

*Media Advisory 10 October 2017*

## 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation

***Wikipedia is one of the key global channels for disseminating information about sanitation – so the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance is now organizing a major upgrade of the relevant pages. Are you a creative writer, journalist, editor or sanitation expert? Join this important crowd-sourcing event for World Toilet Day.***

The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) is calling on writers, editors, sanitation experts and Wikipedia enthusiasts for another major upgrade of Wikipedia’s sanitation-related pages in the run-up to ***UN World Toilet Day on 19 November***. Special attention will be given to Wikipedia articles related to this year’s World Toilet Day theme: Wastewater. Seventy articles dealing with various topics such as India’s [\*Swachh Bharat Abhiyan\*](#) (Clean India campaign), the [\*Sustainable Development Goals\*](#), wastewater and related topics will be in the spotlight for five weeks.

***Sanitation Wikipedia*** has a serious purpose: about 2.5 billion people lack access to basic functioning sanitation, putting them at high risk of exposure to deadly and chronic diseases.

“We need to get this important knowledge out to the public. We are looking forward to seeing what committed people can accomplish when we crowd-source for this global editing project,” says Arno Rosemarin, Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute. “With joined resources and lots of good-will, it is possible to stop the taboo-laden cycle that starts with poor sanitation and leads to disease and environmental degradation.”

On ***UN World Toilet Day***, millions of curious people will go to Wikipedia to search for information on sanitation. ***Sanitation Wikipedia*** volunteers will edit texts and add images to make what visitors find there more informative, readable and visually attractive.

Sanitation Wikipedia is part of a larger global SuSanA project aimed at more effectively gathering and disseminating knowledge and best practices across the world within the sanitation sector. The project is led by Stockholm Environment Institute and implemented by a consortium that includes Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), WaterAid and Oxfam. The project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

If you are interested in joining ***Sanitation Wikipedia***, find out more and [sign up here](#).

### **For further information, please contact:**

***Arno Rosemarin*** – Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)  
[arno.rosemarin@sei-international.org](mailto:arno.rosemarin@sei-international.org) +46 70723 0088

***Doreen Mbalo*** – Advisor at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
[doreen.mbalo@giz.de](mailto:doreen.mbalo@giz.de)

***Diane M. Kellogg*** – Bentley University Management Department; Partner, Kellogg Consultants  
[dianekellogg@gmail.com](mailto:dianekellogg@gmail.com)

***Ylva Rylander*** – Press Officer, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)  
[ylva.rylander@sei-international.org](mailto:ylva.rylander@sei-international.org) +46 73150 3384

**Additional information:**

Visit [SuSanA project Sanitation Wikipedia](#)

Read more about [World Toilet Day](#)

Check for updates about this initiative on the [SuSanA discussion forum](#)

Contact: [wikipedia@susan.org](mailto:wikipedia@susan.org)

*Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent, international research institute that has been engaged in environment and development issues at local, national, regional and global policy levels for more than a quarter of a century. SEI supports decision making for sustainable development by bridging science and policy. [www.sei-international.org](http://www.sei-international.org) @SEIresearch @SEIclimate*

*The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) is a global network of partner organizations who share a common vision on sustainable sanitation. The SuSanA network has over 310 partners with 8 700 members around the world. [www.susana.org/en/](http://www.susana.org/en/)*