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# Climate Resilient Sanitation: Green Climate Fund (GCF) Annex

Global Webinar  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

# Agenda

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## Welcome by session moderator

- *Nat Paynter, UNICEF*

## GCF Annex: Context and Overview

- Why discrete guidance is needed for climate-resilient sanitation: *Ann Thomas, UNICEF*
- GCF's approach to climate-resilient sanitation: *Bapon Fakhruddin, GCF*
- Overview of the new GCF Annex: *Sam Drabble, WSUP*
- Q&A

## Panel Discussion: Climate-resilient sanitation experiences

- *Jolly Ann Maulit, UNICEF*
- *Yeasin Arafat, WaterAid*
- *Martin Gambrill, World Bank*
- *James Wallace, University of Leeds*
- Q&A

## Proposal development

- Developing a sanitation proposal to GCF: *Bapon Fakhruddin, GCF*
- Audience Q&A

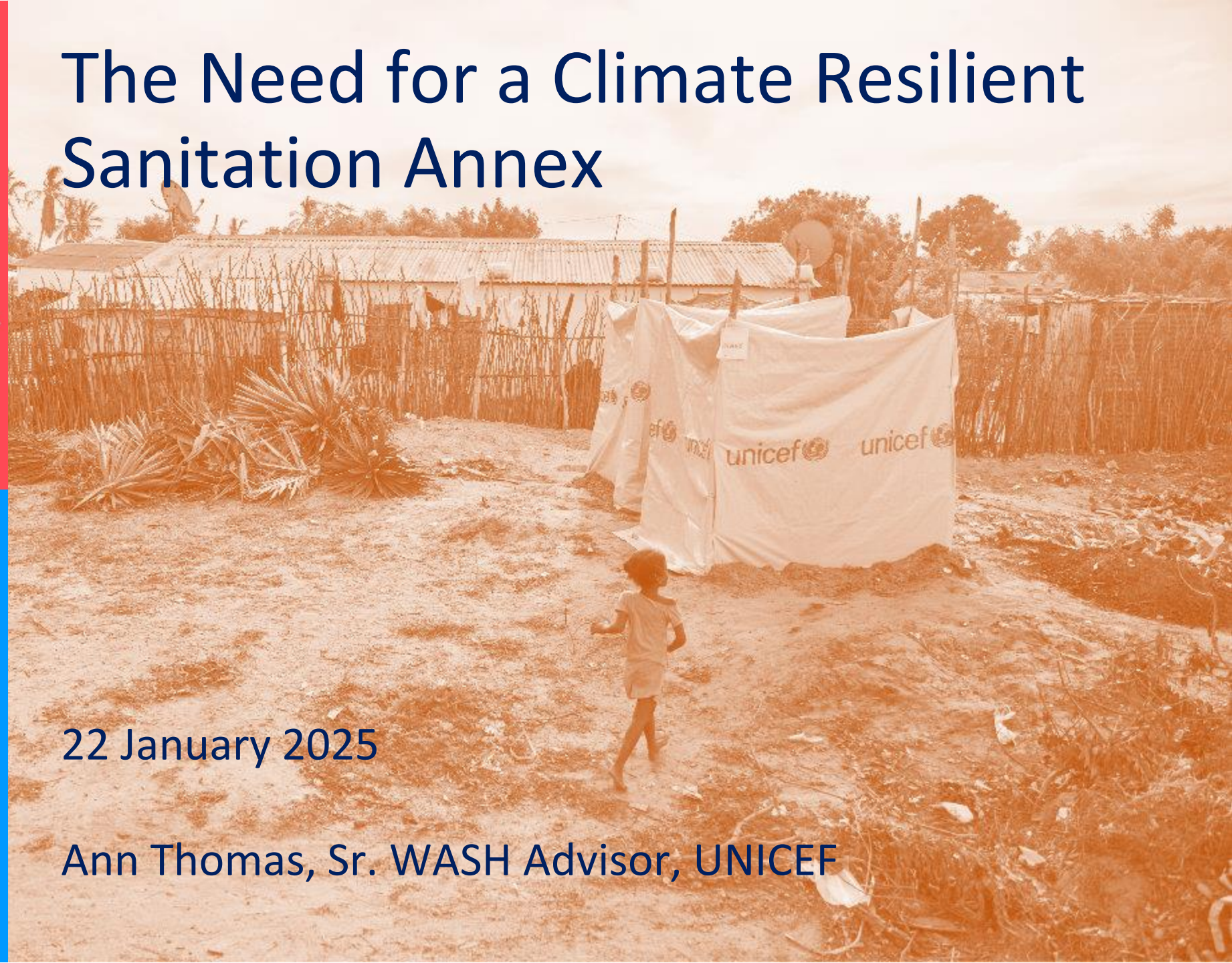
## Next Steps and Closing

- *Kate Medlicott, WHO*

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# The Need for a Climate Resilient Sanitation Annex



22 January 2025

Ann Thomas, Sr. WASH Advisor, UNICEF



# The Climate Resilient Sanitation Coalition

## VISION:

Integrating sanitation into global and national climate policy & practice; and  
integrating climate into global and national sanitation policy & practice.



