

PRESS RELEASE

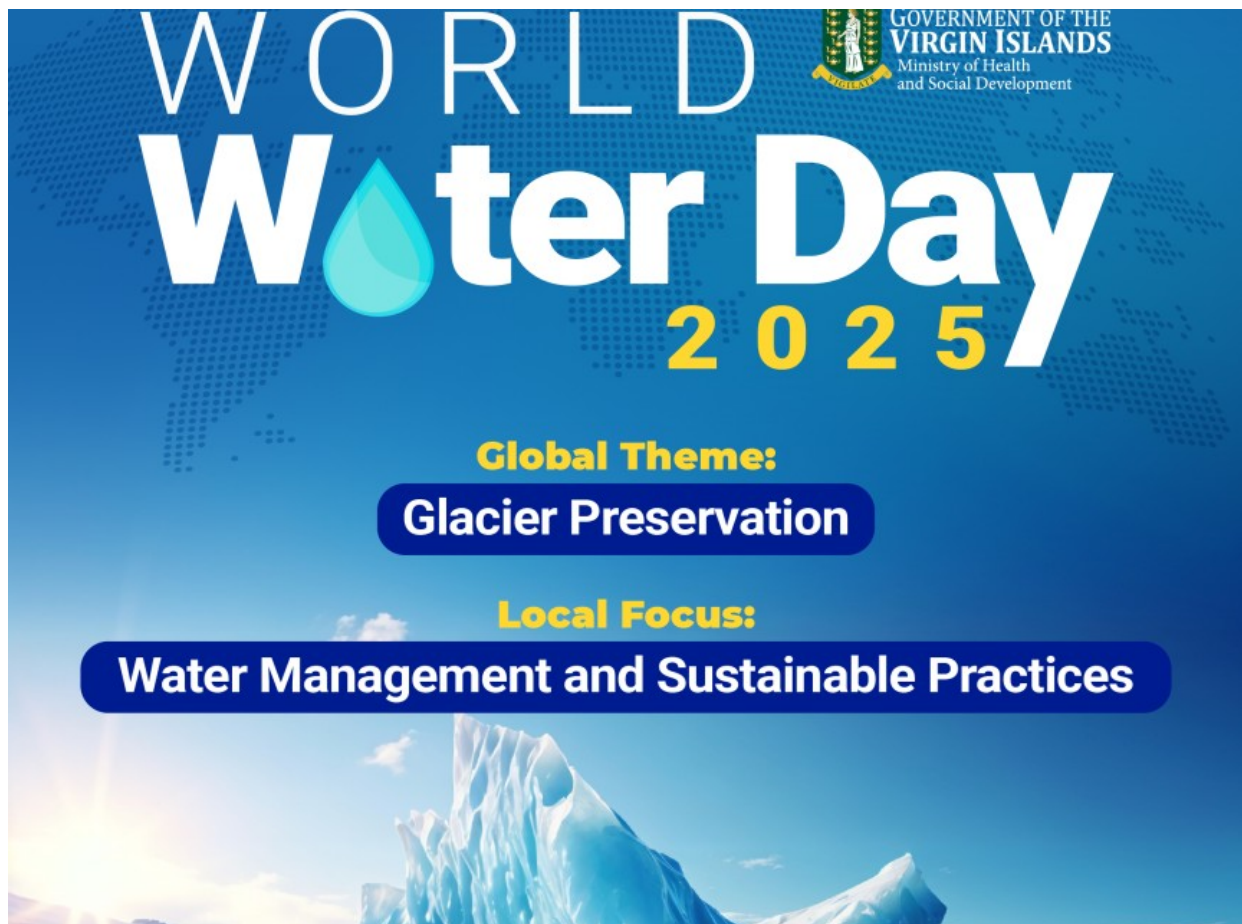
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VI Raising Awareness For World Water Day

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The Environmental Health Division will join the global community in raising awareness and encouraging action for World Water Day on Saturday March 22.

The day aims to bring attention to the importance of water and how it affects health, the world and way of life.

Acting Chief Environmental Health Officer, Ms. Henrietta Alexander says this year's observance will be held under the theme, "Glacier Preservation". She says glaciers are critical to life, as their meltwater is important for drinking water, agriculture and ecosystems.

Ms. Alexander said even though glaciers are not present in the VI, the Territory does experience unique water challenges. She said, "We want to emphasise the importance of safe water management and sustainable water practices throughout the Territory. We encourage persons to engage in water conservation and protection. In addition, safe water management plays a crucial role in reducing and preventing mosquito breeding sites, thereby minimising the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses."

Ms. Alexander added that water is an essential building block of life. "A core focus of World Water Day is to support achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030," the Acting Chief said. She added, "Water is under extreme threat from growing populations, increasing demands of agriculture, the negative impacts of climate change, pollution and insufficient infrastructure."

The community is reminded to protect water sources, reduce water pollution, prevent mosquito breeding sites and advocate for fair access to safe running water for all persons.

"Together, we can work towards a sustainable future. Whether it flows from a mountain stream or falls from tropical clouds, Water is Life. Every drop counts," Ms. Alexander said.

World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 since 1993.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is committed to ensuring that all aspects of the environment with the potential to negatively impact the health of the population are managed efficiently to enable all persons in the VI to attain and maintain optimal health and well-being.