

SAYWiW

*Empowering South Asian
young women to innovate, lead,
and gain global recognition
in water management*



Our Mission

Empowering young women water professionals from South Asia through research, advocacy, and capacity-building, while fostering strong networks and enabling their meaningful participation in policy and decision-making spaces.

Our Vision

We envision a future for young women water professionals from South Asia to stand as global leaders and inspire the world with their unwavering commitment to water resource management and equitable access. Their remarkable contributions and pioneering efforts would serve as a leading way towards a water-secure world.

Who We Are

South Asia Young Women in Water (SAYWiW) is a young women led think tank advancing gender-responsive water and climate action across South Asia. Established to address persistent gender disparities in the water sector, SAYWiW works at the intersection of research, policy, practice, and advocacy.

SAYWiW undertakes applied research, regional surveys, and knowledge partnerships, and supports the integration of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) strategies within water and climate projects. Through evidence-based advocacy, capacity-building, and strategic engagement, the initiative amplifies voices from underrepresented communities and enables young women water professionals to meaningfully influence policy processes and international platforms.

SAYWiW envisions a future where women-led, inclusive, and context-driven solutions shape sustainable water management and climate resilience across South Asia and beyond.



Impact in Numbers

350+



Engaged
Participants

10+
Hosted
Webinars



2500+

Water
Professionals
Network



6 Participating
Countries



8 Global
Events
Attended

178 Young
Women
Mobilized



*On ground impact projects in 4 South Asian countries (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
Gainful employment to more than a dozen young women professionals across these countries through projects*

Webinars

Youth and South Asian Women in Transboundary Water Management

Showcasing an engaging interaction to explore the critical role of youth and gender in promoting water for peace and security in the region. Discussions revolved around the need for inclusion of youth voices in transboundary water dialogues and how South Asian women can offer unique insights in international water conferences

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Bridging Boundaries
Youth, Gender and Water Resource Management in South Asia

FRIDAY
22 March, 2024

2:30 PM CET
7:00 PM IST
6:00 PM Afghanistan
7:30 PM Bangladesh
7:15 PM Nepal
6:30 PM Pakistan

REGISTER NOW

More Info
<https://saywiw.com>

Scan To Register

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Empowering Voices: Youth and Women in South Asian Water Sector

8th April, 2024
Monday

6 PM IST
2:30 PM CET

Empowering Voices — Youth and Women in South Asian Water Sector

A deep dive into SAYWiW is empowering youth and women to lead change in South Asia's water sector by amplifying voices, driving meaningful impact, and addressing the barriers that restrict the growth and exposure of young water professionals across the region.

South Asia Water Dialogue Series

In Collaboration with International Water Association (IWA) – YWP, Nepal

South Asia Water Dialogues
Learning from cities;
empowering communities

Chapter - 1
LESSONS FROM BENGALURU

Tuesday, 30th July 2024
8:00 PM IST
www.saywiv.com

An initiative of
South Asia Young Women in Water (SAYWW)

SPEAKERS

SHREYA NATH
Managing Partner, WELL Labs

KARTHIK SESHAN
Senior Manager, Janaagraha

DR. V SWARAN
Research Officer, WASSANIndia

RASHMI KULRANJAN
Hydrologist, WELL Labs

South Asia Water Dialogues

CHAPTER 2
URBAN WATER SECURITY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN KATHMANDU AND BEYOND

Tuesday, 30th July 2024
8:00 PM IST
www.saywiv.com

An initiative of
South Asia Young Women in Water (SAYWW)

IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS NEPAL

Dr. Manohara Khadka
Country Representative, IWMI Nepal
Panellist

Dr. Neera Shrestha Pradhan
Senior Water & Adaptation Specialist, IGIMOD
Panellist

Dr. Anushiya Shrestha
Research Director, SIAS
Panellist

Kaushal Chapagain
Networking & Growth Coordinator (Academia), IWA YWP Nepal
Moderator

Urban Water Security: Challenges and Opportunities in Kathmandu and Beyond

The webinar explored urban water security challenges and solutions in Kathmandu through insights from leading experts in South Asia's water sector. It delved into critical discussions on sustainable water management and the challenges of ensuring water security in rapidly growing urban areas, while examining Nepal's current water situation, governance hurdles, and strategies to strengthen resilience, collaboration, peace, and prosperity. [Watch Now](#)

Learning from Cities; Empowering Communities: Lesson from Bengaluru

The webinar focused on Bengaluru's growing water crisis; unpacking the challenges posed by rapid urbanization, and climate change, and explore solutions for a sustainable future as our expert panel discussed the underlying problems and potential solutions from various perspectives, including political economy, community engagement, partnership, and technical aspects. [Watch Now](#)

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South Asia Water Dialogues

Chapter 3: Water Security Challenges & Role of Women in Kabul, Afghanistan

Speakers:

- Marwa Alam Safa**: National Climate Adaptation Officer at AKF and Founder of CEPI
- Faiza Batoor**: Lecturer, Kabul Educational University
- Najibullah Sadid**: Senior Researcher, Water Resources, Climate Change & Environmental Science
- Sayeda Rahimi**: Moderator, Ambassador & Country Representative, South Asia Young Women in Water

Water Security Challenges & the Role of Women in Kabul

This webinar was a call to action for the global community to recognize and support Afghan women's contributions to water management and sustainable development. It shed light on Kabul's escalating water crisis, emphasizing women's leadership in building resilience and driving local and national change toward a sustainable future. [Watch Now](#)

Urban Water Security Challenges in Karachi, Pakistan

This webinar explored the complex water challenges faced by Karachi, Pakistan, a megacity grappling with rapid urbanization, climate change, and deepening water insecurity. Featuring insights from experts and young professionals, the session highlights innovative strategies to strengthen resilience and advance sustainable water management in one of South Asia's most dynamic urban environments. [Watch Now](#)

South Asia Water Dialogues

WEBINAR

URBAN WATER SECURITY CHALLENGES

IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Speakers:

- Alyna Hashmi**: MSc Water Science, Policy and Management, University of Oxford
- Sheikh Muhammad Asad**: DAAD EPOS Scholar, TU Dresden
- Humnah Fayyaz**: Co-founder & Lead, SAYIW Pakistan

Hosts:

- Baxamoosa**: External Relations Foundation, Pakistan

Event Details:

- Time:** 5:30 PM Pakistan Time
- Date:** 26th October Saturday

www.sayiw.com

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South Asia Water Dialogues

ADDRESSING DHAKA'S WATER CRISIS: THE ROLE OF SANITATION IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Speakers:

- Ashik Iqbal**: Global Ambassador, Youth4Nature
- Sumaiya Binte Selim**: Researcher, ICCCAD
- Khadizatul Kobra Nahin**: Research Associate and Teaching Fellow at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Event Details:

- Day:** FRIDAY
- Date:** 31 JAN, 2025
- Time:** 4:00 PM BDT

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Addressing Dhaka's Water Crisis: The Role of Sanitation in Climate Resilience

The webinar focused on Dhaka's urgent water challenges, showcasing how community-driven solutions, youth leadership, and gender-inclusive approaches can tackle the city's pressing climate and urban water management issues.

Webinars in Collaboration

Webinar

WOMEN IN WATER CONSERVATION - REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

Join us for a conversation with women from South Asia and Latin America who are leading efforts in water conservation and management. We'll learn about their work, the challenges they face, and how they blend academic knowledge with Indigenous and community-based practices. This panel will highlight the important role women play in protecting water and why their voices are key to building a more sustainable and inclusive future.

ORGANIZERS

  Register now at : <https://forms.gle/EkSyJIKvNPKj6xLK7>

SPEAKERS

-  **Celeste Kristal Flores Cuevas**
Indigenous Mazatec researcher
-  **Bella Almillategui**
Engineer with over 10 years of experience in hydrogeology, geotechnical, and environmental engineering
-  **Namrata Kabra**
Legal researcher specializing in environmental and climate change law
-  **Sadia Ishrat Nisa**
Climate researcher and development professional

South Asia Young Women in Water **The AWA Project**

1

AWA Collaboration

Women in Water Conservation - Regional Perspectives from South Asia and Latin America Women in Water Conservation

With this webinar SAYWiW introduces its first South-South collaboration with The AWA Project in Latin America. This webinar brings together women leaders from Bangladesh, India, Mexico, and beyond to share grassroots and policy-level insights on water conservation and climate adaptation to celebrate women-led solutions across regions and realities. [Watch Now](#)

2

Global Young Water Professionals Network – ECH₂O

Webinar: Reflecting on World Water Week - Enhancing Youth Representation and Engagement

Register Now: <https://tinyurl.com/ppnu2yz6>
3:00 PM CEST, October 1, 2024



 **Meghna Chakkraborty**
Founder South Asia Young Women in Water

 **Mannat Kaur**
India's Young Innovator 2024 Stockholm Junior Water Prize

 **Farjana Bilkis**
Project Manager Swedish Water House, SIWI

 **Sheikh Muhammad Asad**
Junior Rapporteur at World Water Week

EQUAL AQUA **QUALITY OF THE FUTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** **WORLD BANK GROUP**

World Bank Collaboration

A. Reflecting on World Water Week – Enhancing Youth Representation and Engagement

The webinar aimed to strengthen youth inclusion by addressing gaps in youth preparation and representation, sharing insights on fostering diversity and inclusion, and exploring ways to ensure authentic regional voices are heard on global stages. [Watch Now](#)

