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## Summary

### GLOBAL WASH CLUSTER

26th Annual Meeting  
Hybrid | 16-17 May 2022

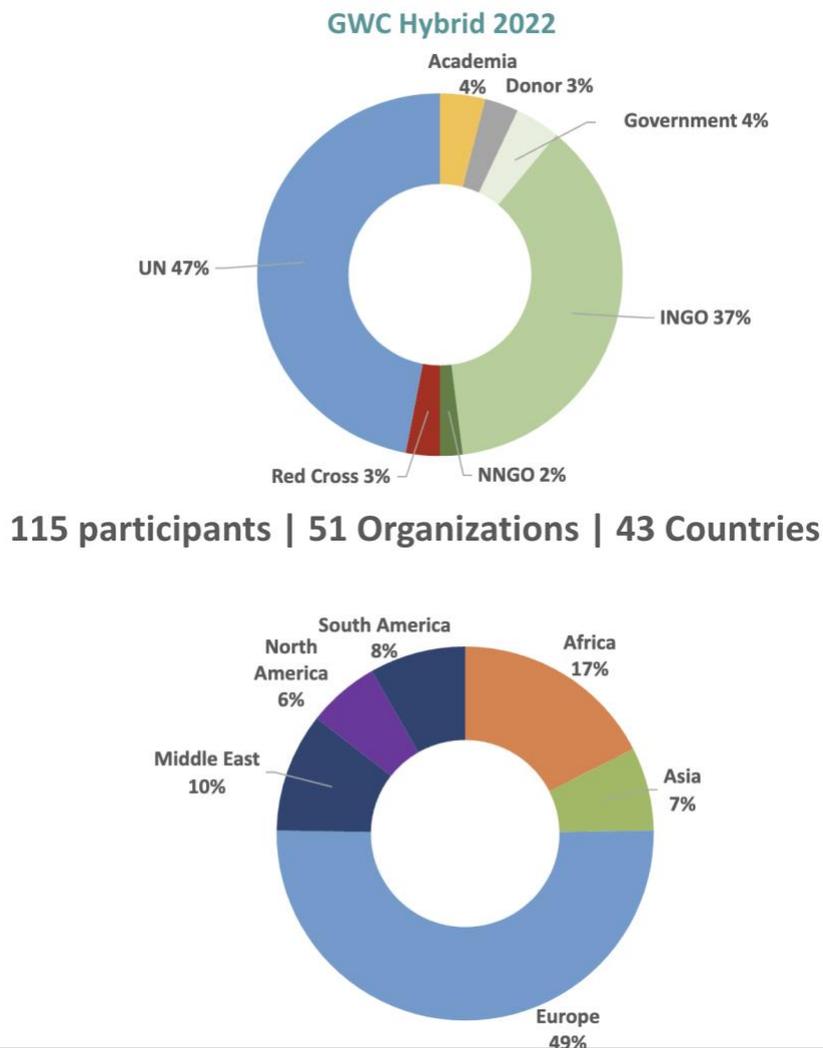
A collaborative event  
for a collective  
implementation plan  
Join the movement

## #GWC26

The 26th Global Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster's (GWC) [Annual Meeting](#) was hybrid event taking place both online and in Budapest from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The event brought together 119 participants from GWC members and National Coordination Platforms (NCPs) from around the globe (see *Figure 1*). The full meeting agenda and list of participants are available in Annex 1.

The meeting was an opportunity to showcase the GWC's [Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025](#), present the revised governance structure and membership, and review achievements and challenges from the previous strategic cycle. Identifying and agreeing on priority actions to implement the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, including the GWC and NCP contributions, was a key focus throughout the meeting. The outcome of the meeting will inform the finalization of a draft Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework.

