

UN-Water Country Level Engagement

Insights from 2020-2021 pilot phase
and proposed way forward



**United
Nations**



UN-Water 2030 Strategy



At the GLOBAL level:

- Goals and targets are followed up on and accountability ensured
- Transformative global policies and actions, building on interlinkages
- International collaboration strengthened
- Post-2030 process supported



At the REGIONAL level:

- Regional cooperation and knowledge sharing ensured
- Regional Collaboration Platforms supported



At the COUNTRY level:

- Costed plans for SDG 6 fully funded
- Data on water and sanitation inform decision making
- Skilled staff enhance implementation and monitoring
- Water governance improved through clear roles and strong institutions

Emerging issues related to water and sanitation are effectively addressed and policy processes are timely informed

Monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation is effectively supported

People are inspired to take action and necessary knowledge is built on water and sanitation

Build on core strengths of UN-Water Members and Partners



Scale Impact to regional and country levels



Accelerate progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework



Ensure agile, collectively owned UN-Water operations



UN-Water – coordination mechanism for UN entities and international organizations' work on water and sanitation

Recap: Country Level Engagement Pilot 2020-2021

- **Offer to Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs):** Data and insight, connection to expertise, and advocacy, including seed funding.
- Objective: to support UNCTs' and RCOs' coordinated action on SDG 6 in support of the **UN reform** and the **SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**.
- **9 countries responded** with diverse needs:
 - Bahrain, Costa Rica, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, and United Arab Emirates.
 - Most recently also RCOs in Central Asia, South Caucasus, Latin America and South Africa.
- Operation guided by **UN-Water Task Force***, co-coordinated by UNDP and UNICEF, in **coordination with DCO**, and with **operational support from UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit**.



Menu of support for UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators



1. Insight, information and data, including through the monitoring and reporting of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)¹:

- a. [The SDG 6 Data Portal](#) and the [SDG 6 Synthesis Reports on Water and Sanitation](#)
- b. [World Water Development Reports](#)
- c. [UN-Water Policy and Analytical Briefs](#)



2. Connection to expertise, technical assistance and support from UN-Water Members and Partners, through UN-Water's network of 72 organisations with diverse water and sanitation expertise across global, regional and country levels from within and outside the UN system. An initial overview of who does what, including useful tools and resources, is available through the [UN-Water Inventory](#).



3. Support for country-level advocacy on all water and sanitation-related issues to influence policy and inspire action, including through UN-Water campaigns such as:

- a. [World Water Day, 22 March](#)
- b. [World Toilet Day, 19 November](#)
- c. [Water Action Decade, 2018-2028](#)

How to access UN-Water expertise

To access UN-Water expertise, we suggest to set up a first introductory call to learn more about your needs. Please write to unwater@un.org to set up a first call.

More information about UN-Water can be found at the [UN-Water website](#).

¹ More information here: <http://www.sdg6monitoring.org/>

*Task Force members: UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UN Global Compact, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, ILO, IFAD, SWA, GWP, WfWP, World Bank Group, WMO, UN DESA, UN Women.

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Activities resulting from the pilot</u>	<u>Who</u>
Bahrain	SDG 6 mapping completed; SDG 6 overview developed; "SDG 6 Acceleration Workshop" planned (paused).	RCO, ESCWA, FAO, UNEP, UNICEF
Costa Rica	Wastewater management expertise provided to UNCT; SDG 6-related Common Country Analysis (CCA) input provided; Supporting development of joint UNCT project proposal through seed funding	RCO, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, UN-Habitat
Guinea	No activities	UNICEF, WHO
India	Collection of innovation case studies provided	RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, IWMI, UNIN
Madagascar	Input to CCA and Cooperation Framework (CF) development provided; Hand hygiene for all initiated	RCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO
Mexico	Expertise on human rights to water and sanitation and private sector engagement provided to UNCT; Supporting development of joint UNCT project proposal; SDG 6-related CCA input provided	RCO, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNECE, WMO, FAO, UNIDO, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNDP, HR2W
Nepal	Development of the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative	RCO, DESA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNDP
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	SDG 6-related CCA input provided	RCO, WHO, UNICEF
United Arab Emirates	SDG 6-related CCA input provided	RCO



Other engagements with RCOs in Central Asia, South Caucasus, Latin America and South Africa related to transboundary water cooperation and water scarcity.