# Climate Hazards and Sanitation

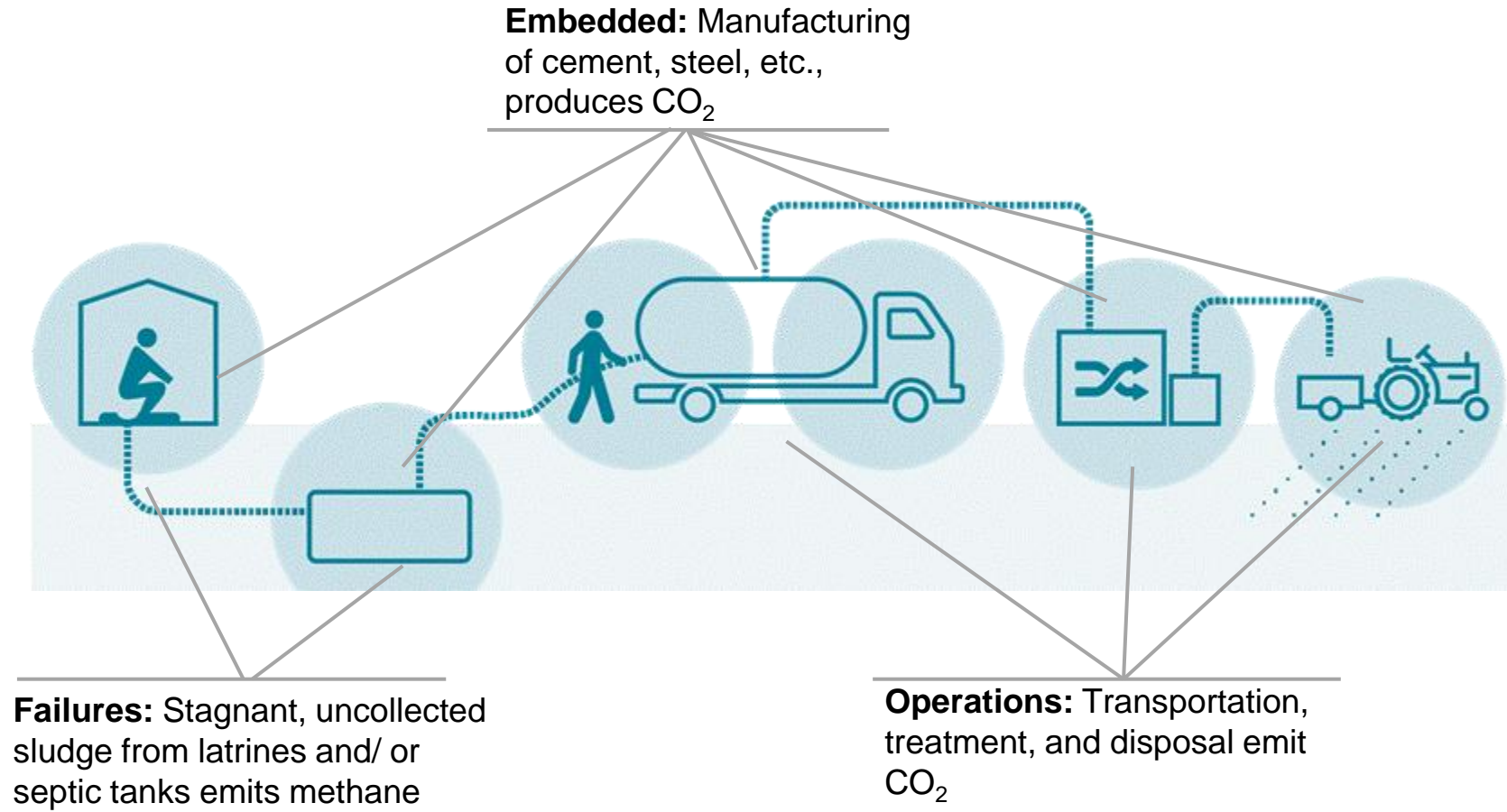
## DROUGHT



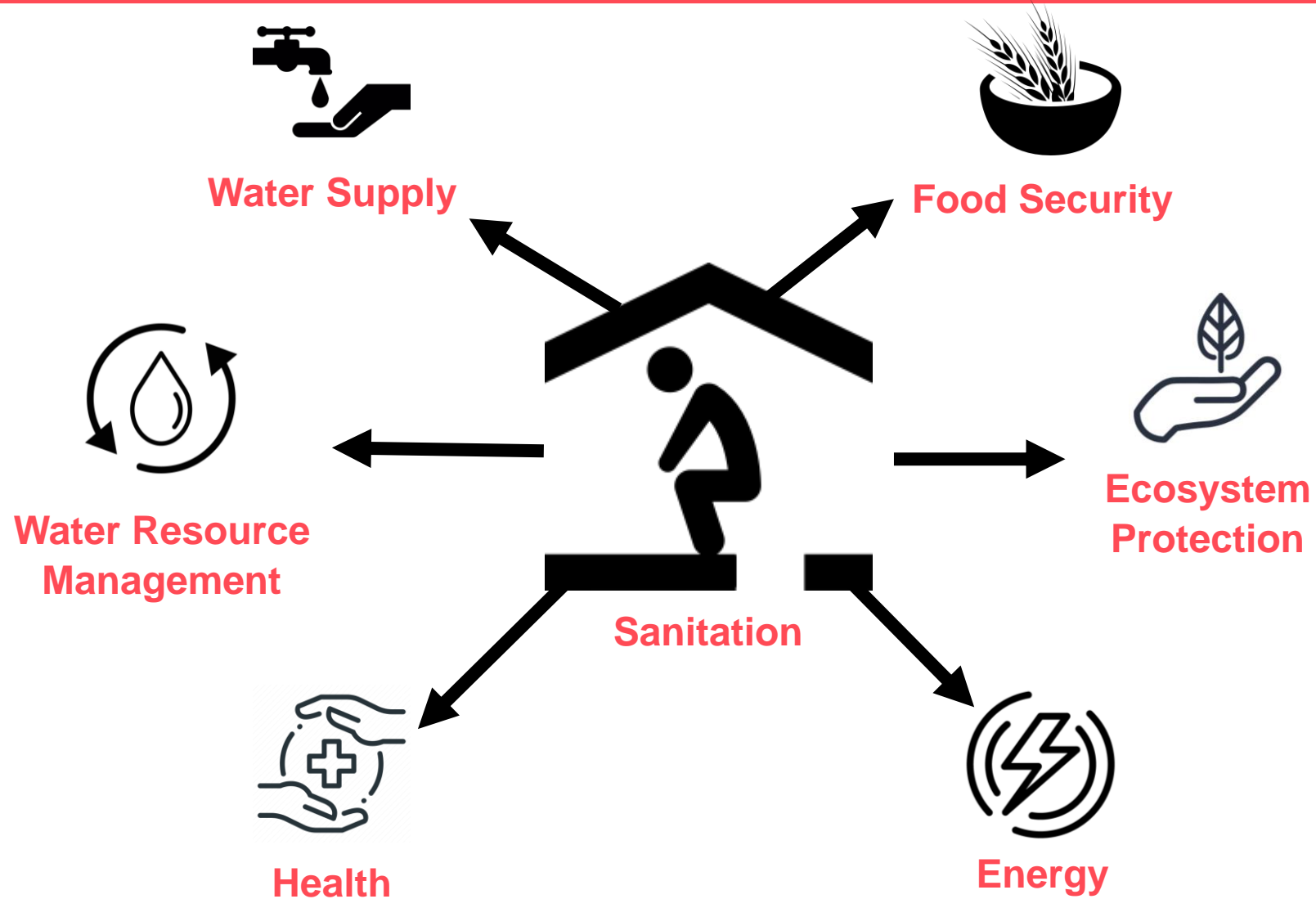
## STORMS, FLOODING & SEA LEVEL RISE



# Sanitation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

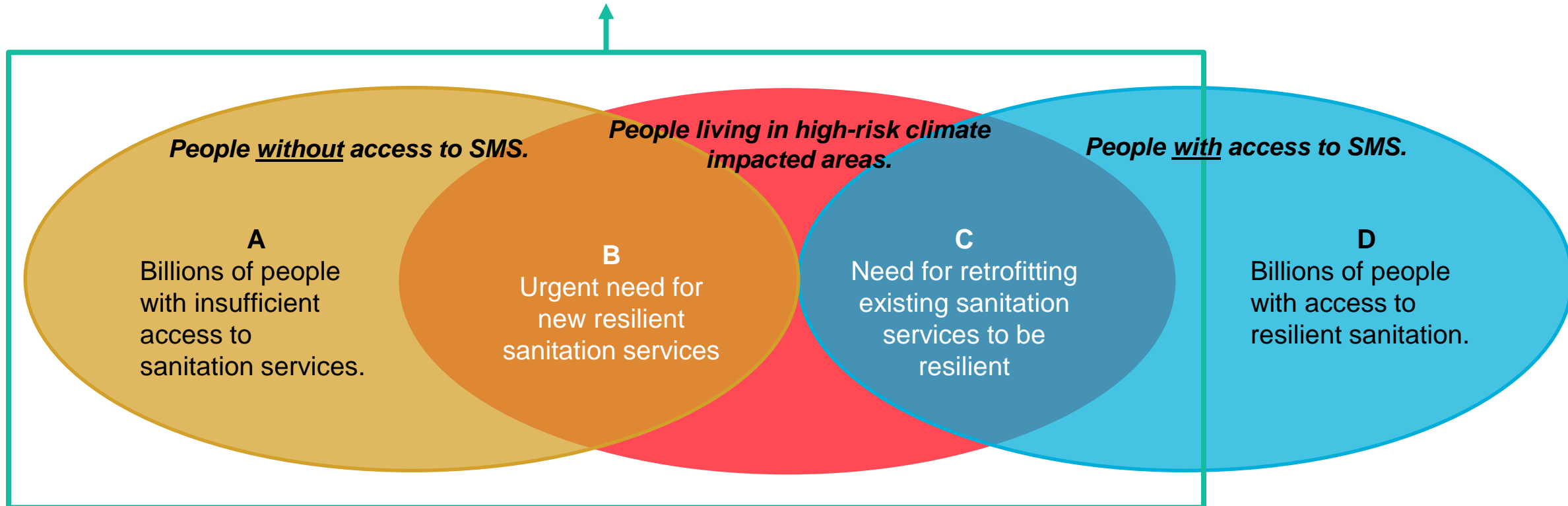


# Sector Impacts



# CRS Focus Populations

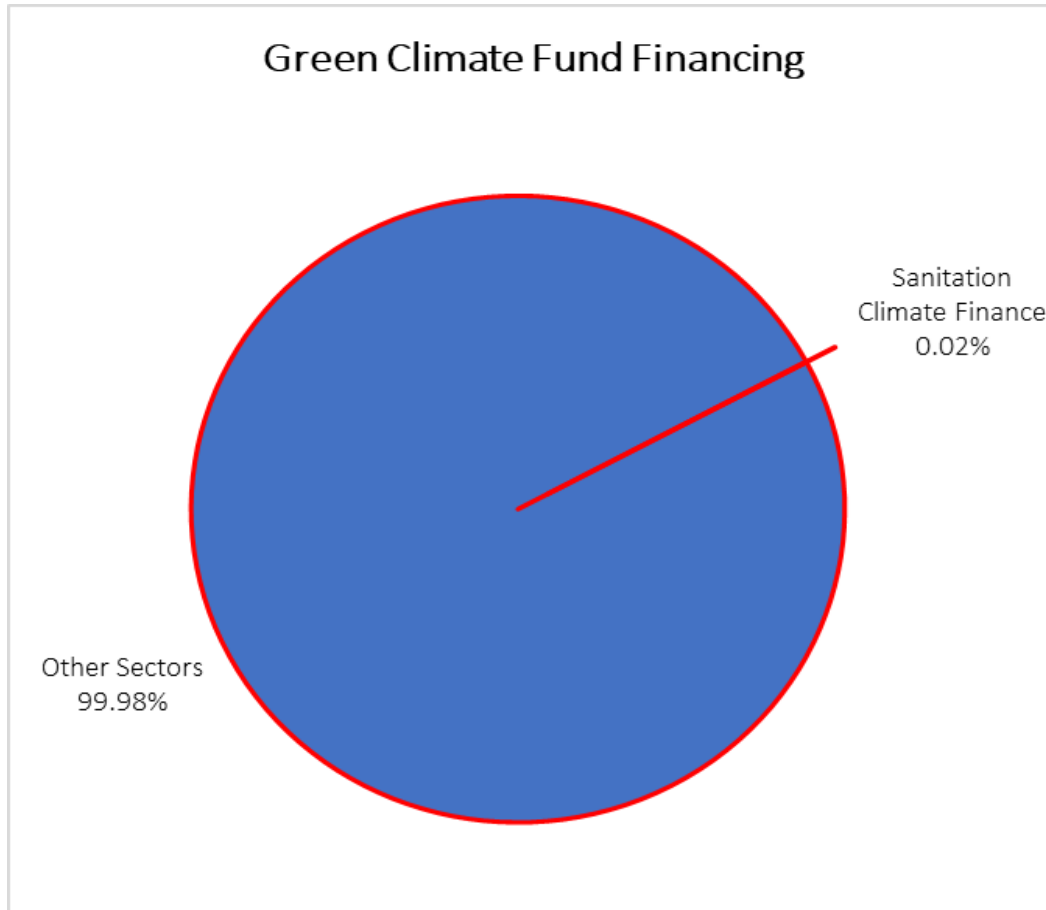
## Climate Resilient Sanitation Focus





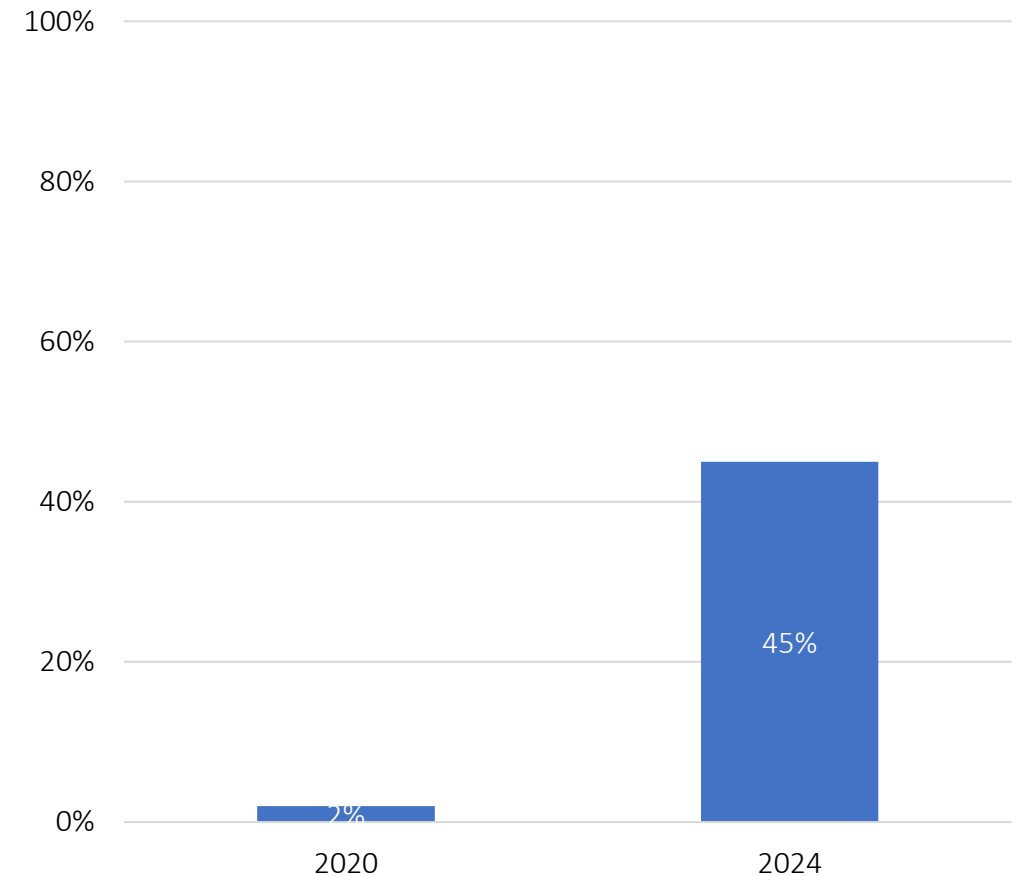
# Sanitation in Climate Finance and Policy

## Sanitation and Finance



As of 2020, sanitation was just 0.02% of climate financing.

## Sanitation in NDCs



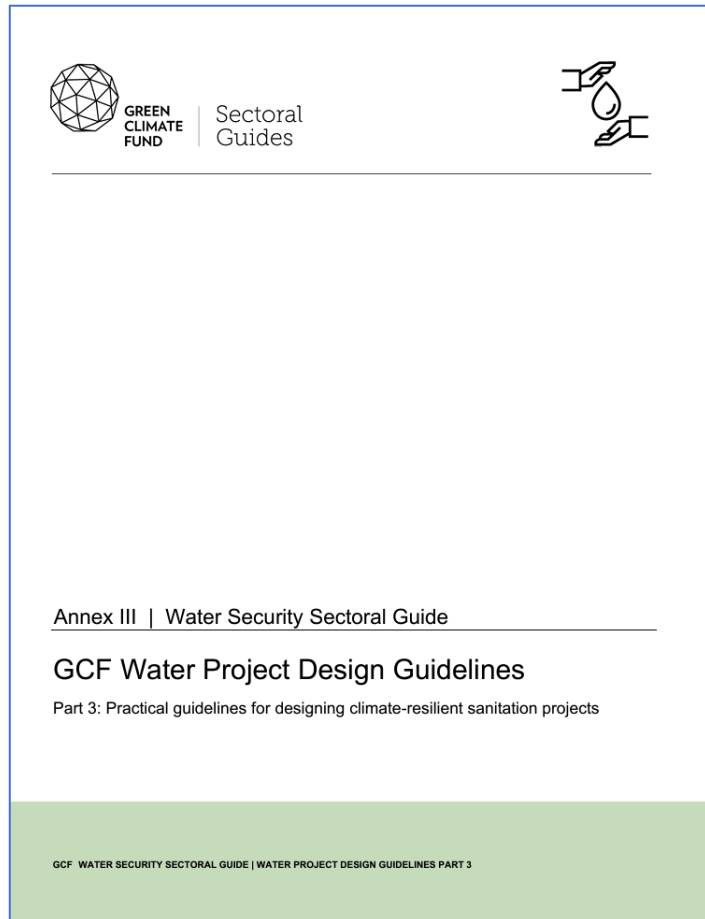
Sanitation representation in NDCs has grown from 2% to 45% in four years.

# Why Now?

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- 1. Accreditation:** Increasing numbers of organizations are receiving accreditation (including UNICEF)
- 2. Increased opportunities:** Climate funds (not just GCF) are increasingly available
- 3. NDCs:** NDCs are currently being updated through February
- 4. Climate – Sanitation Links:** Better articulation of links among sanitation, climate, health, and environment than ever before.

# How the CRS Annex to GCF Guidelines Addresses Previous Gaps



1. Provides **guidance** on accessing financing for climate resilient sanitation.
2. **Addresses** topics not well covered in other guidelines, such as mitigation and policy.
3. **Links** to related sectors including environment.

# CLIMATE RESILIENT SANITATION: COALITION FOR ACTION



unicef 

Thank You





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# Green Climate Fund And Climate Resilient Sanitation

Bapon Fakhruddin, GCF  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

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# Overview of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Sanitation Annex

