

Freshwater Action Network

*The key to strengthening the role
of civil society*



www.freshwateraction.net



About us

Freshwater Action Network (FAN) is a major network of civil society organisations (CSOs) implementing and influencing water and sanitation policy and practice. Our members, from around the world, are respected for their unique skill, experience and perspective. Our strategy is shaped by a consortium of CSO networks in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Our vision

A world where water is respected and protected as an essential resource for all forms of life and universal access to water and sanitation is achieved responsibly and inclusively.

Our mission

FAN works to improve water governance by strengthening the role of civil society in decision-making, linking the environmental and developmental agenda, for the realisation of the right to water and sanitation for present and future generations.

Equity sustainability collab
pro-poor water is a pu
accountability cross cultura



We underpin our vision with a set of principles that inspire our work and mission

- FAN upholds the principles of non-hierarchical and democratic networking
- FAN is facilitative and innovative and is open to change and learning
- FAN believes that access to safe and affordable water and sanitation is a human right
- FAN promotes the voices of marginalised and excluded communities in policies and programmes
- FAN promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in its activities
- FAN members respect each other's unique skill, experience and perspective and take ownership of the network in a spirit of cooperation and sharing
- FAN considers sustainable water supply to be integrally linked to water resource management

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ublic good transparency
collaboration partnership

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A network of change-makers

1.1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe water and 2.6 billion people lack adequate sanitation. Available freshwater resources continue to decline as a result of excessive withdrawal and pollution. We are faced with a global crisis where water is not respected as a human right or an essential resource.

A strong and vibrant civil society will transform the way in which water is managed, accessed and respected. We are the local implementers of policies and programmes. We work in challenging situations, such as urban slums and degraded environments, with weak governance and inadequate legal or regulatory frameworks. We are seeking innovative methods to improve the delivery of water and sanitation services for all and for effective water management.



Positive change is possible through communication, partnerships and cooperation. Freshwater Action Network capitalises on the creativity, drive and initiative of our membership to further our mission. Since 2001, we have been building national, regional and global alliances. We have evolved into a consortium of CSO networks with focal points in Africa, South Asia, Mexico, Central and South America. We amplify the diverse voices of our membership, identify the channels through which our experiences can be shared and offer a means to unlock our potential to influence, lead and advocate.





A link between local and global

Global change must respond to local voices. Communities can use their experiences to influence policy. Whether at the UN, the World Bank or a local municipality, we aim to ensure that debates are informed by and accountable to the practical reality of what works for people on the ground. Understanding how water can be managed within the unique contexts in which people live is critical if we are to seriously address the global water crisis.



For local change to take place, an understanding of the global agenda is needed. FAN shares key information with members working at the local level to enable civil society to monitor and analyse national progress against international commitments and best practice. We build the capacity of our members to understand the relevant policy debates and systems so they can engage strategically with the sector.

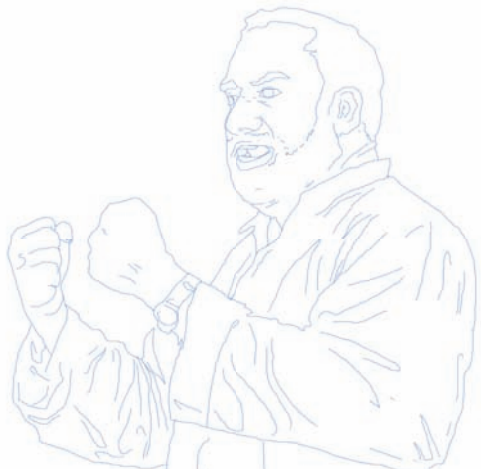




A platform for dialogue and influence

Providing spaces for meaningful engagement between civil society and governments can help to generate political will.

FAN actively identifies opportunities for members to access policy makers at the national, regional and global levels. Our members are equipped with years of local experience and many are strong and articulate advocates. We work to ensure that during discussions that affect grassroots water users, the right people are in the room to present their experiences and share knowledge of how progress can be made.



We lobby for our members to be invited to key meetings and conferences and facilitate their participation. FAN works to increase the number of NGO advocates equipped with the skills and tools to communicate clearly on water policy issues.

FAN seeks representation, accountability and transparency at all levels. We ensure that FAN delegations represent a diverse range of interests from organisations with a variety of perspectives.





A forum for sharing learning and experiences

FAN members have valuable lessons to share. We facilitate a continuous process of knowledge, experience and information transfer throughout our global network via our website, newsletters, eBulletins, listserves and face-to-face meetings. This strengthens the skills and know-how of our members and builds capacity to communicate clearly on relevant issues.



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Supportive **exciting**
challenging global informed
collaborative effective
passionate committed diverse
transparent fair equitable
responsible **inclusive** influential
trustworthy **reputable**
credible
evolving open
inspirational
motivating



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