Feedback

+	Connection to expertise across the UN-Water network, e.g. wastewater management in Costa Rica	UNCT or regional info exchange, e.g. human rights in Mexico	Input provided to CCA and CF development, e.g. interlinkages paper to Madagascar
-	Budget, time and ability to respond to substantive requests	Tools and experience to support SDG 6 wide country coordination Unclear about what UN-Water is and how it works	Countries request urgent funding



On-going consultations with RCOs in pilot countries to capture and validate feedback and inform next steps

Insights => Lessons learned / Way forward (1)

1. **COVID-19 was a multiplier of challenges and a cause of delay, but also an enabler of new virtual, integrated and inclusive ways of working:** The pilot timeline coincides with that of the pandemic, with changing demands in countries and cancellation of face-to-face meetings as a result. While this resulted in halted engagements in some countries, it also made virtual participation in country processes easier and more natural.
 - Continue with virtual meetings as preferred format for working. But general approach has to work without TAU direct engagements to be scalable.
2. **The UN reform enables UN-Water to engage and add value at the country level, with the RCO as the natural counterpart and with the CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks as primary entry points:** Through collaboration with UNCTs, and in particular RCOs, UN-Water can facilitate access to the full depth and breadth of water and sanitation expertise available globally.
 - Upgrade knowledge on UN Reform and explore most useful avenues to serve country needs
3. **Support to the CCA and connection to expertise and resources were the most common requests from countries:** Tapping expertise across levels and UN entities, to better leverage the full capacities of the UN system in countries systematically and at scale.
 - Common Country Analysis to be the main entry point for support in next phase.

Insights => Lessons learned / Way forward (2)

4. Water runs through the mandates and activities of most entities and UNCTs but is not the main priority of any entity. As a result, there is often no clear champion, division of roles or UNCT-wide coordination on SDG 6, with the risk of water issues and solutions becoming a blind spot for UNCTs. **While coordination around WASH often exists in UNCTs, there are needs and opportunities to strengthen coordination across SDG6 targets and beyond, to enable the UN to provide integrated and coherent support to countries:**

- Strengthen SDG 6 coordination through relevant country-led existing (or new) platforms, to make RCs/UNCTs a positive force to strengthen national and regional coordination and exchange on water management and sanitation.

5. **With UN-Water being the coordination mechanism for UN's work on water and sanitation, the "false dichotomy" between UN-Water and UNCT members can hinder constructive engagements, showing the need to fine-tune communication and invest in country ownership:** The expectation and perception that UN-Water is an external actor providing a service to the UNCT, as opposed to a collectively owned coordination platform, can cause confusion and be unhelpful for creating ownership and sustainability of country level engagements.

- Strengthen support to country ownership and review language of offer. Think through and develop ways for UN-Water to best support country progress.

Scaling up will be through the Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks as main entry points

1. Common Country Analysis (step 2.2 Source Country Analysis Support from across the System)
2. Cooperation Framework design
3. Support to water-related “Results Groups” as part of Cooperation Framework implementation
4. Ongoing support, e.g.:
 - Connection to system-wide expertise throughout UNCT working cycle
 - Support to UNCT coordination and action on SDG 6
 - Links to World Water Day, World Toilet Day and other campaigns
 - Support to 2023 UN water conference preparations



Next phase of country level engagement

- Time period: 2022-2025
- Objectives – to achieve transformative change in our collective support to SDG 6:
 1. **Connect:** Knowledge broker of water-related expertise from across UN-Water Members and Partners to leverage the full capacities of the UN system to support countries' endeavors.
 2. **Coordinate:** Make RCs/UNCTs a positive force to strengthen national and regional coordination and exchange on water management and sanitation.
 3. **Act:** Through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, support a direction of action to get SDG 6 on track.
- Internal operational setup: Maintain UN-Water Task Force on Country Level Engagement for the 2022-2023 biennium, to work in close collaboration with DCO, Expert Groups on 2030 Agenda and Regional Level Coordination, IMI-SDG6, SDG6-CDI etc.
- UN-Water's Country Level Engagement reviewed next time in 2025, along with the UN-Water 2030 Strategy.

“There are significant gaps in our collective support to water and sanitation (SDG 6)”

UNSG, 2017

Connect

UN-Water
Members,
Partners,
Initiatives,
Expertise

Coordinate

Governments

RCs and
UNCTs

Country Water
Partnerships

Other
stakeholders...

Act

Collective support to
SDG 6, including
through SDG 6 GAF
accelerator areas:

- Finance
- Data and information
- Capacity development
- Innovation
- Governance

**Related
country
processes
include:**

VNRs, NDCs,
NAPs etc.