Global Young Water Professionals Network – ECH₂O

Webinar: Lessons from the 10th World Water Forum: Strengthening Youth Representation & Engagement



**Meghna
Chakkraborty**
Founder South Asia
Young Women in Water



**Navya Vikraman
Nair**
Ph.D. candidate, YWSL
2024, 10th WWF



Omar Faruk
Founder We Can Cox's
Bazar; co-founder Asia
Pacific Climate Project



Rachana Muttur
Bali Youth
Representative; 10th
World Water Forum 2024

B. Lessons from the 10th World Water Forum: Strengthening Youth Representation & Engagement

The session explored challenges, shared stories, and discussed tangible solutions for empowering South Asian youth in the global water discourse. [Watch Now](#)

Global Young Water Professionals Network – ECH₂O

Webinar: Empowering South Asian Youth in Global Water Platforms: Addressing Representation Gaps and Enhancing Engagement



**Meghna
Chakkraborty**
Founder South Asia
Young Women in Water



Marwa Alam Safa
National Climate Adaptation
Officer, AKF Afghanistan.
Founder & CEO Climate
Environment Youth Initiative



Mahnoor Rashid
Chairperson Children
and Youth Advisory
Board, CFP Pakistan



Asmita Rawat
Global Ambassador
Youth 4 Nature

C. Empowering South Asian Youth in Global Water Platforms: Addressing Representation Gaps and Enhancing Engagement

The session shed light on a critical yet underrepresented issue, the barriers young women from South Asia face on global climate platforms such as COP29. [Watch Now](#)

Our Impact

Global Young Water Professionals Network – ECH₂O

Next Webinar: **Young Women in Water as Role Models**

Register: 

Register now: <https://connect.newibnet.org/womeninwater>

10:00am CEST April 25, 2024



1

Young Women in Water as Role Models

Meghna Chakraborty, shared her inspiring journey as part of a webinar hosted by The World Bank's Global Young Water Professional Network. The session highlighted influential young women leaders in the water sector, showcasing their transformative impact and innovative contributions. By sharing their experiences, the speakers aimed to inspire future leaders and position young professional women as role models in the field.



**Monday Munching/ Musing
With Women for Water**
Webinar | Session 66
03rd June 2024 | 5:00-6:00 PM IST

In conversation with
Meghna Chakraborty, Monzima Haque, Tabeer Riaz



 Joining Link: <http://tinyurl.com/28vvzn94>



2

Women for Water - Empowering Young Talent in the South Asian Water Sector

SAYWiW founders and advisors were invited in a session organized by Monday Munching/Musing, where they highlighted their impact and shared strategies for empowering young women in the water sector across South Asia.

3

Leaders Who Care[®] South Asia's Young Women and Water Empowerment



Humnah Fayyaz



Tabeer Riaz



Sayeda Rahimi

Empowering Young Women Water Professionals - South Asia

Tabeer Riaz, Sayeda Rahimi and Humnah Fayyaz, shared their insights and experiences on leadership, care, and women's empowerment in the water sector during a session hosted by The Leaders Who Care platform, focused on empowering young women water professionals in South Asia.

[Watch Now](#)

Ripple Effect: Women, Water, and Transformative Change

Meghna Chakraborty, spoke at a learning event that explored the linkages between water and women's empowerment through flash talks on WASH, leadership, and entrepreneurship. She shared insights on how women's leadership in the water sector can address gender inequalities and advance sustainable water and sanitation for all.

Expert Flash Talks

Ripple Effect: Women, Water, and Transformative Change

- Rokeya Ahmed**
Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank
- Meghna Chakraborty**
Founder, South Asia Young Women in Water (SAYWIW)
- Lena Frank**
Head of Menstruation Education, WASH United
- Aida Guliyani**
Manager Water in Asia Region, World Bank
- Talajeh Livani**
Social Development Specialist, World Bank
- Monica Vidili**
Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank

4

CWR
INTERVIEW

MEGHNA
CHAKKRABORTY
FOUNDER OF SOUTH ASIA YOUNG
WOMEN IN WATER

5

A Conversation with Meghna

Meghna Chakraborty was featured in a conversation where she shared her firsthand experiences in the water sector, the journey of founding South Asia Young Women in Water, and her insights and advice for young professionals entering the field. [Read More](#)