Sam Drabble, WSUP  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

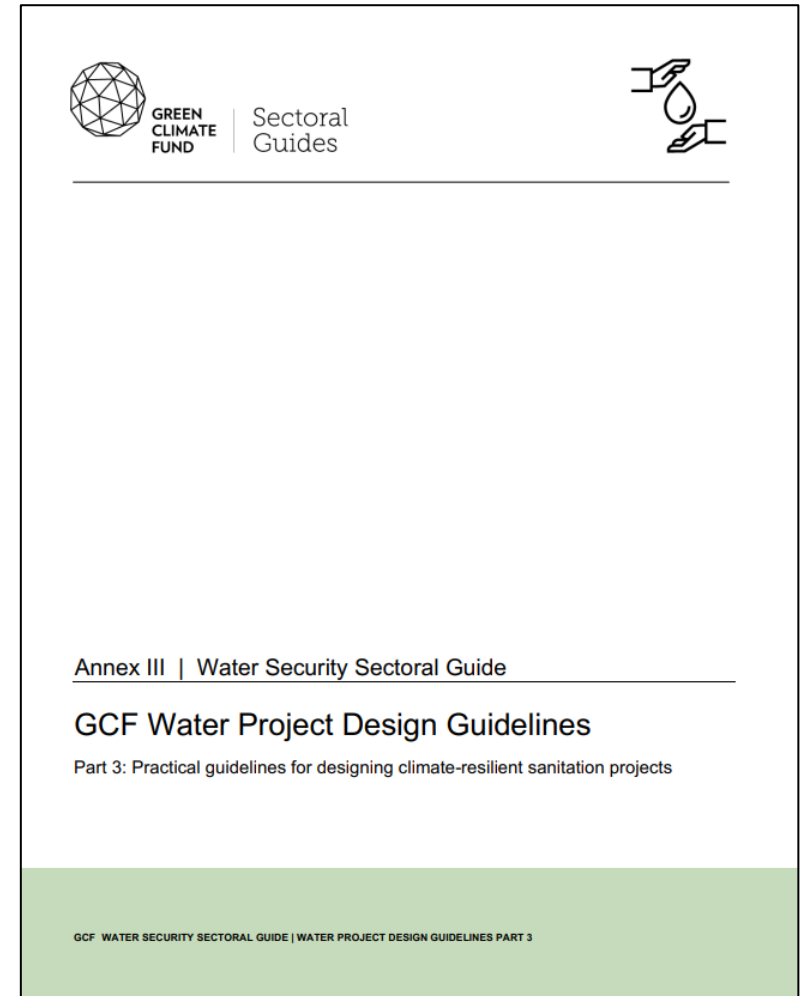
# Recap: Purpose of the GCF Annex

Annex provides **practical guidelines** for developing CRS projects and programmes

Complements the **GCF Water Security Sectoral Guide** which has 3 parts:

- **Annex 1** - *Practical guidelines for designing water-climate-resilient projects*
- **Annex 2** - *Applications of the Practical guidelines for designing water-climate-resilient projects in IWRM, CR-WASH, and Drought and Flood management*
- **Annex 3** - *Practical guidelines for designing climate-resilient sanitation projects*

**Target audience** includes Direct Access Entities at the national levels, International Access Entities and Accredited Entities



# Structure of the Annex

## 1- Introduction

- How the Annex relates to the GCF Water Security Sectoral Guide
- Status of sanitation globally
- Sanitation, the climate crisis, and health
- GCF approach to climate-resilient sanitation (CRS)

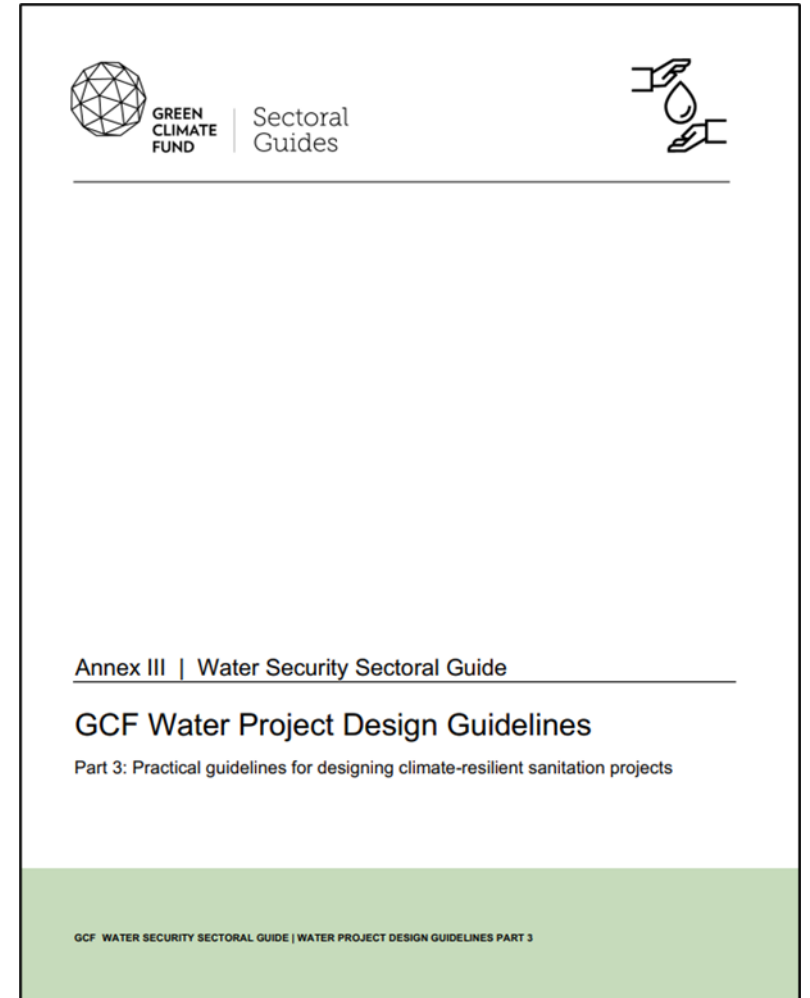
## 2 - Building the Climate Rationale for Sanitation Projects: Adaptation

## 3 - Building the Climate Rationale for Sanitation Projects: Mitigation

## 4 - Potential interventions to support CRS across the Sanitation Service Chain

- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Strengthening systems to enable CRS

## 5 - Developing a GCF proposal





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GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

Sectoral  
Guides



Annex III | Water Security Sectoral Guide

## GCF Water Project Design Guidelines

Part 3: Practical guidelines for designing climate-resilient sanitation projects

# 1 - Introduction: GCF approach to CRS

Sanitation proposals to GCF must have a **clear climate rationale** and display a **level of ambition consistent with GCF's envisioned paradigm shift** for CRS. Successful proposals must achieve:

- Effective articulation of the **climate science basis and rationale** for the project
- Alignment with overall **GCF investment criteria**
- Alignment with GCF **key strategies for climate-resilient sanitation**

## GCF investment criteria

- ✓ Impact potential
- ✓ Paradigm shift potential
- ✓ Sustainable development potential
- ✓ Needs of the recipient
- ✓ Country ownership
- ✓ Efficiency and effectiveness

## GCF key strategies for CRS

- ✓ Climate-resilient infrastructure and services
- ✓ Circular economy and integrated management
- ✓ Community engagement and capacity building
- ✓ Policy, regulatory and governance support
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation

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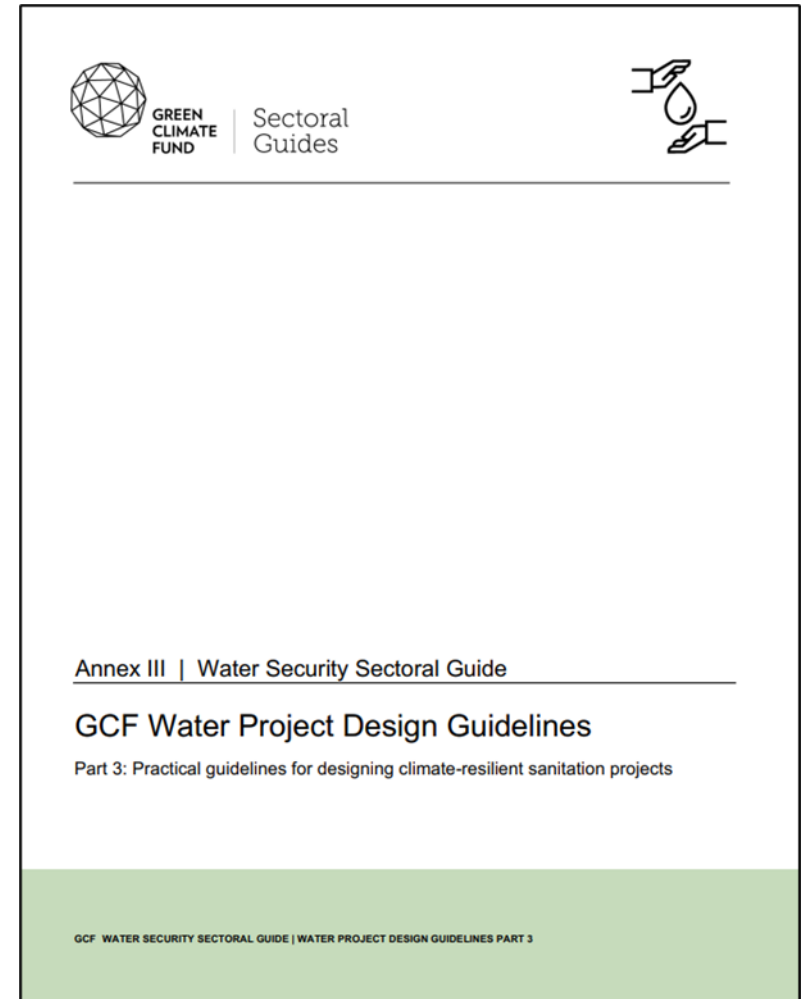
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## 2 - Building the climate rationale: Adaptation

- **Climate risk assessments** are a critical step in **developing the climate rationale** for any GCF project

- Annex provides guidance for conducting **sanitation-focused** climate risk assessments

Assessments should follow the structure described in the GCF Water Sector Guidelines Annex 1:

**Risk = Hazard X Exposure X Vulnerability**

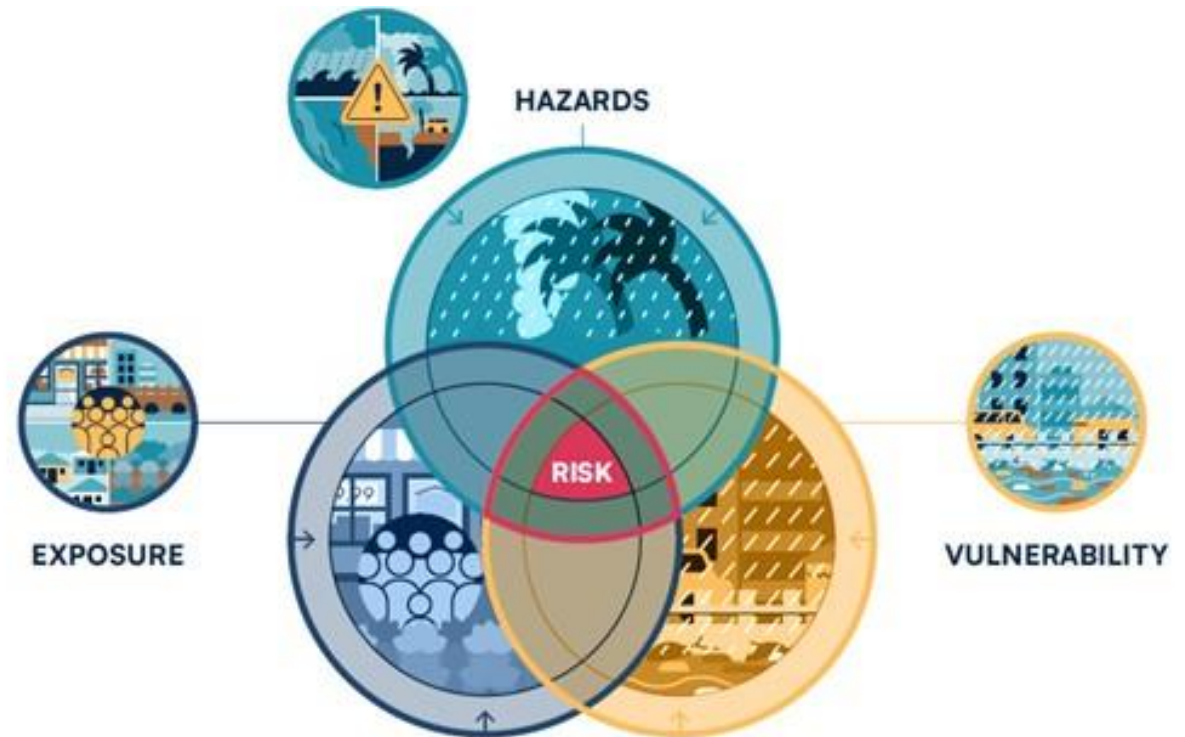


Figure 2.1, Page 26



# Climate hazards and their impacts

- Climate risk assessments must outline **hazards to be accounted for** and their impacts on sanitation systems



Extreme storms



Sea level rise



Droughts and water scarcity



Flooding



Extreme temperatures

Evidence of Climate Change Impacts on Urban Sanitation System (relevant to flooding and storms) (Hyde-Smith et al., 2022)

Hazard	Impacts (using Peal et al., 2020 failure mode classification)				
	Fecal sludge not contained, not	Fecal sludge and supernatant not delivered	Fecal sludge and supernatant not treated	Wastewater not delivered to treatment	Wastewater not treated
High-intensity rainfall, increased flooding, erosion and landslides	Damage to pits or superstructures making latrines unusable	People 'drain' toilets into the environment using floodwater during flood	Flooding and damage to wetland flora	Increased frequency or spill volume of combined sewer overflows	Flooding and damage to wastewater treatment plant structure and equipment
	Pits overflow/collapse leading to fecal contamination	Structural damage to pavements		Increased risk of urban flooding (overflow of inspection chambers, flooding of basements)	Flooding of wastewater treatment plant leading to temporary system failure and discharge of raw sewage
	Toilets become inundated/inaccessible (causing people to abandon toilets and revert to open defecation)	Road collapse or development of sinkholes due to destabilization of soil caused by damages sewers		Increase risk of pipe damage due to changed soil moisture and subsidence	Electricity failure leading to failure of pumps and aeration
	Electricity failure resulting in lack of water supply and non-functioning of toilets	Damage to roads infrastructure elements other than pavements (eg bridges)		Changes to inflow and infiltration rates into the sewer system	Road interruptions leading to disruption of site access for wastewater treatment plant staff and supplies
	Inundation of drainfields	Road capacity decreases/increases in congestions/travel time increases		Sewer blockages after an event because of sand, debris or solid waste entering sewers and pump stations	Pollutant load exceeding biological treatment capacity of wastewater treatment plants
	Backflow/overflow of sewage from septic tanks	Roads become inaccessible		Electricity failure leading to failure of pumps	Discharge of untreated/partially treated effluent due to overflowing or bypassing of treatment
Contamination of and damage to surface water and groundwater supplies	Damage to pits, septic tanks and absorption fields	Electricity failure leading to traffic light failure		Damage to sewer pumps and mains	Increased dilution of influent
				Overload of sewer system resulting in overflow to the drainage system	Reduced nutrient removal capacity during high-intensity rainfall events (eg due to reduced retention time and high
Changes to groundwater recharge and groundwater levels				Higher pollutant concentration in receiving waters due to increase in combined sewer overflow spill volumes/frequency	Contamination of receiving water bodies due to wastewater treatment plant failure
	Floation and damage of septic tanks due to high groundwater levels	Structural damage to pavement (destabilisation of the substrate)			Inflow and infiltration into separate systems causes higher inflow into wastewater treatment plants that stretch their design capacity
	Flooding and damage of septic tanks due to high groundwater levels				
More extreme winds					
				Higher groundwater pollution	
				Uprooting of trees and replacement of damaged electricity poles leading to damage of sewer pipes	Damage to wastewater treatment plant infrastructure/buildings

# Characteristics of exposure and vulnerability

**Exposure** = the presence of people, livelihoods, ecosystems, etc, that **could be adversely affected by climate hazards**

**Vulnerability** = sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and capacity to cope and adapt

**Exposure assessments** essential to identify different **elements at risk** and calculate loss estimates

**Vulnerability assessments** essential to understand susceptibilities of systems and populations **when exposed** to climate hazards

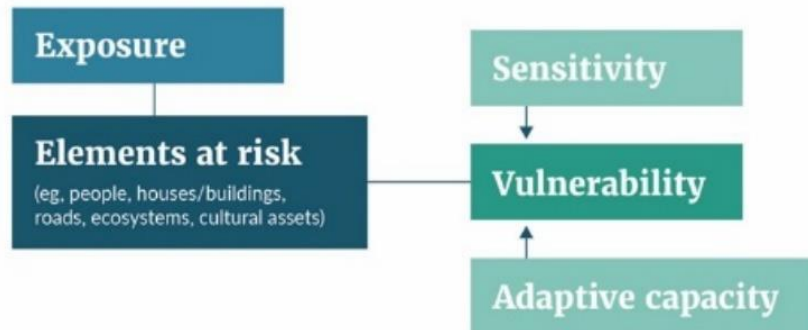


Figure 2.2, Page 36

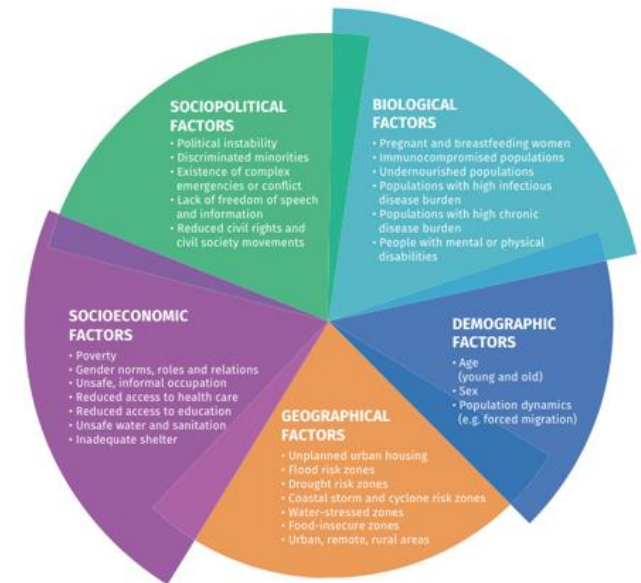


Figure 2.3, Page 38

# 3 - Building the climate rationale: Mitigation



Annex sets out the evidence for the nature and scale of emissions arising from:

- **As-designed operation** of sanitation infrastructure and services
- **Disposal of unstable faecal matter** into the aquatic environment or on to land
- Use of products which **could be substituted** by well-managed use of **sanitation by-products**

	Containment	Emptying and transport	Treatment	Managed or unmanaged disposal in aquatic environments or on land	Substitution of sanitation by-products for other products
<b>Scope 1</b>					
Direct and fugitive emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O from pits, tanks and containers	n/a	CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O from treatment plants	CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O from land and water bodies	n/a
Transport	n/a	CO <sub>2</sub> from truck fuel combustion	n/a	CO <sub>2</sub> from truck fuel combustion removing sludge for land disposal	n/a
<b>Scope 2</b>					
Imported energy use	n/a	n/a	CO <sub>2</sub> from imported energy used in treatment processes	n/a	n/a
<b>Scope 3</b>					
Embedded carbon	Materials in construction of pits, tanks and containers	n/a	Materials in construction treatment plants	n/a	n/a
Other indirect emissions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Reduction in manufacturing and transportation

Table 3.1, Page 41: Principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions from whole-chain sanitation systems which store waste onsite before using road-based transport to move to treatment.

# Current evidence base on emissions from sanitation systems

- Rate and scale of emissions from any sanitation system dependent on the technology deployed, its operation and local contextual factors
- To date, **only limited empirical data exist** with which to estimate sanitation emissions. Emerging conclusions:
  - **The primary source of emissions in most sanitation systems are direct emissions** caused by the stabilisation of faecal sludges in storage pits and tanks or at treatment plants, or by discharges of untreated faecal waste
  - These emissions are significant and are likely to have been underestimated historically
  - Limited evidence that either sewerred or non-sewerred sanitation 'better' than the other in terms of emissions
  - The primary issue is that **most faecal waste never reaches treatment**



Photo: Olivia Reddy, University of Bristol



# Guidance for measuring and monitoring emissions from sanitation systems

- Annex highlights **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines and methodologies** for estimating GHG emissions
- Estimation of Scope 1 emissions covered in Vol. 5, Chapter 6 of 2019 refinement of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- **Measurement and estimation are both highly context-specific and specialised** - recommended to work with qualified scientists with a track record in measuring emissions across the entire sanitation value chain
- Significant additional data will be generated in coming years which can be used to **prepare estimates with increasing levels of confidence** as the empirical evidence base grows



