



Humanitarian Careers: WASH

In this webinar, we looked at humanitarian careers focusing on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH). Hosted by our Learning Specialist Tom Russell and with guest speakers currently working in WASH roles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ukraine, the discussion considered the skills required to work in WASH, a typical day in a WASH role, the high points and challenges of the job. This was followed by questions from the audience and a panel discussion.

Our key take-aways:

While technical expertise is important for a WASH career, skills such as **emotional intelligence, communication, the ability to work as part of a team and in cross-cultural situations** are also vital for success, in order to create solutions that are safe & effective for each community.



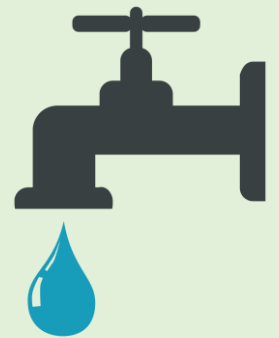
Currently in the WASH sub-sector there is a focus on **integration of WASH into other programmes** eg focussing on healthcare or nutrition. **Environmentally-friendly WASH solutions** are also a priority – eg reducing plastic waste, deforestation & travel.



WASH experts need to be able to **understand the wider context** in which they are operating – considering security & geopolitical factors, able to negotiate with a variety of actors, prioritising the protection of children and vulnerable people, ensuring WASH solutions meet the needs of all community members, whilst also working within donor conditions and budget constraints.



Humanitarian WASH roles are undoubtedly challenging, but come with many rewards. The panel cited **the ability to manage your own work** and try new problem-solving approaches, and particularly highlighted the **huge satisfaction in providing access to water**. They advocated for a career in which this remains the central goal, over status or pay.



Access resources referenced in the webinar:

- [Bioforce Institut in Lyon](#)
- [WASH Engineering MSc - University of Leeds](#)
- [WASH Road Map](#)

Contact the organisations:

- [Medair](#)