**Figure 1. GWC Members Participation**



## Background

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The GWC is one of 11 humanitarian clusters established in 2006, operated by the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\)](#) following the Humanitarian Reform and further defined by the Transformative Agenda. At the global level, the GWC supports the cluster approach by strengthening system-wide preparedness and coordination of response capacity in humanitarian crises and providing clear leadership and accountability. Since 2006, the GWC has been directly supporting cluster coordination and inter-cluster collaboration in more than 32 countries. At the country level, the GWC supports NCPs to strengthen partnerships, and the predictability and accountability of humanitarian action, by improving prioritization and clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of humanitarian organizations. As a priority, the GWC supports NCPs on the delivery of the 6+1 core functions, which guide cluster coordination, as outlined in the IASC's Reference Module for Cluster Coordination. The GWC is led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as the Cluster Lead Agency (CLA) and has two [membership categories](#), totalling 87 members and two standing observers, working in the humanitarian water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector across international organizations, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, academic institutes and donors.

The GWC's [Cluster Advocacy and Support Team \(CAST\)](#) was established to carry out the responsibilities of the CLA, including driving the GWC's Strategic Plan and leading operational support. It fosters, develops and maintains partnerships to strengthen humanitarian WASH coordination and provides guidance and operational and surge support to NCPs. The GWC's [Strategic Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#) is composed of 12 members and provides strategic oversight and guidance to the CAST and represents the members of the GWC.

The GWC includes a [Field Support Team \(FST\)](#) that provides operational and surge support through in-country deployments, remote and virtual support to NCPs. The GWC consists of [Working Groups](#) that provide leadership in key technical and thematic areas, such as cash and markets, fecal sludge management, and hygiene promotion, and potentially topics such as localization, advocacy, environment and climate change, and the Triple Nexus.

The GWC's vision is that enhancing and strengthening effective and accountable humanitarian WASH coordination will result in timely, predictable and high-quality WASH outcomes that are inclusive and equitable for the people most affected by and vulnerable to crises. This vision is articulated in the GWC's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025, which was launched as part of this year's GWC's Annual Meeting. The participatory and consultative process that took place during the meeting will define the priorities for the strategy's Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework.

## Day 1

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Access Day 1 material [here](#).

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

A short welcome was provided by the GWC Coordinator, Monica Ramos. This was followed by a welcome by UNICEF's Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC) Director, Mark Beatty, and security and logistics briefing from UNICEF's Operations Specialist, Tarun Arora, followed. The Opening Remarks for the meeting were provided by OCHA's Chief of the System-wide Approaches and Practices Section, Marina Skuric-Prodanovic, highlighting the importance of humanitarian coordination structures like the cluster approach as key to inter-sectoral collaboration and partnership, particularly in fragile, conflict and violence affected settings. This was followed by Opening Remarks by the IFRC, a permanent member on the GWC SAG; their Team Lead for WASH, Uli Jasper, focused his remarks on their commitment to humanitarian coordination.

The session was then handed over to the Lead Facilitator, Omar El-Hattab (UNICEF), to introduce a [promotional video](#) to launch the GWC’s Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025, followed by a review of the meeting’s ground rules and a synopsis of the day’s agenda.