Photo: Olivia Reddy, University of Bristol

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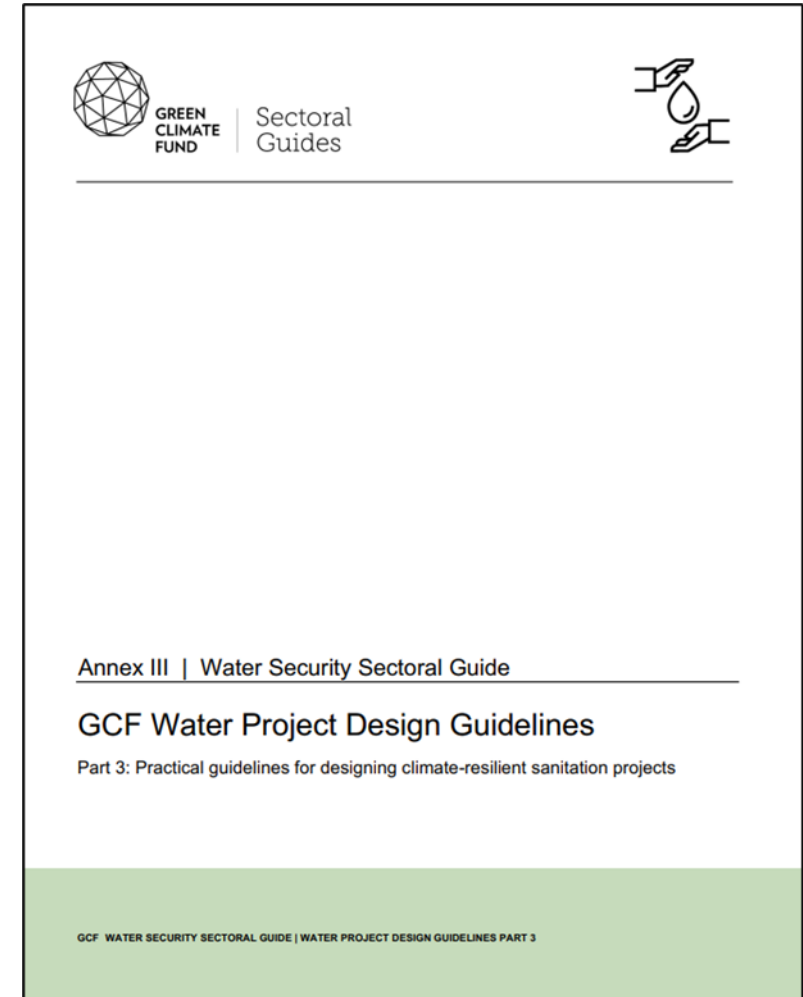
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# 4 - Responses and interventions

Annex highlights the potential for sanitation to act as an **entry point for wider systems change** across sectors and to contribute to **transformative adaptation** to climate change

Guidance is provided on potential **interventions to support climate change adaptation** across the sanitation service chain



Type of Response	Containment	Emptying and Conveyance	Treatment, Reuse and Disposal
Technical modifications to new or existing infrastructure	<p>Raised latrines/ containment <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Robust and resilient latrines/ containment <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Low or no water latrines <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Sealable and <u>removable containment</u> <b>CRIS</b></p>	<p>Simplified sewers <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Vacuum sewer systems <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Treatment of sewer overflows <b>CRIS/IM</b></p> <p>Sustainable Drainage Systems <b>CRIS/IM</b></p>	<p>Site selection and flood prevention <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Corrosion resistant design <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Modular FSTP/WWTP design <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Decentralised/ distributed FSTP/WWTPs <b>CRIS</b></p>
Active management of the infrastructure or service		<p>Scheduled or more frequent emptying for OSS <b>CRIS</b></p> <p>Preventative O&amp;M of sewer systems <b>CRIS</b></p>	<p>Application of treated wastewater and faecal sludge <b>CRIS/IM</b></p>
Preparing sanitation systems for cascading impacts of failures in other systems	<p>Alternative water sources for flush toilets <b>CRIS/IM</b></p>	<p>Alternative emptying vehicles and equipment for OSS <b>CRIS</b></p>	<p>Alternative power sources for FSTPs and WWTPs <b>CRIS</b></p>

# Responses and interventions (2)

## Potential interventions to support climate change mitigation

Intervention type	Effect category	Category
Infrastructure modifications	Anaerobic digestion at treatment (with or without co-treatment of MSW)	CRIS/IM
	Addition of methane/biogas capture on aerobic treatment plants	CRIS/IM
	Enhanced composting of faecal wastes to produce agricultural products (including black soldier-fly larva)	CRIS/ IM
	Water recovery from wastewater or faecal sludge treatment for use in agriculture	CRIS/IM
	Additional tertiary treatment and enhanced nutrient removal	CRIS/IM
Scale and management operations	Regular emptying of household pits and tanks particularly prior to rainfall	CRIS
	Optimisation of scale and design of sewerage	CRIS
	Optimisation of scale of operations for road-based sanitation	CRIS
Governance and regulatory modifications	Improved regulation of emptying including incentives for planned emptying and disposal at treatment	CRIS
	Results-based contracts for treatment operators	CRIS

Elements of GCF projects: CRIS – Climate Resistant Infrastructure and Services, IM – Integrated Management

Table 4.3, Page 66

## Potential system strengthening interventions to enable CRS

### Box 4.1: Summary of potential PIRF interventions to enable climate-resilient sanitation.

- Ensure projects align with and strengthen relevant climate policies and plans, particularly NDCs and NAPs
- Ensure policy frameworks promote circular economy approaches
- Ensure service providers are prepared for a future of multiple revenue streams and equipped with climate-specific knowledge and skills
- Mainstream climate-resilient sanitation into regulations, guidelines, standards, and codes of practice at every step of the sanitation service chain
- Leverage a menu of financing options to support the sustainability and scalability of project interventions
- Create targeted financial incentives to support private sector engagement and resource recovery
- Strengthen policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks to support the integration of sanitation with wider basic services and urban development processes
- Build flexibility into planning, financing, and regulatory frameworks to support service providers in adapting to emerging or unexpected conditions

Box 4.1, Page 75

# Applying the Annex: Key messages

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- Sanitation is first and foremost a **public health intervention**
- CRS proposals need to **articulate the anticipated mitigation and/or adaptation impact**
- While GHG reductions from CRS interventions are likely, **do not promise specific reductions**
- CRS projects should **promote links with other sectors** (e.g., environment, health, agriculture)
- CRS infrastructure is not effective on its own – **projects should include systems strengthening**

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## Part Two

# Climate-resilient Sanitation Experiences

# Panel Discussion: Climate-Resilient Sanitation Experiences

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- Jolly Ann Maulit: UNICEF
- Yeasin Arafat: WaterAid
- Martin Gambrill: World Bank
- James Wallace: University of Leeds

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# Part Three

## Proposal Development

Bapon Fakhruddin, GCF  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025



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## Next Steps & Close

Kate Medicott, WHO  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025