

UN-Water Annual Report 2022



United
Nations



UN-Water, 2023

Cover: Opening of the one-day preparatory meeting for the UN 2023 Water Conference convened by the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) on 25 October 2022.

7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, 1202

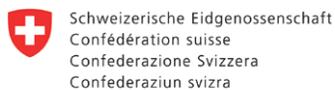
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About UN-Water

UN-Water coordinates the work of the United Nations (UN) on water and sanitation. It was formally established in 2003, building on a long history of collaboration within the UN. UN-Water comprises the UN bodies that have a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and other international organizations as Partners.

The main purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize UN family-wide coordinated action and coherence and to reduce overlapping and duplication. In so doing, UN-Water seeks to increase the effectiveness of support provided to Member States in

their efforts towards achieving international agreements on water. This is done along the following three main lines of work:

- Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues;
- Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation; and
- Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action.

At the end of 2022, UN-Water had 35 Members and 45 Partners.

www.unwater.org

Chair's message

Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director-General of the International Labour Organization and Chair of UN-Water



Last year was dominated by laying the ground for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Throughout 2022, we provided intensive support to UN DESA, the Water Conference's Secretariat, and to the two co-hosts – the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Our role, as the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation, was to help maintain the UN system's focus on the Conference's promise to be inclusive, action-oriented and cross-sectoral.

The UN-Water family drew on the outcomes of the SDG 6 Special Event, UN-Water meetings and other key preparatory activities to set the themes for the five Interactive Dialogues and generate momentum behind the forthcoming Water Action Agenda – the collection of all water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade and the 2030 Agenda.

UN-Water increased its support to countries, through the reformed UN Resident Coordinator system and Country Teams, as a central part of our focus on enabling the UN system and Partners to help strengthen governments' delivery towards SDG 6. National engagement will remain at the heart of our work to drive transformative change in how we collectively support countries' efforts on SDG 6 and build national capacity to accelerate change.

As we conducted the midterm review of UN-Water's Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6, we were delighted to learn that countries that have received extensive support and engaged in interactions with specific agencies or with IMI-SDG6 generally exhibit greater engagement, stronger and more sustainable capacity, and better reporting rates.

On the communications front, our campaigns in 2022 were based on the theme of 'Groundwater'. Backed by the UN World Water Development Report, the messages around World Water Day and World Toilet Day centred on the vast potential of this precious resource and warned of its mismanagement and abuse. This culminated in the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater – the first of its kind – which called on governments and other stakeholders to make groundwater-related commitments as part of the Water Action Agenda.

As the year came to a close, a moment of great significance occurred. For the first time, the declaration from the United Nations Climate Change Conference included 'water'. Not only was this a breakthrough in the integration of climate and water action, but it was also a sign of the unprecedented consensus around the need to mainstream water into all intergovernmental processes – an avenue UN-Water will continue to pursue in the year ahead.

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Highlighted achievements and lessons learned in 2022

Spotlight

“Let us ensure this Conference is the beginning of a new era of accelerated action, driven by your political leadership and by strong, cross-sectoral partnerships that will deliver on water and sanitation far into the future.”

Chair of UN-Water at the Preparatory Meeting of the UN 2023 Water Conference hosted by the President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

Marking a watershed moment for the international community, the UN 2023 Water Conference, to be held in March 2023, will be the first UN-convened Conference on water in nearly half a century, uniting the world’s leaders to tackle the global water crisis. In the preparatory process for this once-in-a-generation event, the 35 UN-Water Members and 45 Partners provided

invaluable substantive support in the form of expertise and outreach to key actors (e.g. UN Resident Coordinators), mobilizing the highest level of stakeholder organizations and holding regional consultations and national dialogues to ensure a cross-sectoral, inclusive and action-oriented approach.

A main outcome of the Conference will be the Water Action Agenda, which is the collection of all water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade and the 2030 Agenda. Building on ongoing efforts and utilizing the political momentum created by the Conference, the aim of the Water Action Agenda will be to rapidly mobilize action across countries, sectors and stakeholders to meet global water and sanitation-related goals and targets.

