# **Welcome video transcript for Rethinking Rural Sanitation**

Hello. My name is Olga Ghazaryan, I’m the Director of International Programmes at WaterAid. Welcome to this Rethinking Rural Sanitation course!

Over the last two years, teams from WaterAid, UNICEF and Plan International have worked hard to analyse and offer solutions to the challenges of sanitation, especially rural sanitation programming.

As a sector we have seen pockets of success in the implementation of rural sanitation but at best these successes have been at pilot level and at project levels.

With the SDG’s and our commitment to achieve universal access by 2030 we must up our game. The evidence suggests that ‘business as usual’ for rural sanitation interventions will not succeed. A new way of thinking, planning and practice is needed. This course aims to address that need by describing a more **flexible** and **adaptive** way of thinking about programming so that programmes are more **equitable, scalable** and **sustainable**.

To achieve this, we will need to work together in **partnerships,** our designs and responses must be **context specific**, and we must think beyond pilots to **area district wide** coverage.

We have collaborated with The Open University to develop this course. The first three sessions of the course will help you understand the context in which we are working in, the essential components of sanitation programming and also your local area. Sessions 4, 5 and 6 look at planning for local implementation, different options for implementation, and ways to collaborate, learn and review.

Whatever your role in the WASH sector we hope that this course will be useful and beneficial to you.

Thank you.