

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Global WOPs Congress

18 — 29 October 2021



**GWOPA**  
Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**Learn**

**Share**

**Inspire**



Together towards  
sustainable water and sanitation for all

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Global WOPs Congress**  
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Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



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## **The 4<sup>th</sup> Global WOPs Congress**

Although COVID remains a major global challenge to water and sanitation service providers, operators and their staff are facing many other immediate and longer-term challenges every day: a fast-changing climate, revenue loss, depletion of resources, underinvestment and growing inequalities, among many others.

We are increasingly realising that only by working together can we make progress on these issues.

Learning from each other, sharing experiences, and inspiring action is a critical way for operators to improve their services and ultimately enrich the lives of the people and communities they serve.

This spirit of collaboration and solidarity is at the heart of the Global WOPs Congress

## What makes the WOPs Congress different?

### → **United by solidarity**

Water Operators' Partnership and other not-for-profit peer support exchanges will take center stage. The Congress is a moment for the GWOPA network and new partners to come together around a shared commitment to helping each.

### → **A focus on operator staff**

WOPs support operator staff to do their job better and they are happening all over the world. The Congress will bring together hundreds of operator staff to tell their stories, learn from each other and inspire individual and collective action.

### → **Diversity**

The Congress is convened by the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance – a diverse network largely made up of public water and sanitation operators along with their partners. Participation is free of charge and open to all organisations and individuals with an interest in sustainable water and sanitation.

### → **Moving towards sustainable access for all**

The WOPs Congress has been designed in close consultation with a Congress Taskforce (public operators, WOPs facilitators, donors, workers' unions and civil society organisations) to ensure it shines a light on real actions, impact, and opportunity to increase progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6.



## Congress Features

Focused dialogue on topics that matter to water and sanitation operators.

Space for interaction and participation.

Online networking opportunities to meet like-minded partners.

Follow-up online community discussions.

Access to training on knowledge materials and tools.






Interpretation in most sessions (English, French, Spanish).

# Congress Themes and Dialogue Spaces

The Congress will feature different sessions and spaces to allow for exchange, learning and collaboration.





## → Thematic Sessions

Thematic Sessions will take stock of current water and sanitation operators' issues, showcase good approaches, and offer recommendations for how operators can tackle challenges through peer-to-peer partnerships.

<b>Ensuring access for all</b>  <p>Extending services, pro-poor initiatives, social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, informal and community operators, decentralized systems.</p>	<b>Advancing sanitation</b>  <p>Wastewater collection and treatment, protecting water quality, fecal sludge management, reuse.</p>	<b>Climate adaptation</b>  <p>Climate change adaptation, ecosystem services, water conservation, source protection, water safety planning, emergency response planning.</p>
<b>Circular development</b>  <p>Regenerative urban waters, nexus approaches, carbon neutrality, water-sensitive urban design, energy efficiency.</p>	<b>Managing crises</b>  <p>Lessons from the COVID-19 response, preparedness for disasters, remote WOPs.</p>	

## → WOPs Sessions

WOPs Sessions will highlight the latest trends, challenges, and possible ways to increase and improve the WOPs practice.

<b>Governance</b>  <p>Enabling frameworks for WOPs.</p>	<b>Finance</b>  <p>WOP funding and financial linkages.</p>	<b>Knowledge</b>  <p>Connecting capacity and informing better WOPs.</p>
<b>Monitoring</b>  <p>Tracking results and progress of WOPs.</p>		

## → #OPERATORsSTAGE

Water and sanitation operators have a long history of solidarity and cooperation, especially in times of crisis. Many operator staff are actively helping their peers on a collaborative basis.

The #OPERATORsSTAGE is an open space for operators anywhere to share their experiences of peer-to-peer support, partnership or working together.