In 2022, the UN-Water family helped generate voluntary commitments to be added to the Water Action Agenda, focusing on involving different stakeholders and building the ownership at the national level across sectors and actors. As a critical follow up,

UN-Water commenced the development of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) Synthesis Report 2023, which aims to provide a strategic response to the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, including the Water Action Agenda.

Highlighted achievements

COLLECTIVE AND COORDINATED ACTIONS FOR THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

In 2022, the UN-Water family coordinated valuable input and expertise to numerous initiatives related to the UN 2023 Water Conference, including the proposals of the themes of the Interactive Dialogues, the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's report to assess progress in the implementation of the first half of the Water Action Decade, the development of the Concept Papers for the Interactive Dialogues, active participation in the preparatory meeting for the UN 2023 Water Conference and the stakeholder consultation, and the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater.

Throughout 2022, at the regional and country level, UN-Water Members and Partners organized consultations to feed into the preparatory process, with the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6) providing data and evidence. UN-Water also provided technical assistance to 21 UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the lead-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE UN-WATER INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6)

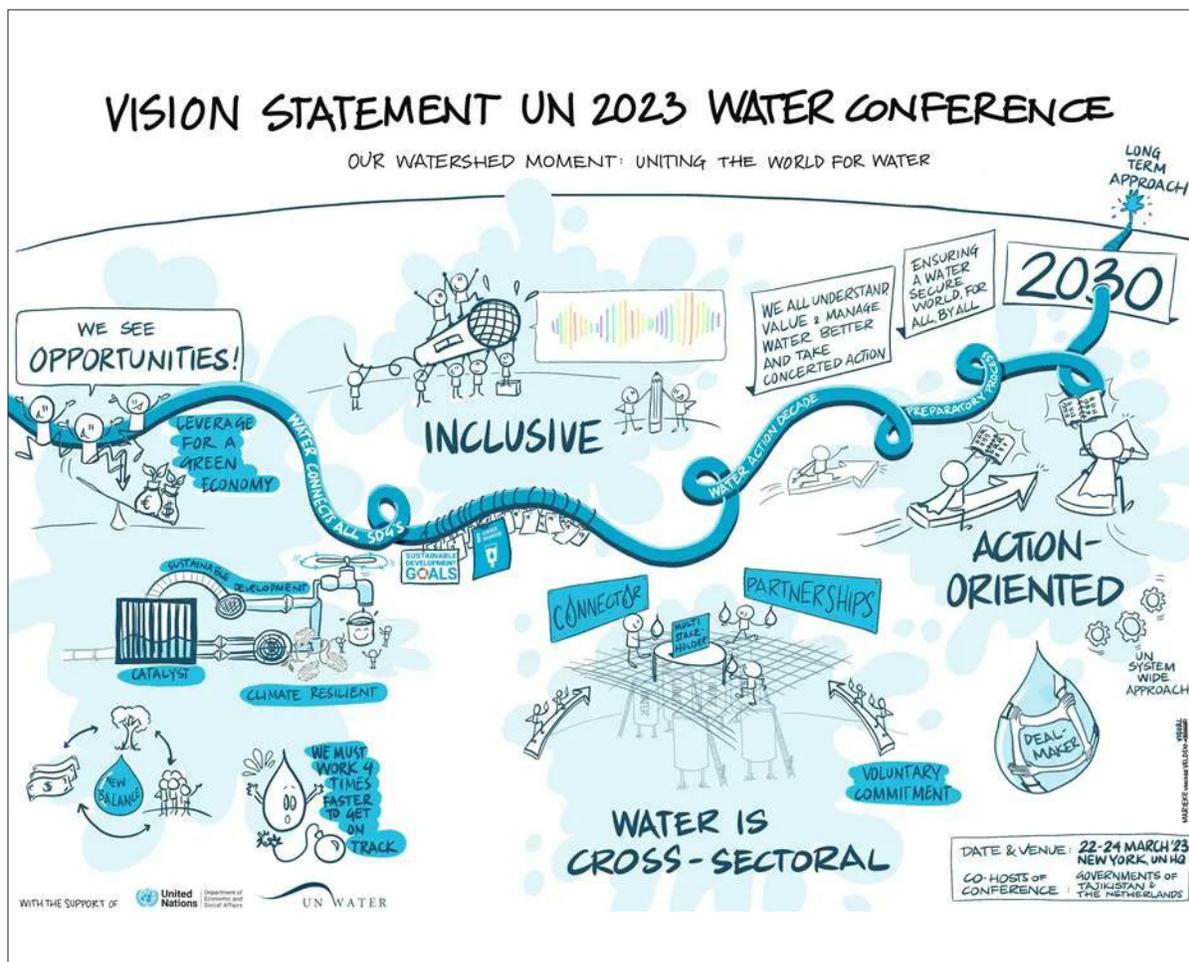
2022 marks the end of Phase 2 (2019-2022) of IMI-SDG6. Phase 2 focused on raising the capacities at national level to collect, report and

make use of national data, and to build national ownership of monitoring and reporting. In 2021-2022, indicator-specific progress reports were launched on all SDG 6 global indicators, as well as an SDG 6 Summary Progress Update, to inform a number of high-level events on overall progress and acceleration needs.

Overall, the midterm review found that the countries that have received intensive support and interaction with custodian agencies for specific SDG 6 targets or IMI-SDG6 tend to be better engaged, have stronger and more sustainable capacity, and demonstrate better rates of reporting. Furthermore, many countries have made requests to custodian agencies for broader involvement in country monitoring systems and for participation in national activities to discuss the monitoring of SDG 6 in an integrated manner.

THE YEAR OF GROUNDWATER

2022 was designated as the year of groundwater, providing the theme for both the World Water Day and World Toilet Day global communications campaigns, and culminating in the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater. Throughout the year, UN-Water coordinated activities to highlight the dependency of humans and ecosystems on groundwater, increased policymakers' understanding of the urgency of better groundwater stewardship, and improved collaboration to strengthen science-based policy and practice. In December 2022, 120 high-level speakers, 700 on-site delegates and 3,000 online participants attended the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, which concluded with a call for governments and other stakeholders to scale up efforts to better manage groundwater and make voluntary commitments to accelerated action at the forthcoming UN 2023 Water Conference.



Vision Statement for UN 2023 Water Conference. Visual developed by Marieke van der Velden.

UN-Water coordinated activities to highlight the dependency of humans and ecosystems on groundwater and increased policymakers' understanding of the urgency of better groundwater stewardship.

Lessons learned

In the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference, UN-Water Members and Partners leveraged their collective strengths, resources and expertise to help ensure the event would address complex water challenges. Through a coordinated approach the UN-Water family avoided duplication of efforts from different organizations and ensured that all stakeholders were aligned and working towards the same goals.

Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues

UN 2023 Water Conference

Unlike for global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity or ocean preservation, the UN does not regularly gather to review, discuss and set a collective vision for the global water crisis. In fact, the last time a conference was held on water under UN auspices was in 1977. Given this, when countries made a historic agreement in 2018 to meet in 2023 at UN Headquarters in New York to discuss water challenges, UN-Water, as a coordinating mechanism, was able to quickly and effectively draw on water and sanitation expertise across the UN systems while including the voices and views of its Partner entities. This was especially helpful in preparing technical inputs such as for the five Interactive Dialogue concept papers. UN-Water Meetings and events provided important moments to share key information, raise interest and awareness around the Water Action Agenda and to help propel the political process towards the UN 2023 Water Conference.

NEGOTIATING MANDATES AND SETTING DIRECTION

In the 2018 UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/73/226, the decision to convene the 2023 Conference for the Midterm

Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) was agreed. Included in the Resolution was the decision to hold the Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, to coincide with World Water Day. Two years later, Member States negotiated Resolution A/RES/75/212 which outlined the modalities of the Conference and conferred several mandates upon UN-Water. UN-Water was invited to support the Secretary-General to continue taking appropriate steps to support and organize the activities of the Water Action Decade and was also requested to support the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the 77th session of the General Assembly assessing progress in the first half of the Decade. The Resolution welcomed the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands as co-hosts of the Conference, while stressing the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities.

In early 2022, the Conference co-hosts agreed on a communications-friendly title: the UN 2023 Water Conference. They also



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, seen here at the High-level International Conference in Dushanbe hosted by the Government of Tajikistan, June 2022.

agreed on an ambitious vision statement which committed the Conference to being inclusive, action-oriented and cross-sectoral.