6

SuSanA Blog - Empowering Young Women Water Professionals in South Asia: Leading the Wave of Change

Tabeer Riaz highlighted in a SuSanA Blog that SAYWiW provides a dynamic platform for young women to connect, collaborate, and lead in advancing gender equality and sustainable water practices across South Asia. [Read More](#)

Women-led Initiatives Aim to Bridge the Gender Gap in Climate Action

Meghna Chakraborty recounted in an interview with Mongabay, the journey of founding SAYWiW, aiming to create a space where women can access leadership opportunities, share knowledge, and collaborate to advance sustainable and inclusive water governance across South Asia.

[Read More](#)

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Global Platforms

Celebrated at World Water Week 2025

SAYWiW was proudly recognized at World Water Week 2025 during the Dutch Pavilion event, which featured the Lift Us Project. As a partner organization, SAYWiW's work particularly field work in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan was highlighted, showcasing SAYWiW's dedication in empowering young women and advancing sustainable water solutions across South Asia.



Co-hosted Water Women Mingle as part of the Stronger Together! Cohort

At World Water Week 2025, SAYWiW co-hosted the Women's Networking Mingle as part of the *Stronger Together!* cohort. The event brought together 250 inspiring women leaders from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Represented by Tabeer Riaz, SAYWiW was the only youth network from South Asia in the co-hosting cohort, advancing the mission to amplify young women's leadership in water and WASH across the region.

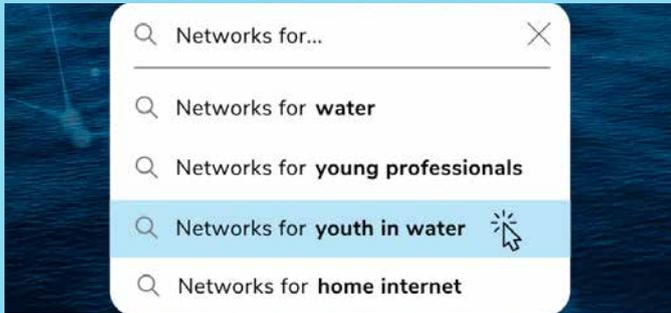
Awards



Meghna Chakraborty was awarded the 10th Digital Women's Award for the Leadership Category by SheThePeople



Featured in



Youth networks dedicated to water

SAYWiW featured in Josh Newton's curated list of youth networks dedicated to water. [Read More](#)



World Water Week

SAYWiW was recognized by the World Water Week, highlighting its origin at the WWW 2023 and its mission to empower women and youth in the water sector. [Read More](#)

Client Testimonial

“ SAYWiW played a crucial role in collecting real and meaningful data from households in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, providing us with valuable insights that directly contributed to our deliverables for ADB. ”

Meta Meta Netherlands

www.metameta.nl



Projects

LIFT-US Initiative - Fieldwork in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka

As part of the LIFT-US initiative, led by MetaMeta and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), SAYWiW conducted fieldwork in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The project explored the often-overlooked chore of laundry and its impact on women's health, hygiene, livelihoods, and water management. SAYWiW surveyed women on their laundry practices, gendered responsibilities, and challenges related to water access, helping to highlight the intersection of daily chores, gender equity, and sustainable water solutions in the region.



Afghanistan



Pakistan

Assessing Environmental and Social Inequalities in Pakistan's Textile Sector: Evidence from Faisalabad

www.dripbydrip.org

SAYWiW conducted research and authored an article for Drip by Drip, focusing on Faisalabad, a major textile hub in Pakistan. The research focused on how textile production affects water resources and impacts community health. It also highlighted gendered and social inequalities, such as wage disparities for women, through interview and case study, shedding light on the intersection of water, industry, and sustainable development.



Sri Lanka

Global Events in 2024

January: Building Networks and Partnerships

SAYWiW was honored to be recognized by Josh Newton, Founder of Josh's Water Jobs, as a recommended network. We also partnered with SHE Changes Climate to further gender-inclusive climate action.

February: Elevating Our Reach

We were featured on the World Water Week blog and launched an educational collaboration with The Water MBA.

March: Showcasing South Asian Women on the Global Stage

At the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Network Forum, we authentically represented South Asia's voices. Our #InvestingInWomen campaign encouraged global experts to support young talent and underprivileged women. We also celebrated World Water Day with a feature in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) blog.

April: Insights Through Webinars

We organized impactful webinars, bringing experts and enthusiasts together to exchange ideas and solutions.