HLPF review
of SDG 6

SDG 6 Special
Event

SDG 6 country
acceleration case studies

UN 2023 Water
Conference

Sneak peak: Updated offer from UN-Water to RCs and UNCTs (for outreach and new UN-Water website)

Connect – Coordinate – Act (1)

0. Main Entry Point: Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Framework development and implementation support

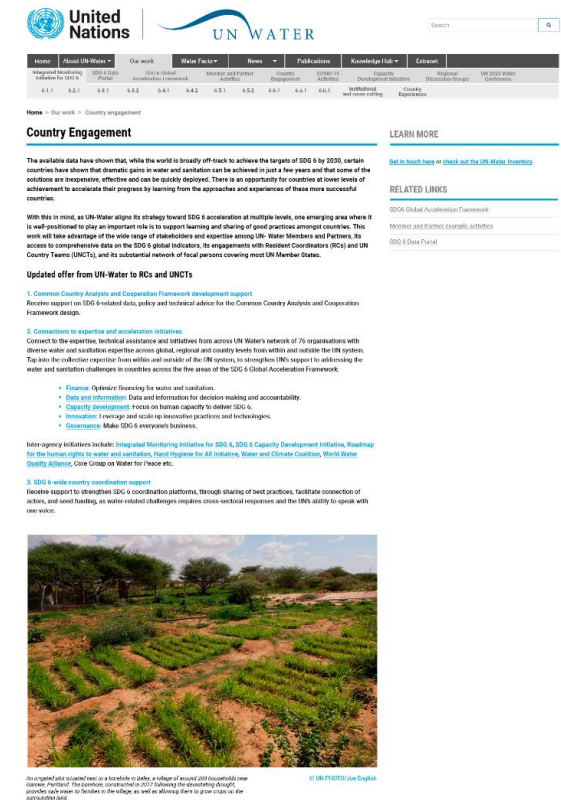
Support requests for SDG 6-related data, policy and technical advice for the Common Country Analysis, Cooperation Framework design and water-related Results Groups.

1. Connect to expertise and exchange of experience

Connect to the expertise, technical assistance and initiatives from across UN-Water's network of 76 organisations with diverse water and sanitation expertise across global, regional and country levels from within and outside the UN system. [Check out the UN-Water Inventory](#). Boost your country's capacity to manage water through [SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative](#) and other inter-agency/member/partner programmes.

2. Coordinate (under development and to be added once ready)

Strengthen SDG 6 coordination through relevant country-led existing (or new) platforms, through sharing of best practices, facilitate connection of actors, and seed funding, as water-related challenges requires cross-sectoral responses and the UN's ability to speak with one voice and support country needs and demands. Link to uninfo.org.



The screenshot displays the UN-Water website interface. At the top, the United Nations and UN-Water logos are visible. Below the navigation bar, the 'Country Engagement' section is highlighted. The page content includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a main text area. The text discusses the availability of data for SDG 6 targets and the need for countries to accelerate progress. It also mentions the 'Updated offer from UN-Water to RCs and UNCTs' and lists key initiatives like the 'Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Framework development support' and the 'SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative'. A small image of a rural landscape is shown at the bottom right of the page.

Sneak peak: Updated offer from UN-Water to RCs and UNCTs (for outreach and new UN-Water website)

Connect – Coordinate – Act (2)

3. Act

Tap into UN's support to addressing the water management and sanitation challenges in countries across the five areas of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:

- [Finance](#): Optimize financing for water and sanitation.
- [Data and information](#): Data and information for decision-making and accountability.
- [Capacity development](#): Focus on human capacity to deliver SDG 6.
- [Innovation](#): Leverage and scale up innovative practices and technologies.
- [Governance](#): Make SDG 6 everyone's business.

Draw on seed funding and inter-agency initiatives like: [Roadmap for the human rights to water and sanitation](#), [Hand Hygiene for All initiative](#), [Water and Climate Coalition](#), [World Water Quality Alliance](#), [SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative](#), Core Group on Water for Peace etc. etc.

How do we scale up UN-Water's country level engagement?

1. **Develop an “inter-agency guidance” to scale up coordinated support on SDG 6 through the UN reform**

To focus on the importance of UN reform, the CCA, CF and country programming for our collective work on SDG 6, including to enable better integrated policy advice to governments, strengthen links to non-UN actors and the regional level (e.g. the Issue Based Coalitions) and empowering a coordinated response to SDG 6. Including “how-to” guide for RCs/UNCTs and tools for the CCA developed by IMI-SDG6. **Developed together with initial pilot countries.**

2. **Develop the new Country Engagement webpage including a (continuously) updated offer to RCs and UNCTs**

Make the updated offer available on the revamped UN-Water website, to be updated continuously and made available to UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators. For example including connections to expertise through the UN-Water Inventory, exchanges of experience between countries, and all SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework related initiatives. **To include the Inter-agency guidance and CCA tools once ready and links to initiatives such as [Roadmap for the human rights to water and sanitation](#), [Hand Hygiene for All initiative](#), [Water and Climate Coalition](#), [World Water Quality Alliance](#), [SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative](#), Core Group on Water for Peace etc.**

3. **Provide continued support to pilot countries and new target countries**

Continue provided support to RCs and UNCTs by UN-Water Members, Partners, expertise and initiatives. New target countries: Countries that will initiate their CCA during the year, and that will sign a new Cooperation Framework during the following year (Approx. 20-30 countries/year).