UN-Water's support to the preparations to the Conference

LEVERAGING THE 36TH UN-WATER MEETING FOR UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

In April 2022, the Permanent Missions of the UN Member States in Geneva were invited to the 36th UN-Water Meeting for an information session on the UN 2023 Water Conference. The UN-Water Chair delivered opening remarks together with the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. They were joined by representatives from the two co-host countries, The Netherlands and Tajikistan, who presented the proceedings of the Conference.

In the discussion that followed, representatives of the Permanent Missions argued that a successful Conference would be inclusive and participatory, ensure the position of water as a catalyst for sustainable development and feed directly into high-level processes like the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and UNGA.

SECOND DUSHANBE WATER DECADE CONFERENCE

As part of the preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Second Dushanbe Water Decade Conference was hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan on 6 to 9 June 2022. The Final Declaration document included the key messages for the UN 2023 Water Conference, calling for consistent application of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, encouraging the utilization of UN-Water's IMI-SDG6 and Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) for SDG 6. During the Dushanbe Conference, the co-hosts introduced the Water Action

Agenda, a critical initiative encouraging Member States and other stakeholders across all sectors to make voluntary commitments to address the global water challenges.

SDG 6 SPECIAL EVENT, HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) JULY 2022

During the HLPF 2022, UN-Water, together with the Conference co-hosts, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan, organized a series of events on water and sanitation to build momentum towards the UN 2023 Water Conference. When the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework was launched in 2020, a yearly “stock-take” on SDG 6 during the HLPF was introduced. The SDG 6 Special Event took place on 13 July 2022 and was co-chaired by the Chair of UN-Water, Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, and the Secretary-General of the UN 2023 Water Conference, Mr. Liu Zhenmin. The 2022 Special Event afforded a moment for the Conference co-hosts, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to announce their proposal for the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue themes. As such, the Special Event served its purpose as a forum for Member States, the UN system and stakeholders to advance the water agenda. H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President-elect of the 77th session of UNGA, said the Conference should aspire for breakthroughs while stressing the need to treat water and climate as global public goods. Representatives from Germany, Egypt, Japan, Portugal and Senegal also spoke on a range of water-related issues at associated events hosted by their respective countries.

On 14 July, UN-Water hosted an SDG 6 Special Event Virtual Dialogue to provide a platform for an in-depth discussion among technical experts on the Water Action Agenda’s voluntary commitments and country level accelerations.

During the HLPF, UN-Water also supported the Conference co-hosts to organize the side event entitled *Water and Climate Adaptation: Two sides of the same coin* to mobilize public and private actors to forge inclusive partnerships and come forward with concrete commitments to deliver on the SDGs and improve climate-resilient integrated water management worldwide in the run up to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

PREPARATORY MEETING AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

In its Resolution A/RES/75/212, the General Assembly requested the President of UNGA hold a one-day preparatory meeting at UN Headquarters in New York to finalize the themes of the Interactive Dialogues and other outstanding organizational matters, ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference prepare proposals for themes of the Interactive Dialogues in a background note, in consultation with Member States, with the support of UN-Water and relevant UN entities.

To respond to the General Assembly’s request, UN-Water Members and Partners conducted several consultations on the possible themes for the Interactive Dialogues, including at the 35th UN-Water Meeting. Following extensive discussions, the UN-Water family developed a proposal containing four options on possible themes. The elected themes were largely based on option 3 and option 4 from UN-Water’s proposal.

On 25 October 2022, the one-day preparatory meeting for the Conference convened by the President of UNGA finalized the themes of the Interactive Dialogues as follows:

SDG 6 SPECIAL EVENT HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2022



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE
NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



United
Nations

UN WATER



SDG 6 Special Event hosted during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at UN headquarters in New York, on 13 July 2022.

- Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (SDG 6.5, 6.6 and 11.5 and SDGs 7, 13, 14, 15);
- Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12);
- Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction (SDG 6.5, 6.6 and 11.5 and SDGs 7, 13, 14, 15);
- Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17);

- Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

The proposed themes are supported by the five accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (Financing, Governance, Data and Information, Capacity Development, and Innovation), and the three principles of the Conference (inclusive, cross-sectoral and action-oriented).