## Session 1 - Looking Back

### Overview

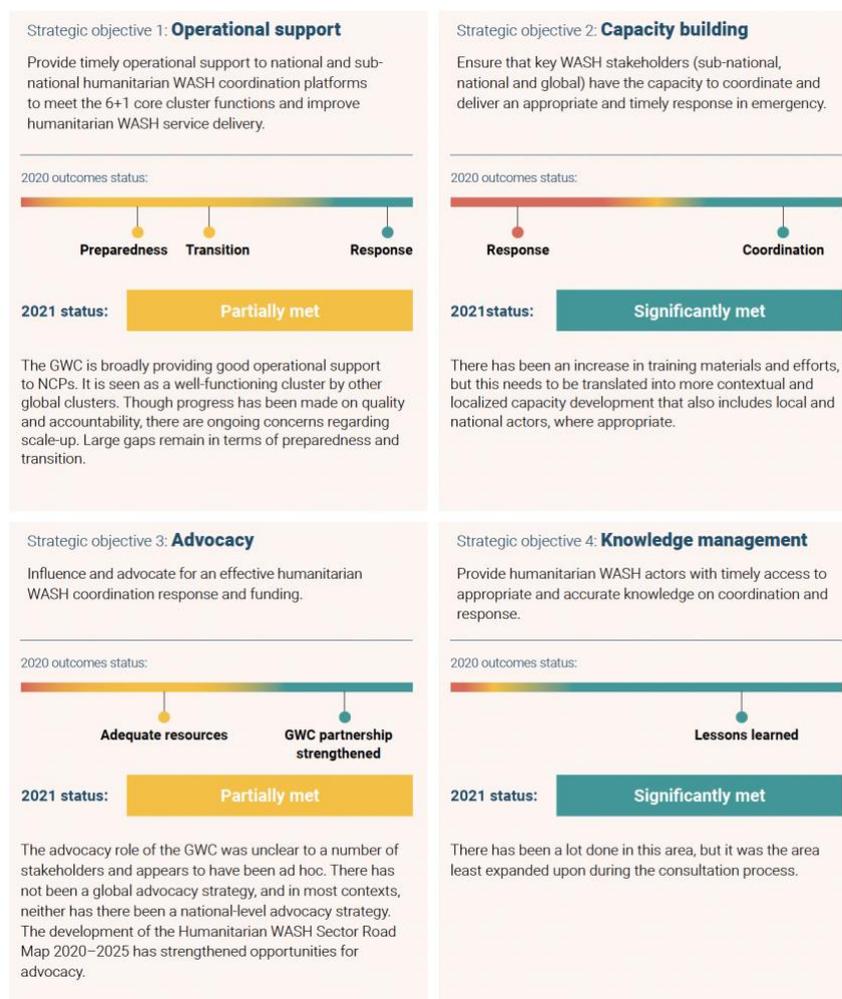
**Session Objective:** Present the 2021 key achievements, 2022 priorities and key recommendations from the 2016 – 2020 GWC Strategic Plan review

**Lead Facilitator:** Omar El Hattab, UNICEF - *The Lead Facilitator, Omar El Hattab (UNICEF) provided short overview of the session and introduced the presenters, Monica Ramos (GWC Coordinator) and William Carter (IFRC).*

### Summary

The GWC’s CAST presented key achievements from 2021 and 2022 priorities, spanning global strategic leadership, operational field support, capacity and learning and knowledge, evidence and advocacy. This was followed by an overview of key findings, main achievements and areas for improvement from the review of the 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan by IFRC (see *Figure 2*). The session was concluded with a short discussion and Q&A.

**Figure 2. GWC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 Review**



## Session 2 – Moving Forward

### Overview

**Session Objective:** Present the 2022 – 2025 GWC Strategic Plan and the revised governance structure and membership

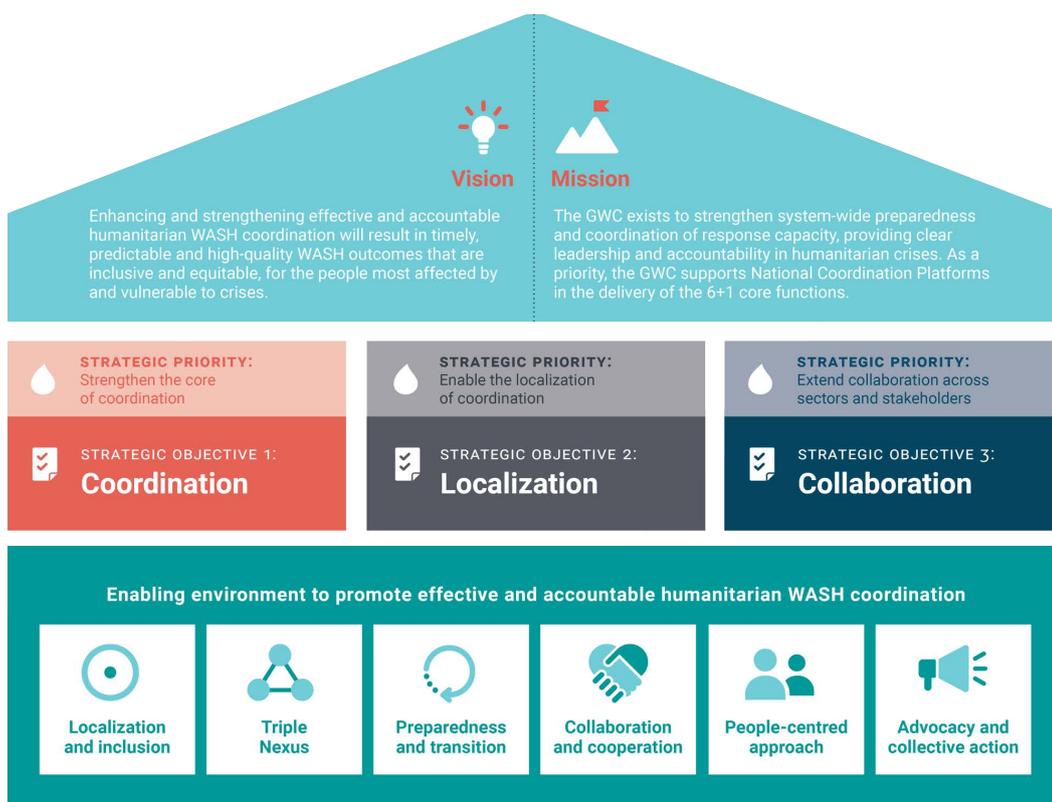
**Lead Facilitator:** Omar El Hattab, UNICEF

