The number of people in need of water, hygiene and sanitation-related humanitarian assistance across the Central Sahel has doubled since 2019 to 6.6 million people, over half of whom are children. Expanding access to safe and sustainable water is critical to saving lives, and to delivering results across sectors including food security, nutrition, health, education and protection. The COVID-19 pandemic only amplifies already massive needs.

The side event will gather leading voices from affected communities and key WASH actors to explore ways of improving our ability to predict and prepare for water-related crises. It will build upon the thematic tracks of basic services and protection, featuring case studies of humanitarian and development action that is agile, conflict-sensitive and risk-informed. This holistic approach – saving lives and alleviating suffering, while strengthening local capacity to be more resilient and better prepared, enables durable solutions and can support peacebuilding efforts.

Recommendations from the side event will be put forward to the 20 October 2020 High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on Central Sahel hosted by the Governments of Denmark and Germany, the European Union and the United Nations.

UNICEF launched the Water Under Fire campaign in 2019 to draw urgently needed global attention and resources for water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in fragile contexts.

Co-host/conveners: UNICEF and Member State.

Register for the side event here - 13.10.2020 2-3:30PM CEST