On 24 October, the President of UNGA hosted a stakeholder consultation with around 1,200 stakeholders attending from across the world. The discussions were focused in five roundtables organized along the accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. UN-Water Members and Partners contributed to the discussions on the potential game-changing ideas for the Interactive Dialogues.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

The UN-Water family was mobilized to prepare concept notes for each theme as required by the Modalities Resolution. Five Informal Preparatory Working Groups (IPWGs) were established to provide substantive inputs in accordance with the five themes of the Interactive Dialogues. The IPWGs drew on the respective UN-Water Expert Groups and Task Forces, as UN-Water has existing Expert Groups and Task Forces aligned with all the themes. These co-convenors of the IPWGs were chosen based on the mandate of the organizations and how closely relevant this was to the theme.

Tackling climate change, water scarcity and water pollution were identified as cross-cutting priority areas for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

To support the production of the concept papers, UN-Water held a workshop during the 37th UN-Water Meeting in December 2022, in addition to the IPWG meetings. The purpose was to consult and draw upon the expertise of all UN-Water Members and Partners to formulate concept papers, with a focus on distilling the key messages, exploring interlinkages between the different themes and preparing questions for the panellists of the Interactive Dialogues. The full-day workshop was based on the World Café format, and all participants were invited to conversations with the co-convenors of each theme, rotating between different rooms where the co-convenors were stationed. This included a virtual room, allowing online

participants to take part. The discussions were led by the co-convenors and the outcomes fed into the production of the concept papers.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Regional preparatory meetings for the UN 2023 Water Conference were facilitated by four Regional Commissions among the UN-Water Members: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESWA). While the discussions were varied and the regional experiences differ, a set of key messages as a contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference were agreed upon. Tackling climate change, water scarcity and water pollution were identified as cross-cutting priority areas as well as the need to move away from siloed policymaking and towards Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework was launched in 2020 as a response to the UN Secretary-General's Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The Framework identified five accelerators crucial to achieving SDG 6: Financing, Data and Information, Capacity Development, Innovation, and Governance.

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS FOR ACCELERATING SDG 6

In its third year, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework featured heavily in the preparatory process of the UN 2023 Water Conference, serving as a cross-cutting theme for all forums of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade

Conference. During the Stakeholder Consultation hosted by the President of UNGA on 24 October 2022, a roundtable was held on each accelerator. In the concept papers for the Interactive Dialogues, opportunities for progress on each theme were presented using the Framework.

The Framework was also utilized as an organizing principle in UN processes such as the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, which included sessions on each accelerator. Different UN documents used the Framework during 2022, such as the UNICEF report *State of the World's Drinking Water*, where it was used to present experiences from countries where challenges to providing safely managed drinking water had been addressed. In order to further facilitate the sharing of such best practices between countries, UN-Water began work on country level engagement, developing country acceleration case studies.

COUNTRY LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

The UN-Water Task Force on Country Level Engagement is co-coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO),

UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Task Force aims to drive transformative change in how the UN system and its partners collectively support countries' efforts on SDG 6. The Task Force was established following the UN reform and works through the UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams as part of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and UN-Water's 2030 Strategy.

SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies are examples that are produced to facilitate exchange of information on how accelerated progress on SDG 6 can be achieved. Three case studies will be developed every year and in 2022 the first three case study countries were selected based on their achievements related to SDG 6: Costa Rica, Pakistan and Senegal. The case studies highlighted progress and described enabling conditions and key lessons learned in the country, related to one or several SDG 6 global indicators. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development formed an overarching lens for the case studies, capturing interlinkages and opportunities relevant



Closing of the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, 8 December 2022 at UNESCO HQ in Paris, France.

across sectors and SDGs. The first three case studies were launched and presented at the Stockholm World Water Week in August 2022.

