

# Call for papers

## Special issue theme: Strengthening markets for WASH goods and services

### Guest editors

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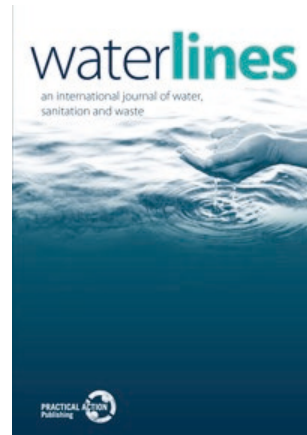
Deadline for abstract submissions 15th May 2018

Formal and informal providers operating in 'the market' constitute a vital means through which communities obtain the goods and services that they need. This applies in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene as much as to other essential commodities. It also applies as much to public service providers as it does to private providers, with both reliant on private sector actors and supply chains to fulfil their functions. In many instances, service providers and market traders supplying goods to communities already struggle to deal with the everyday operational problems of doing business. So, when a crisis occurs, they are often poorly prepared to cope, supply chains are disrupted or broken altogether and those who rely on the supplies chain area affected.

As a result, development programmes are increasingly engaging with market actors to achieve greater resilience to shocks, whereas those responding to emergencies are aiming to increase the sustainability of the systems that are established during humanitarian responses.

This themed edition of Waterlines focuses on approaches which enhance access to more resilient and sustainable WASH services through strengthening market systems. We invite papers addressing the broad subject of WASH markets, whether in a development or humanitarian context, and especially in the interface between the two. In particular, we seek papers on the following topics:

- Experiences of tools and approaches for understanding WASH markets to inform programming and contingency planning.
- Papers addressing the institutional/regulatory systems which govern the environment in which business operate and thus influence the effectiveness of market systems.
- Working with WASH markets prior to and in crisis situations to make WASH service delivery resilient to shocks and stresses.
- How donors and international agencies are changing their modes of operation and financing mechanisms to meet these challenges.



*We welcome papers that are based on reports/blogs or have already been presented in a shorter form at a conference. Waterlines can provide the opportunity to publish these experiences in detail drawing on more in-depth data and analysis.*

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