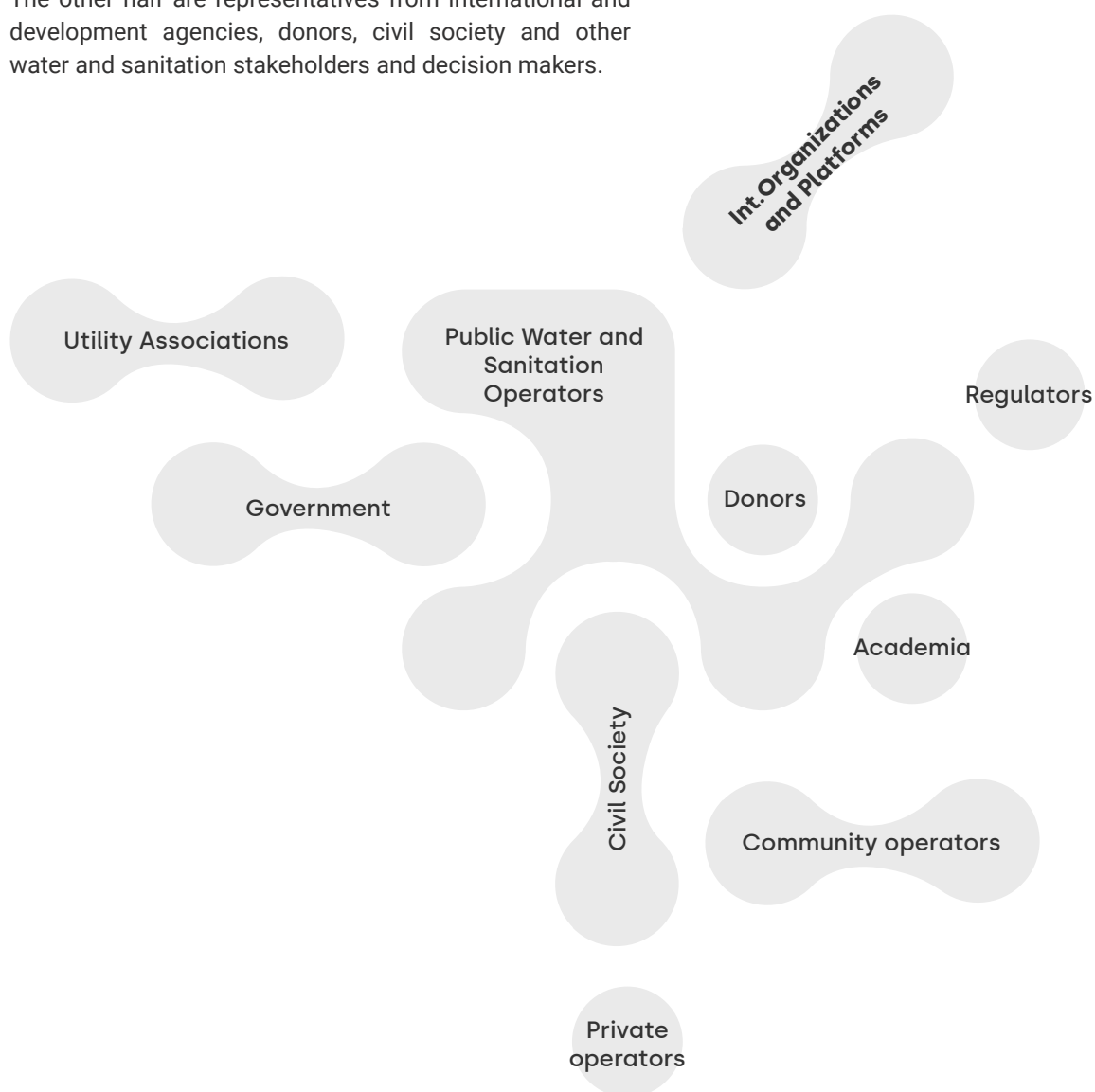
#OPERATORsSTAGE events can be flexible in format but must adhere to GWOPA's principles, such as not-for-profit and solidarity objectives.



## Who will be there?

Around half of all congress participants are staff from public water and sanitation operators.

The other half are representatives from international and development agencies, donors, civil society and other water and sanitation stakeholders and decision makers.





## The Global WOPs Alliance General Assembly

GWOPA holds a General Assembly on the occasion of the Global WOPs Congress. During the General Assembly, Alliance members take stock of progress and shape the joint future of the network. Half of GWOPA's International Steering Committee, the advisory body that steers the Alliance, will also be elected by GWOPA members. All members are eligible to stand for election according to the type of organization and region. More information on GWOPA's governance mechanisms and becoming a member can be found on the [GWOPA website](#). Further details on the General Assembly and the election process for the GWOPA Steering Committee will be available online prior to the event.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Global WOPs Congress Timeline

---→ Call for expressions of interest  
**March — April 2021**

---→ Selection of sessions  
**June 2021**

---→ Registration Opens  
**June 2021**

---→ Regional Preparations  
**August — October 2021**

---→ Programme Release  
**September 2021**

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**Find out more**  
[www.gwopa.org/wop-congress](http://www.gwopa.org/wop-congress)



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