In addition, the 2020-2021 pilot phase of producing Country Acceleration Case Studies was reviewed during 2022, capturing lessons learned and proposing a way forward, highlighting the need to further strengthen coordinated and integrated UN action and leadership in support to countries. To this end, the Task Force contributed to the development of the National Water Roadmaps, led by FAO under the UN-Water umbrella, for which the Task Force will serve as the global core team and facilitate rostered experts from across the UN-Water family. It will also establish links to UN processes in each country including the Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks. The Task Force also supported the development of the UN-Water publication *Cooperation Opportunities for Improved Integration Across SDG 6*, led by UNDP, UNICEF and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

In the lead-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Task Force supported information exchange and the mobilization of commitments to the Water Action Agenda. Specifically, UN-Water organized a clinic for all UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams on the Conference in collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office (UN DCO) in order to facilitate exchange between the UN Resident Coordinators. The clinic also provided an overview of ways that the UN system can support governments in the lead-up to and follow-up after the Conference. Over 100 attendees attended the clinic, including UN Resident Coordinators from 18 countries.

SDG 6 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

In 2021, the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) was separated from the Task Force on Country Level Engagement and established as a

UN-Water initiative. It is co-coordinated by UN DESA and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and consists of 35 UN-Water Members and Partners. Its purpose is to support the Capacity Development accelerator of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and develop the UN system's ability to respond to requests from Member States on water-related capacity building.

During 2022, a draft work plan was developed for the CDI, which included a mapping of each UN-Water Member and Partner's capacity development programmes relevant to water and sanitation. At the 36th UN-Water Meeting the workplan was adopted, thus committing UN-Water Members and Partners to take part in the mapping. The exercise will result in a resource for countries to gain an overview and connect with available capacity development expertise. The first donor dialogue was held in May 2022.

Participating in global processes

THE HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER AT THE 2ND UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

The High-level Symposium on Water, *Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14*, was one of the four Special Events at the 2nd UN Ocean Conference and one of the preparatory events for the UN 2023 Water Conference. The Symposium, on 27 June, hosted by the Government of Portugal, with the support of the Governments of Argentina, Mozambique and Singapore and UN-Water, and in close cooperation with the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands, provided a clear signal of the political, scientific, business, and civil society interest in the interlinkage between SDG 6 and SDG 14 (Life below water). The Symposium aimed to strengthen the interlinkage and communication between the fresh and saltwater communities, helping to ensure

that, at the international level, water is seen as a vital, precious and scarce resource that knows no borders and is integrated into a single cycle.

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP27)

At the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, a second Water Pavilion was hosted 7 to 18 November 2022. Led by the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation with inputs from UN-Water Members and Partners, the Pavilion programme placed water at the heart of climate action and solutions. The UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change coordinated the event *Achieving Climate Change adaptation and mitigation through Water Resilience*, which highlighted the central role of water management in both climate adaptation and

climate mitigation. The discussions showcased how this work can be strengthened through transboundary and basin-level cooperation.

ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE COINCIDING MIDTERM REVIEWS OF THE WATER ACTION DECADE AND THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UN-Water undertook efforts to ensure alignment between the midterm reviews of the Water Action Decade and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. UNDRR, in consultation with UN-Water, UN DESA and the co-chairs of the UN 2023 Water Conference, coordinated a water community survey that was launched during the Second Dushanbe Water Decade Conference in June 2022. The



Photo from Myanmar after deadly cyclone causing heavy rains, winds, and storm surge flooding. UN Photo/UNICEF/Photo Naing Linn Soe

survey collected inputs on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework and supported the identification of adjustments that promote risk-informed regenerative development while sustainably managing water resources and associated ecosystems. The results of the water community survey have been summarised in a report that informed the preparations of the UN 2023 Water Conference as well as the High-level Meeting on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Integrating risk considerations and understanding the systemic nature of risk helps accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 and related goals and provides a connecting tissue between sectors and across SDGs promoting a transition from siloed approaches to resolving water issues.

BIODIVERSITY

In 2020, UN-Water produced the publication 'Response to the Zero-Draft Document from the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020

Global Biodiversity Framework' which laid out the importance of including ambitious targets on freshwater ecosystems to reverse the decline of the earth's biodiversity. In 2022, the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) took place after two years of delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic. COP15 adopted a package of decisions, including decision 15/4 on the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, which calls for enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes in order to implement the Framework in a more efficient and effective manner. Water is explicitly mentioned in targets 2, 3 and 11, with indirect links throughout the entire Framework. The Framework also included the distinction of 'inland waters', differentiating freshwater ecosystems from marine ecosystems, as laid out in the UN-Water publication.