The Lead Facilitator, Omar El Hattab (UNICEF) provided short overview of the session and introduced the presenters, Monica Ramos (GWC Coordinator), Emmett Kearny (UNHCR) and Mageda Alawneh (Palestinian Water Authority).

### Summary

The GWC’s CAST presented the key aspects of the Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025, highlighting the strategic objectives of coordination, localization and collaboration – along with the factors that constitute the enabling environment for effective and accountable humanitarian WASH coordination (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. GWC’s Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025



This was followed by an overview of the revised GWC structure, including membership and the composition of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), led by UNHCR (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. GWC Structure



This session highlighted the:

- Shift in membership categories from three to two, merging the previous ‘full’ and ‘associate’ member categories while maintaining the ‘standing observer’ category.
- Revised composition of the SAG, increasing the seats from 9 to 12, with the inclusion of four representatives from national coordination platforms and one donor agency (without voting rights) for a tenure of 2 years.
- Launch a national SAG forum, composed of one representative from each NCPs was also highlighted as an option for consideration.

This led to the farewell of the outgoing SAG members, followed by the introduction of the newly elected SAG by the representative from the Palestinian Water Authority. The farewell provided the opportunity for outgoing SAG members to share their insights and experience, while receiving a certification of appreciation. This was followed by the formal welcoming and introduction to the new SAG members to the GWC members and NCPs. This includes the following agencies and individuals:

Outgoing SAG Members	New SAG Members		
	GWC Members	National Representatives	WASH Donor Group
Bram Riems (ACF)	Seyram Sossou (Institut 2iE)	Francois Bellet (Afghanistan WASH Cluster)	Tracy Wise (BHA)/Laurence West (FCDO)
Peter Cawley (NCA)	Michelle Farrington (Oxfam)	Laure Anquez (Ethiopia WASH Cluster)	
Mageda Alawneh (Palestinian Water Authority)	Claudio Deola (Save the Children)	Alain Eric Joel Bouyantsang (Developpement Equite Durabilite Innovation (DEDI) Niger)	
Jo de Serrano (RedR UK)		Shadreck Kundishora (WHH Zimbabwe)	

The session was concluded with a short discussion and Q&A. There was some concern regarding the level of engagement by the GWC members in the decision-making process, and the role of the SAG in the revised GWC structure. This was well noted; it was shared that broad consultation did take place as part of the process of developing the GWC's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. However, this was noted for future revisions of the GWC structure.

## Session 3 – Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework

### Overview

**Session Objective:** The objective of this session was to present and provide an overview of the draft implementation plan and monitoring framework for the 2022-2025 GWC Strategic plan.

