

Global Water Education Network (GWEN) game changer

WHY

Objectives

Through GWEN, the founding partners will contribute to the following objective

“Develop and deliver on a common global agenda to accelerate capacity development for the water sector in low- and middle-income countries”

As a means to this end, GWEN is designed as a coordination mechanism consisting of the founding partners, with a clear governance structure, operating in collaboration with existing networks, institutions and organizations. By means of coordination through GWEN as well as implementing activities that contribute to this agenda, founding partners strive to address SDG6 related capacity development challenges.

More specifically, main objectives of GWEN as a coordination mechanism are to:

1. **Deliver capacity development service in support of national governments and other key water organizations** to identify and address education and capacity gaps through demand driven activities.
2. **Develop co-curated capacity development products, services, and instruments** to allow GWEN members to jointly deliver state of the art capacity development services.
3. **Provide a centralised knowledge brokering platform** to contribute to **global discussions on water learning**, improve sharing of lessons learned, trends and insights related to capacity development and water education.

WHAT

Alliance and collaboration

UNESCO and the Alliance of IHE Delft, Cap-Net UNDP and SIWI are founding partners and leading the coordination and implementation of the GWEN game changer, initiated and shaped in connection to the UN 2023 Water Conference and its resulting Water Action Agenda. The GWEN initiative is also open to any organization or platform working on water education, as we consider all part of the global water education network. We aim for the network to be truly global, encompassing collaborating partners from North to South.

HOW

Scope

The core activities of GWEN linked to the main objectives are:



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Joint implementation of demand-driven capacity development programmes on the basis of regional/country scope and through the identification of appropriate resources.



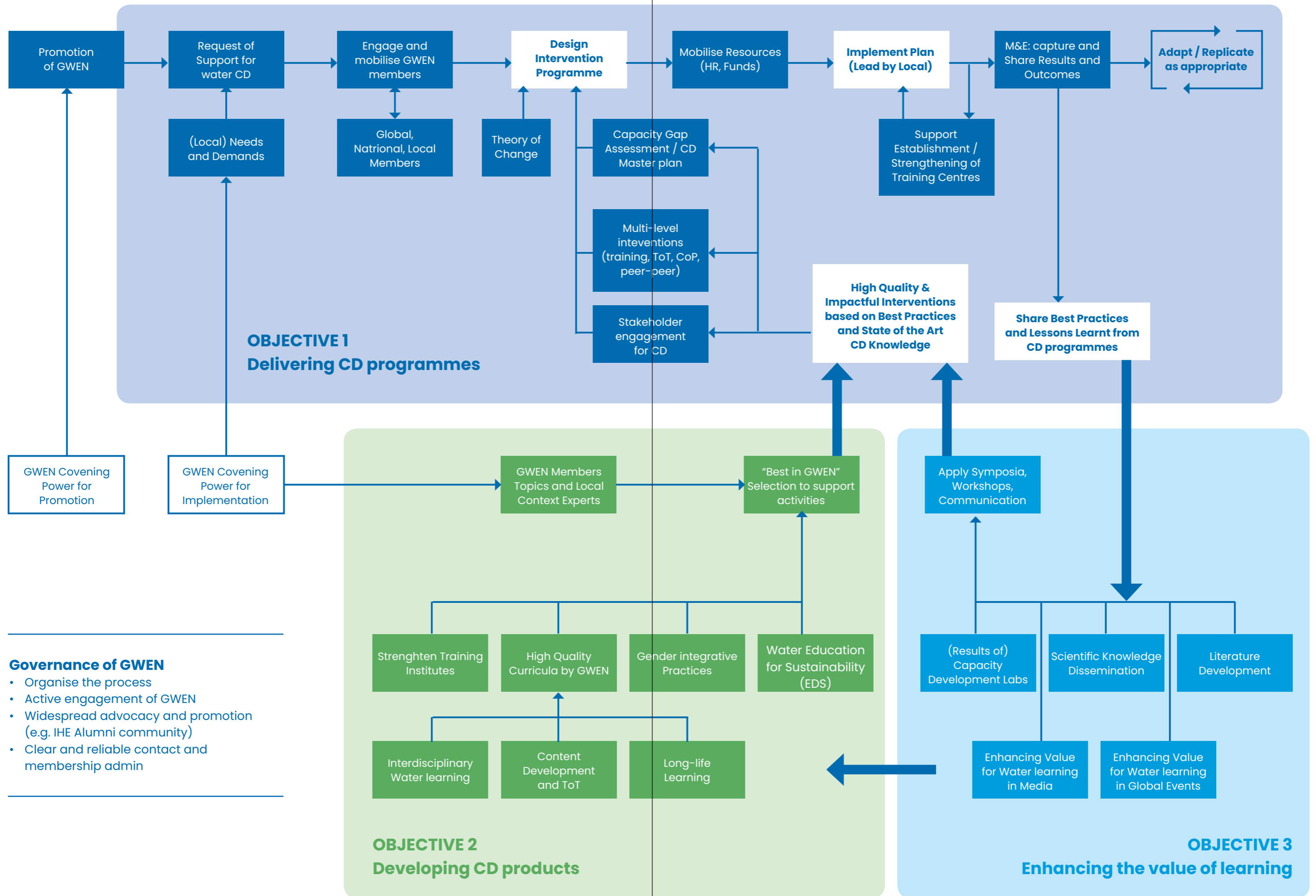
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTS

Serving as a knowledge brokering and exchange space for water education and capacity development, to showcase tools, products and services, share learning, and adapt approaches and curricula.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT LABORATORIES

Undertaking communication and advocacy activities within and outside the network on key issues, such as simplifying messages for decision-makers and involving partners in the UN-Water family (and beyond) in capacity development initiatives.



Governance of GWEN

- Organise the process
- Active engagement of GWEN
- Widespread advocacy and promotion (e.g. IHE Alumni community)
- Clear and reliable contact and membership admin

Game changer impact

Integrating the three GWEN core processes to ensure transformational CD for professionals and key water sector institutions

- Collective identifying of capacity gaps and implementing water education activities with individuals and organizations.
- A long-term perspective that is more effective than working on a project-by-project basis.
- Measuring impact in a structured manner, and reflecting on opportunities for upscaling or transnational learning.

Positioning global initiatives and networks

The GWEN game changer aligns with efforts of the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), co-coordinated by UNESCO and UN DESA. The game changer combined with the CDI will provide an essential contribution to the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework objectives on capacity development. Alliance partners are strongly positioned in the UN-Water family network and are embedded in both global policy formulation processes and local water education implementation activities.



Background

The GWEN concept was initially identified as a game changer during the Preparatory Meeting for the UN 2023 Water Conference, attended by 1200 key stakeholders. Key to the capacity development discussions, a much needed game changing initiative in the field of inclusive education and capacity development through a global system of water training centres and networks was called for. The Alliance of IHE Delft, Cap-Net UNDP and SIWI subsequently submitted a voluntary commitment to the

Water Action Agenda, as key outcome of the Water Conference, to drive the GWEN game changer. In his closing statement ([link](#)) during the Water Conference, Csaba Körösi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly, underscored the relevance of “the Global Water Education Network to build capacity of institutions and people, especially to support developing countries” to achieve a sustainable water future.

Join us

Interested in contributing to the GWEN game changer? Please contact Gaetano Casale (g.casale@un-ihe.org).

Visit our web page:

