

# Water Unite Impact

## Lessons Learned From Our Pilot Phase

### Scaling Up For Impact

In 2023, the Water Unite Impact (WUI) investment vehicle graduated from its pilot phase to scale up for larger impact.

Lessons learned from the pilot phase have accelerated the move from impacts in WASH to the more comprehensive Water+ approach.

### It's not about WASH - it is about Water-Sustainability

As classic WASH solutions have matured, their progression has highlighted their limits in addressing volatile factors such as rapid urbanisation and rural development.

### Water is a Core Climate Risk

Water represents a lasting and permanent climate risk with the innate ability to amplify social risks, with the poor often on the front line of this crisis. Investments in water scarcity therefore often take place before other WASH investments as water scarcity can catalyse social conflict and social unrest within a short time frame.

### Circular Economy and Water

Circular economy strategies can provide solutions for water-sustainability due to water's 'circular' and 'cycling' nature, particularly across wastewater and waste-to-energy projects. Similarly, circular economy solutions are often correlated to water preservation.

### Innovations in Water Technology

The pilot phase revealed a surge in innovative water-tech solutions, showcasing diverse approaches to address water and climate risks. These innovations span energy, food security, agriculture, and industry, all of which are intricately connected to water. This approach ensures a sustainable and impactful trajectory for water-related initiatives. This growth in innovation is becoming diverse enough to offer a larger pool of investment opportunities.

### Innovations in Water Technology

Many enterprises who are aiming to innovate the water sector using nascent technologies are in an early stage and it takes time for these enterprises to reach the cusp of accelerated growth. This growth period is often longer than the typical business models would indicate as it takes time to fix new formulas and obtain market adoption. Hence, a blended finance approach is necessary in fostering private investment and de-risking senior capital.

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