advisory Board:</p> <p><u>Concept’s presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH sector is facing a recession. • SuSanA needs to remain agile and continue thriving despite the financial crisis • SuSanA's journey to financial independence began with a donation button to cover the costs of moderating the forum. • The SuSanA Fund is currently being explored as a potential financial mechanism to facilitate the receipt and redistribution of grants and donations to SuSanA through the Skat Foundation as trustee. • Skat foundation's turnover is 2 million annually with 5 permanent staff. • It should help attract more diverse sources of fundings and aggregate smaller contributions (e.g. donations and partner’s contributions) <p><i>Remaining questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can partners contribute financially to the alliance? (e.g. IWA model) • What should be the relationship between the fund-holding organization and the benefiting network. <p><u>Key suggestions and considerations from the last AB consultation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove “Trust” from the name of the fund, because it has a specific legal meaning and would be misleading. • Creating the “SuSanA Fund” would not require SuSanA to register as a formal organisation (e.g. a German verein, association) as it can be managed as a project by Skat Foundation. • Marketing of the SuSanA Fund is crucial and should emphasize its distinct identity, ensuring it is not perceived as directly linked to Skat Foundation. • Fundraising is time/resource-intensive and cannot rely solely on voluntary efforts. It’s critical to determine who will actively raise funds for SuSanA. • High management and reporting overheads can be a challenge for managing small grants/donations. <p><i>Conclusion from the last AB consultation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the Advisory Board members expressed full support for this idea and suggested that the discussion be continued to refine the structure and strategy of the fund. However, they emphasise the need for a clear governance model and effective fundraising mechanisms. 	Sean Furey
2.2	<p>Additional feedback from AB and proposed way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can it be called a Basket Fund? • Clearly define the fund’s purpose, emphasizing knowledge management and networking. • GSC is asking the support of the AB to create the SOP of the SuSanA Fund • We must have the narrative ready to justify why the fund holder is based in Switzerland. • Start small and modular, focusing on the most common transaction cases (80% of cases) and separate the receiving from the distributing part. SOP will never be perfect from the start. 	Open discussion with the meeting participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relying solely on donations would not leverage enough funds for supporting meaningfully partner initiatives. • Managing and hosting partner knowledge and resources can be costly, and partners should be prepared to contribute to these expenses. Alex mentioned the example of SuSanA hosting SEI's resource recovery toolbox. Daniel explained that the project has budgeted for hosting costs and would require an invoice from SuSanA to process the payment. The Secretariat suggested expanding the use of the donation button to allow for payments of specific services. However, GIZ needs to consult its legal department to determine the feasibility of this approach, such as contributing to server costs and management time funded by GIZ, while the money is allocated to a basket fund for other purposes like forum moderation. • To ensure the success of its Fund, SuSanA must strengthen its reporting to encourage contribution from its members. Suggestion to establish systematic annual reporting listing the contribution of the partners to the network. Start with a simple report focusing on the key partners. Possible way to proceed is to organize a meeting with the “usual suspects” and make a round table to ask them to report on their contribution. The structure of the annual report could be as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Secretariat b) GSC c) Working Groups d) Regional Chapters e) Other initiatives <p>Way Forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sean and the Secretariat will explore the possibility of issuing invoices through the donation button for specific payments, such as those related to the management and server costs for hosting the resource recovery toolbox. 2. GSC and Secretariat will draft the SOP of the SuSanA Fund and present them in the next AB meeting. 3. Secretariat will prepare an annual report to be released by the end of the year. 	
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