**Lead Facilitator:** Tracy Wise, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, USAID

*The Lead Facilitator, Tracy Wise (BHA) provided short overview of the session and introduced the presenter, Aliocha Salagnac, GWC Advocacy and Knowledge Management Specialist.*

### Summary

The draft [implementation plan and monitoring framework](#) of the GWC's Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025 was presented in plenary at output level along the three main pillars of the new strategic plan: coordination, localization and collaboration. The outputs presented were gathered through previous consultations with key NCPs and SAG members. The session included a discussion and Q&A around key clarifications on outputs as well as broader questions on responsibilities.

An important objective of this session was also to emphasize the need for collective action across the GWC as shown below (see *Figure 5*).

#### Figure 5. Key GWC Definition on Collective Output Development

Outputs tell the story of what we will deliver as **GWC members**, **National Coordination Platforms**, the **GWC SAG** and **CAST/FST** for 2022-2025.

## Session 4 – Priority Actions (Part I)

### Overview

**Session Objective:** Review the draft Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework and identify missing priorities for action

**Lead Facilitator:** Baptiste Lecuyot, Solidarités International - *The Lead Facilitator, Baptiste Lecuyot (SI) provided short overview of the session and outlined the group work, along with introduced the group work facilitators and note takers.*

### Summary

The participants were split into five groups (two in-person and three online) to reflect on all 29 outputs in the draft implementation plan and monitoring framework and to identify missing actions. A note taker and a facilitator were appointed to each group, using guiding questions prepared by GWC's CAST to support discussion. The in-person groups compiled inputs on a flipchart while online groups used a Miroboard.

## Key Recommendations

The main findings can be found on the [Miroboard](#). The key recommendations from group work, include:

- 1.1: No major recommendation
- 1.2: Add a new output: GWC facilitates the delivery of technical trainings developed by partners
- 1.3: Merge outputs 1 and 2, merge outputs 4, 5 and 8
- 2.1: Add new output: GWC supports NCPs to prepare and implement transition through transition guidance and tools
- 2.2: Reflect a better linkage between global and national levels on all outputs
- 3.1: Keep development and peace together (3.1.2 and 3.2.2), mention Triple Nexus (3.1.2), and include deactivation and transition of NCPs (3.1.2)
- 3.2: GWC to setup and monitor JOFs (3.2.1)

## Day 2

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Access Day 2 material [here](#).

## Session 5 – Priority Actions (Part II)

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### Overview

**Session Objective:** Review the draft Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework and identify missing priorities for action

**Lead Facilitator:** Baptiste Lecuyot, Solidarites International

*The Lead Facilitator, Baptiste Lecuyot (SI) provided short overview of the session and introduced the group work lead facilitators and note takers.*

### Summary

As a follow up to Session 4, groups were invited to present key feedback and findings for 10 minutes each, using Miroboard or flipcharts as visual support.

## Session 6 – Priority Actions (Part III)

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### Overview

**Session Objective:** The objective of this session is to support the process of finalizing the draft Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework by defining priority actions and highlight new ideas for the 2022-2025 strategic cycle.

**Lead Facilitator:** Tracy Wise, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, USAID

The Lead Facilitator, Tracy Wise (BHA) provided short overview of the session and introduced the group work lead facilitators and note takers.

## Summary

The groups were invited to prioritize three main outputs from their previous group work and brainstorm at least one new idea and/or output for implementation between 2022 - 2025. This session featured group work (three online and two in-person) and an opportunity for feedback from groups, followed by a plenary discussion.

