

# Managing Sanitation Systems to protect Groundwater

17<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Amanda Loeffen



# Human Right 2 Water

## VISION

- ▶ A world where all people realise the human rights to water and sanitation

## MISSION

- ▶ To use, collect and share expert knowledge on how the human rights to water and sanitation should be integrated into law, policy and practice to realise safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation for all, including the most vulnerable and marginalised

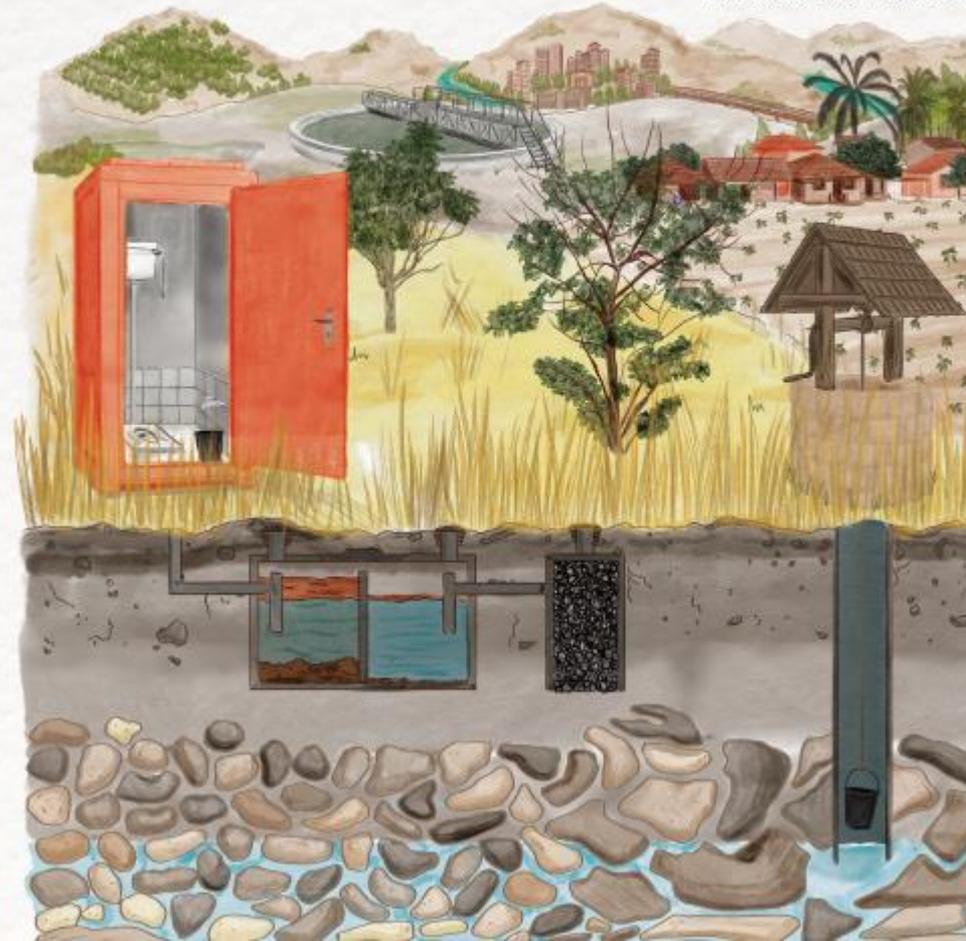


# Connecting Sanitation and Groundwater

- ▶ 3.6 billion people without quality toilets
- ▶ 800 children die from diarrhoea every day
- ▶ Human waste spreads to rivers, lakes, soil
- ▶ Poorest and marginalised communities
- ▶ Groundwater is source of freshwater for:
  - ▶ drinking, sanitation, industry, agriculture and ecosystems

[www.worldtoiletday.org](http://www.worldtoiletday.org)  
#worldtoiletday

UN WATER  
19 November  
WORLD TOILET DAY  
2022 Sanitation and Groundwater



# Global sanitation Crisis

- ▶ A 'safe' toilet is safely managed
- ▶ Is not shared, with safely treated waste (onsite or removed), or connected to sewage plant
- ▶ 500 million people have no toilet (OD)
- ▶ Nearly half the world are not connected to safely managed sewage systems



# Human rights to water, sanitation and a healthy environment

- ▶ Water is a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights.
- ▶ States should ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

Human right to a healthy life in human dignity

# Human rights to water, sanitation and a healthy environment

## Water must be

- ▶ “...safe, therefore free from micro-organisms, chemical substances and radiological hazards that constitute a threat to a person’s health [ ...]”
- ▶ States should respect, protect and fulfil human rights in order to ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Protect water quality

Groundwater is the link

# Human rights to water, sanitation and a healthy environment

## Sanitation must be

- ▶ Safe to use and must effectively prevent human, animal and insect contact with human excreta
- ▶ Ensure safety and to protect the health of users and the community
- ▶ States should respect, protect and fulfil human rights in order to ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Protect healthy environment



Protect our health

# Invisible

- ▶ Groundwater is invisible
- ▶ Source of drinking water
- ▶ Toilet waste pollutes
- ▶ Our environment tells us the story

