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- In the Netherlands the 2030 Agenda is one of the drivers to evaluate the national situation and policy with regard to water, sanitation and hygiene with the responsible organizations in relation to the goals of the Protocol on Water and Health. Furthermore it is a driver to strengthen cooperation on national and international level.
- Challenges in the Netherlands with regard to water and sanitation are to maintain and when necessary improve the current level of (and access to) safely managed sanitation and drinking water. Issues are **the availability of water sources of good quality, the sustainability of resource management and climate adaptation.**
- Climate change will further increase the pressures on safe and adequate water supply and sanitation provision; therefore the **practice of reuse** is likely to increase. These water reuse activities and future trends require monitoring of potential health risks and safe management strategies. The European Commission is working on water-reuse, including under the Water Framework Directive as part of the Circular Economy package.
- In the Netherlands some years ago **water scarcity** did not seem an issue. After some dry years however the discussion about **safe reuse of wastewater** is tabled, to encourage efficient resource use and reduce pressures on the water environment, in particular water scarcity, by fostering the development of safe reuse of wastewater.
- In this perspective I would like to mention the circular water supply greenhouse horticulture, which is an example for sustainable use of water sources. Furthermore agreements have also been made to significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate emissions of crop protection products from greenhouse horticulture in the coming years.

- With regard to the quality of water the last years **compounds of emerging concern** and **pharmaceuticals**, and with **that Antimicrobial Resistance** were upcoming issues.
- The impact of **pharmaceutical residues** in water is expected to increase. Climate change is also predicted to worsen the contamination of water by pharmaceutical residues. At times of drought concentrations will be higher, and more extreme rainfall can cause sewage overflow, leading to a further spread.
- This is why the Dutch government wants to act now to prevent bigger problems in future. Therefor we established a so called "chain approach" which focus on **prevention** medicine emissions and on the other hand the **upgrading the treatment in Sewage Treatment Plants**. The various parties from the care sector, pharmaceutical sector, water boards and drinking water companies, discusses the progress of the implementation program and initiates accelerations where necessary.
- An example for climate resilience in The Netherlands is the recent **Administrative Agreement on Climate Adaptation** to work together on climate resilience of the water management, including climate resilient drinking water and sanitation provision.
- Within this agreement the authorities, waterboards and drinking water suppliers are working together and perform the **so-called stress tests**, to analyse risks related to climate change. This will have a follow up with risk management measures.

Question: How can the Protocol on Water and Health support in achieving progress?

- The structure of international cooperation, as well as many of the guidance materials and tools are supportive.
- We see the Protocol on Water and Health as an instrument to exchange knowledge and experiences.
- As the Netherlands we would like to be an active partner.