



August 25, 2020



15:00 - 15:45 CEST



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# Governments, Pay Your Water Bills!

## Convenor

GIZ - Water Policy, Water Integrity Network (WIN), End Water Poverty, Eastern and Southern Africa Water Regulators Association (ESAWAS), Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), NGO WASH Forum

## Summary

This session shines a spotlight on an issue most development partners, government representatives, and utility managers are aware of, but seldom discuss openly: Across the globe, too many public institutions do not pay their water and sewerage bills, thereby starving utilities of much needed resources to become or operate economically viable.

## Description

This session will comprise of a presentation of the main research findings which is followed by four interactive break-out group sessions:

1. Getting government to pay its bills in Romania
2. Civil Society campaign Zambia
3. What regulators can do: experience from Rwanda and ESAWAS
4. Supporting civil society space and voice through international advocacy

The break-out groups will thereafter report back to the panel. The session will conclude with the formal launch of the “Governments, pay your water bills” campaign.

## Schedule

15:00	Welcome and Introduction
15:05	Presentation of main research findings
15:15	Break-out groups
15:30	Summary from group work & formal launch of the campaign
15:40	Wrap-up and closing

## Objectives and outcomes

The objective is to demonstrate how citizen campaigns can unlock funding for SDG 6 by calling on governments to pay their bills to utilities. The expected outcome is a more open discussion around the political difficulties of enforcing bill payments from public institutions, and how to overcome them, by involving citizens as a stakeholder group. Through frank breakout-group discussions, participants will be inspired by success stories and leave the session ready to tackle this challenge back home.