Main activities and budget 2022-2023

	Activity	By when	Who	Resource needs
1	Develop and disseminate an “inter-agency guidance” to scale up coordinated support on SDG 6 through the UN reform	By 38 th UN-Water Meeting	Task Force, pilot countries, IMI-SDG6, DCO, Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination	50,000 USD
2	Develop the new Country Engagement webpage including a (continuously) updated offer to RCs and UNCTs	By 37 th UN-Water Meeting	Task Force	10,000 USD
3	Continued support to/collaboration with pilot countries + new target countries*	On-going	Task Force, UN-Water Members, Partners, initiatives and expertise	Seed funding (140,000 USD)
4	General outreach and outreach to target countries	Yearly, with start in 2023	UN-Water Chair, Task Force, UN-Water Members, DCO	-
5	Regular updates with DCO	On-going	Task Force coordinators	-
Total amount				200,000 USD

*Countries that will initiate their CCA during the year, and that will sign a new Cooperation Framework during the following year (Approx. 20-30 countries/year).

CCA countries 2022 and 2023

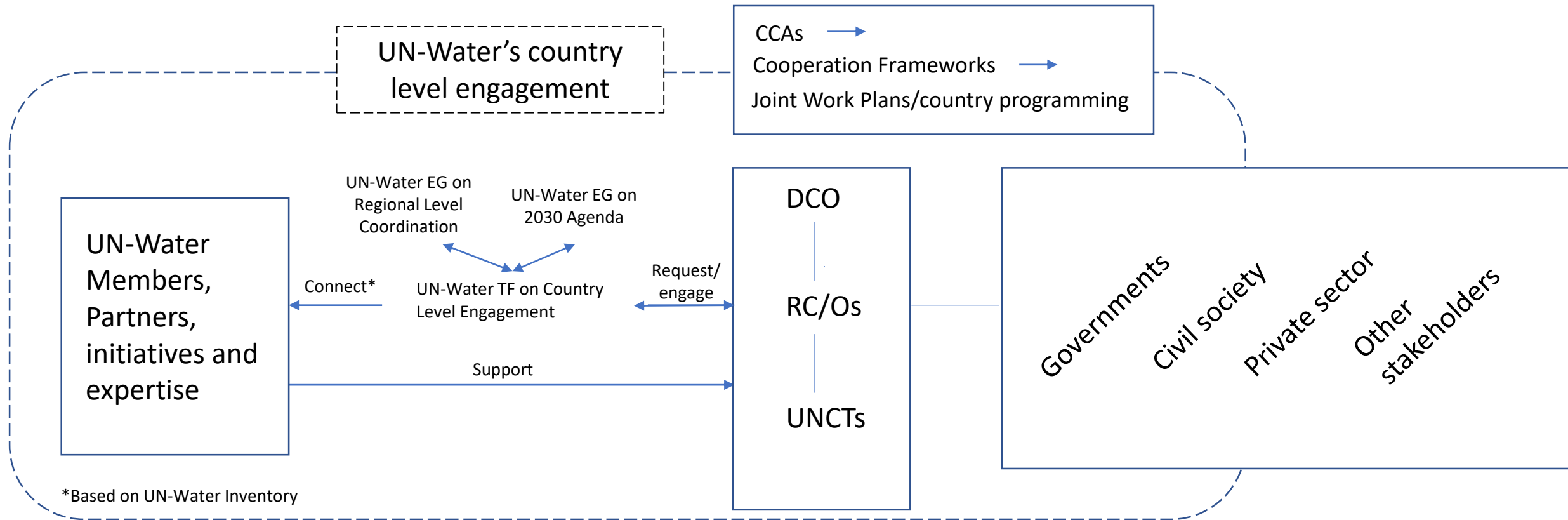
CCA countries* 2022: Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Samoa, Togo, Venezuela, Egypt, Libya, Iran, Pakistan, Bolivia, Mongolia, Burundi, Tajikistan, India, Ghana, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Niger, Moldova, Chad, Ukraine, Morocco, Montenegro, Jordan, Cabo Verde, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Syria.

CCA countries 2023: Angola, Bhutan, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, North Korea, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal, Philippines, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Madagascar.

Possible additional countries: Human rights roadmap pilot countries, SDG 6 CDI pilot countries, IMI-SDG6 focus countries, Water for Peace Core Group pilot countries, Water and Climate Coalition pilot countries, and the SDG 6 country acceleration case studies countries.

*Countries that will initiate their CCA during the year, and that will sign a new Cooperation Framework during the following year.

Operational setup overview 2022-2025



SOP for responding to country and regional requests:

Request comes in to UN-Water

Inventory is used to identify agencies

Communication with RC/O to receive guidance on way forward as/if needed

UN-Water support to UNCT as demanded, in line with offer/objectives

