sandec updates

We're pleased to share recent highlights July to September 2026, from **Sandec Department** at **Eawag** – the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology.

This edition showcases key research achievements, publications, and collaborations that contribute to our work of advancing water, sanitation, and solid waste solutions.

We thank you for being part of our community and look forward to staying connected.



Sandec News 2026 (Edition 27)

This year's Sandec News includes 9 articles from across the Sandec team. The articles will also be released weekly as articles in the Sandec Updates LinkedIn Newsletter.

Sanitation

Sandec's sanitation research continues to explore innovative wastewater monitoring, treatment systems, technologies, utility capabilities and planning approaches around the globe in collaboration with our partners within Eawag and beyond.





The data capability trap: why sanitation utilities fail to make decisions from data and a nine-point framework to fix it

Academic Paper (Wainaina et al. 2026)

Policy Brief

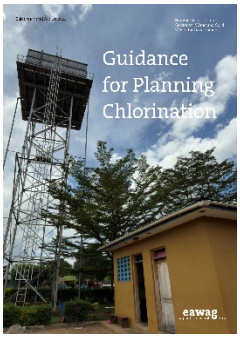
Summary

Eawag: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology
Sandec: Department of Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development

Water

Sandec is conducting research for improvements to water quality, chlorination and water governance in communities, small towns and utilities.





Guidance for planning chlorination

Simple guidance for teams seeking to evaluate if and what type of chlorination is suited for their context, with a focus on small towns.

Guidance in English / French

Webinar in English / French

Summary

How do pathogens in water change across seasons in Nepal? Seasonal differences in enteric pathogen occurrence across multiple drinking water sources in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal (Uprety et al. 2026)

Cross Cutting

Sandec researchers continue to explore ways to better integrate sanitation, water and solid waste management, as well as supporting more transformative research partnerships.

What makes South–North research collaborations transformative? A qualitative study of WASH research partnerships (Lüthi et al. 2026)

The context-conundrum: why existing planning methodologies fail in the integration of water, sanitation and solid waste management services in small towns (Sakaya et al. 2026)

Learning

Sandec is dedicated to advancing education in water, sanitation, and solid waste management. The WASH Learning Lab, in close collaboration with all research groups, designs learning experiences that combine scientific evidence with practical relevance for students, practitioners, and institutions globally.

- **New features in the Sanitation MOOC.** The free Coursera course "Planning & Design of Sanitation Systems and Technologies" now includes weekly key takeaways, updated reading lists, a new Resources tab, more subtitles and an expert interview with Martin Gambill. Learn more | Watch the interview

- **Green Masterclass format with Crust EcoNetwork.** Sandec collaborated with Crust EcoNetwork to enhance their Green Masterclass on climate, environment, and sustainability, with the "Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage" and “Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries” MOOCs. Marisa Boller facilitated sessions providing additional expert inputs and answering questions regarding the MOOCs. Learn more

- **Community power in action: the Pentakatha waste story.** A new video in our Course "Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries" shows how a community is taking action on its waste, bringing a real-world example into the course. Learn more

- **Human-centred AI in WASH education.** The Learning Lab works to ensure that any new technology widens access rather than deepening gaps by identifying tools and approaches that fit diverse and under- resourced settings. As the tools’ landscape evolve quickly, our focus stays on the pedagogy, embracing AI’s potential with attention to its risks and ethical implications.

- **Human-centred AI in WASH education.** In our global education initiatives, we seek out tools and approaches that work in diverse and under-resourced settings, so that new technology broadens access instead of deepening inequalities. As the landscape evolves, pedagogy remains our anchor: we embrace AI's possibilities while staying mindful of its risks and ethical challenges.