## Key Recommendations

The overall priorities were mainly around the coordination pillar of the strategic plan, as well as an emphasis on localization:

<b>Strategic Objective 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational support for NCPs and quality of coordination across 6+1 core functions</li> <li>Capacity development on coordination for NCPs and partners, including content and approaches for localization</li> <li>Evidence-based advocacy for an enabling environment for coordination with the CLA, IASC/Global - HC/HCT National around HPC and partners</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Objective 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Localization – empower NCPs to be the enabling environment for the inclusion of local actors</li> <li>Localization: advocacy/transfer of power/link to transition/structural changes (monitoring and implementation of IASC guidance)</li> </ul>

The new ideas included the following points, which were included in the implementation plan final review process:

- Funding allocation for NCPs to facilitate quality monitoring
- Incorporating CLA responsibilities in the Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) process and the relationship with Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs)
- Collaboration with inter-sector/cluster collaboration and Road Map
- Risk management in partnerships with local organisations
- Support from GWC on cross-cutting or specific sub-sectors (eg. Cash, DRR), and expand on expertise (climate change, Triple Nexus)
- Coordinate surge supports from international companies/institutes, such on urban water network audit and epidemiological investigation, with existing standby partnerships with UNICEF

## Session 7 – Moving Forward: Next Steps for the Strategic Plan

### Overview

**Session Objective:** The objective of this session was to brainstorm with the SAG, NCPs and GWC members and identify potential and priority contributions of GWC members and NCPs for the 2022-25 Strategic Plan.

**Lead Facilitator:** Arjan Ottens, Welthungerhilfe - *The Lead Facilitator, Arjan Ottens (WHH) provided short overview of the session and introduced the group work lead facilitators and note takers.*

### Summary

The session included a brief introductory overview followed by group work and presentation in plenary, followed by a short discussion and Q&A.

The four groups were: GWC Members, NCPs, Working Groups and Enabling Environment and WASH Initiatives. Each group was half composed of, and led by, members of that type of group with some dispersion across the other groups. For example, the NCP group was led by, and composed of, national coordinators with representation from other groups. Each group discussed their contribution to the GWC’s Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 and had an opportunity to discuss what the other groups could and/or should contribute. The session concluded with a calendar of next steps for the development and launch of the implementation plan and monitoring framework.

## Key Recommendations

The summary of the contributions to the implementation of the strategy per group are outlined as:

<b>GWC Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1: Proactively support and participate in coordination processes; provide in-kind support and resources; co-lead at national level; establish regional FSTs</li> <li>1.2: Onboard new staff and senior staff to coordination objectives and priorities</li> <li>1.3: Coordinate advocacy and evidence initiatives to magnify results and reach wider audiences</li> <li>2.1: Include coordination as part of partner agreements with local and national agencies; actively build capacity of local and national co-leadership agencies</li> <li>2.2: NGO forums to support cluster leads in advocacy with OCHA; ensure global initiatives are accessible by national/local agencies (eg. R4ACT, Women Lead, RoadMap)</li> <li>3.1 and 3.2: Mapping of dual mandate (Hum/dev/peace) agencies</li> </ul>
<b>NCPs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1: Early alerts on support needs; capacity mapping exercises; ensure agency familiarity with key resources (eg. AQA); support global data repository</li> <li>1.2: Conduct annual awareness raising and coordination training exercises for partners and SAG; identify emerging coordination talent</li> <li>1.3: Capture and disseminate best practices and lessons; develop inter-sector dashboards; mainstream AQA, evidence and advocacy to cluster processes; establish common national indicators; encourage peer to peer exchanges</li> <li>2.1: Define localization in context, identify barriers and proactively involve local government and partners; ensure local/national agency voices are heard, are on the SAG and engaged with TWGs; mapping local partners and co-leads as part of the stakeholder analysis; translate heavy guidance documents</li> <li>2.2: Engage local/national agencies in transition planning and implementation</li> <li>3.1: Lead liaison with authorities and service providers to develop Triple Nexus and transition planning; engage academic institutions and measure humanitarian results against SDGs; document lessons learnt and case studies</li> <li>3.2: Include inter-cluster items on cluster agenda and present WASH to other clusters; provide good practices on inter-cluster coordination and response (IDP response, anticipatory action, public health, famine risk reduction); develop joint action plans across Triple Nexus; systematically track violence/attacks on WASH infrastructure; develop and share WASH information with other sectors to reduce silos</li> </ul>
<b>Working Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1: Develop a system to connect global and field technical/thematic working groups based upon focal points and on the priorities of the field, potentially this could be a thematic helpdesk; distinguish between the GWC thematic working groups, that offer rapid, operational and dynamic problem solving and support, from the WASH sector roadmap thematic working groups that concentrate on structural issues are longer lasting and require funding</li> <li>1.2: Ensure technical/thematic working groups repository is moderated and accessible, most likely through the WASH Hub; thematic working groups to support implementation of NCPs capacity building strategies</li> <li>1.3: Ensure 2-way communication between national TWGs and global TWGs via the helpdesk</li> <li>3.1: Housing technical working groups on WASH Hub</li> </ul>