May: Growing Our Community

We reached a significant milestone- 1,000 followers on LinkedIn- and kicked off a campaign for Menstrual Hygiene Day.

June: Amplifying Voices

We were featured on Monday Munching/ Musing with Women for Water led by Mansee Bal Bhargava and the Climate Talk Podcast with Seyifunmi Adebote.

July: Celebrating Leadership

Our co-founder was recognized as one of India's top 20 climate leaders in the Women Climate Collective Cohort 2024, supported by Fondation L'Oréal. We also launched South Asia Water Dialogues, a webinar series in collaboration with IWA-Young Water Professionals Nepal.

August: Strengthening Global Collaborations

We announced a collaboration with the World Bank, attended World Water Week in Stockholm, and reached another milestone- 1,500 LinkedIn followers!

September: Making Headlines

SAYWiW was featured in The New York Times as part of the 2024 Women Climate Collective (WCC) leaders' cohort- a proud moment for our initiative.

October: Reflecting and Advocating

SAYWiW collaborated with the World Bank Group to launch a thought-provoking webinar series to bring together South Asian youth who have participated in global water platforms to reflect on their experiences and the actions they've taken post-conference, identify gaps in preparation, and propose ways to enhance future selection and preparation processes for youth representation in international forums.

November: Expanding Horizons and Recognizing Leadership

SAYWiW was honored with the Digital Women Award for Leadership by SheThePeople TV in collaboration with Axis Bank. Our co-founder earned the virtual observer badge from the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) to attend COP29. Another of our co-founder was invited as a keynote speaker at H2O Climate Connect Pakistan, organized by Tayaba.org, where she represented SAYWiW and emphasized the importance of fostering inclusive discussions.

December: Global Impact and New Beginnings

As 2024 drew to a close, SAYWiW proudly concluded the "Empowering South Asian Youth in Global Water Platforms: Addressing Representation Gaps and Enhancing Engagement" series in partnership with the World Bank Group's ECH2O initiative. This milestone highlighted the resilience and innovation of South Asian women leaders in the water and climate sectors. Additionally, SAYWiW signed an MoU for its first collaboration with Latin America through the AWA Project, marking a significant step toward expanding our global presence.

Co-Founders



Meghna Chakkraborty

Meghna is a water governance and climate programmes professional specializing in development communication. With extensive experience across research, policy, and advocacy in South Asia and Africa, she has contributed to and supported flagship initiatives of the Government of India, including the Swachh Bharat Mission, NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission of India), and UNICEF India, with a focus on gender-responsive and participatory approaches. Meghna brings international experience through advisory and consulting roles with institutions including the Federal Government of Nigeria, the World Bank, and GPAP (World Economic Forum), and has served as a speaker at global platforms, including World Water Week and World Bank hosted forums. She was selected as a Junior Rapporteur at World Water Week in both 2023 and 2024, organised by SIWI. Meghna actively advocates for gender equality, youth leadership, and GEDSI integration in water and climate action, contributing to global processes advancing SDG 6.



Tabeer Riaz

Tabeer Riaz is an early-career researcher specializing in integrated water management, agriculture, and development economics. She graduated from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden, where her research focused on investigating behavioral patterns related to sustainable water resource management. Additionally, she has actively contributed to research initiatives at the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden with particular emphasis on developing countries. Collectively, she brings nearly a decade of research experience, beginning in Pakistan where she worked with the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy, the Centre for Water Informatics and Technology, and the International Water Management Institute. Alongside research, she is extensively engaged in policy communication and stakeholder outreach. With her interdisciplinary expertise in research, advocacy, and communication, she aims to advance sustainable, equitable, and inclusive water and agricultural development in resource-constrained contexts

Partnerships

Through collaboration and partnerships, we aim to provide mentorship, educational opportunities, and access to resources to pave the way for young women in water from South Asia. Collectively, strong alliances with industries, organizations, and institutions can drive meaningful change in the region by creating a more inclusive and diverse sector. The United Nations has established that the youth engagement in the water sector is going to be critical in achieving the ambitious targets of SDG 6: as present and future leaders and inspirers of change. Therefore, it is important to enable young women in water towards meaningful engagement as vital stakeholders and future decision makers.

We are seeking collaborations and partnerships for:

- Capacity building programs and mentorship for young women water professionals
- A global learning and knowledge exchange platform for uninhibited collaboration
- Talent development and research excellence to promote future leadership focused on water management in South Asia

Together we enable, honor and celebrate the contributions of Women in Water!

Are you interested in supporting SAYWiW or partnering for an event?
Please connect southasiayoungwomeninwater@gmail.com



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