	3.2: Develop umbrella resources for leadership of climate change, Triple Nexus, intersectoral programs and coordinate with Road Map and SDC “Blue Peace” initiative
<p><b>Enabling Environment and WASH Initiatives</b></p>	<p>1.1: WASH Quality Assurance and Accountability System; specialized expertise for the WASH Sector, Field Support Team; technical/Thematic guidance (eg. Anticipatory action, Cross cutting issues GBV etc.)</p> <p>1.2: Training courses on WASH Learning Portal; Competency framework-based certification mechanism</p> <p>1.3: WASH Severity Classification; WASH Hub Online; Core Data Repository and Tools; Research and Innovation</p> <p>2.1: Participation of women-led organisations in coordination mechanisms; localization of professionalization via partnership with local universities; coaching and exchange about NCPs; toolkit to facilitate localization activities including experiences from NCPs</p> <p>2.2: Build advocacy capacity of local actors; transition from implementing partners to decision makers</p> <p>3.1: Road Map Humanitarian Development Peace Triple Nexus Framework; operation cost of sector strengthening; advocacy for sector strengthening</p> <p>3.2: Road Map Integration and coordination of public health emergencies; multi sectoral integration and coordination of WASH; multi-year humanitarian planning including space for transition/bridge to Triple Nexus and flexible funds</p>

### Next Steps

1. The GWC’s CAST will build upon the feedback and revise the initial draft of the Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework;
2. GWC Members and NCPs will be able to review and comment in June 2022
3. The second draft will be shared by the end of June 2022
4. The final document will be validated by the GWC SAG in July 2022
5. Launch of the Implementation and Plan and Monitoring Framework in July 2022

## Annual Meeting Evaluation

A real-time evaluation conducted at the closure of Day 1 and 2 to gauge whether sessions and content met participant expectations (see *Figure 6 and 7*):

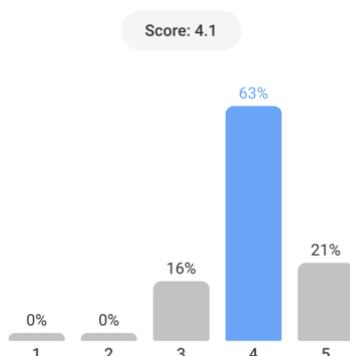
**Figure 6. Participant Experience of Day 1**

**Figure 7. Participant Experience of Day 2**

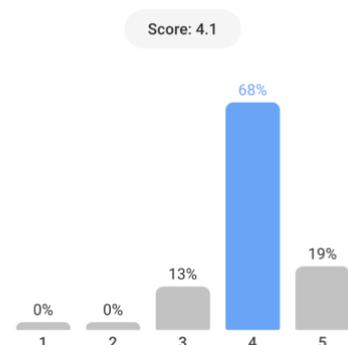
In addition, the participants were asked to cited preference for the 2023 meeting date and location, with a majority citing May or June and Budapest as the top choices.

The full evaluation information is available [here](#).

Please rate your experience of Day 1 ? (1=bad to 5=excellent)



Please rate your experience of Day 2 ? (1=bad to 5=excellent)



## Closing Remarks

A summary of the GWC's Annual Meeting was provided by the GWC Coordinator, Monica Ramos. This was followed with Closing Remarks by UNICEF Deputy Director – EMOPS, Lana Al-Wreikat. The session was concluded with the evaluation.

## Annexes

Annex 1 – [Agenda](#)

Annex 2 – [Participants List](#)