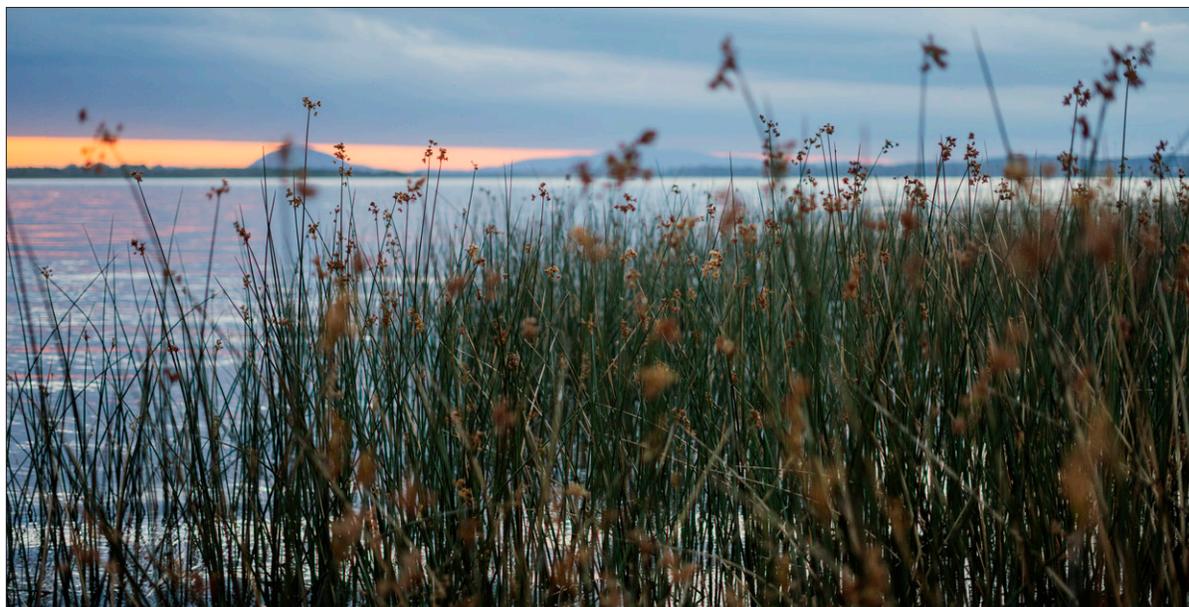


Photo of Santiago Bey in Maldonado, Uruguay. UN Photo/UNICEF/Matilde Campodónico

Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation

When Member States adopted the SDGs in 2015, they committed to regularly reporting data to the UN to track progress and ensure accountability. Credible and timely data are essential to the realization of the SDGs, as they help decision-makers to identify countries, people and sectors that are left behind, and to set priorities for increased efforts and investments. Through IMI-SDG6, UN-Water seeks to support countries in monitoring water and sanitation-related issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in compiling country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6.

Seven years into the 2030 Agenda, and with eight years left to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, there have been two coordinated global data compilation exercises for SDG 6, taking place in 2017 and 2020. Thanks to the great efforts of all country monitoring focal points, water and sanitation data are now available from almost all countries. Based on the country data, global baseline estimates are available for the 12 SDG 6 global indicators, and for 10 of the indicators there are sufficient data to analyze global trends.

In 2022, Phase 2 of IMI-SDG6 (2019-2022) ended, and a lot of effort went into the planning of Phase 3 (2023-2026). This included a thorough “stock-take” of the work to date, with feedback and suggestions from country focal points, the IMI-SDG6 Strategic Advisory Group and an external review. The latter included interviews with many national, regional and global stakeholders. The feedback and suggestions were then incorporated into the Phase 3 project document, logical framework and budget, which was finalized and submitted to donors in September.

During the year, a progress report was published for the indicators on international cooperation and local participation (6.a.1 and 6.b.1, for which the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are custodian agencies). For the indicators on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (6.1.1 and 6.2.1, WHO and UNICEF) and wastewater (6.3.1, WHO and UN-Habitat) a new round of country data compilation and validation was initiated. For other indicators the preparations for the 2023 Data Drive begun. In terms of joint work, the focus was on the organization of a second global workshop for all country focal points, feeding evidence into the preparatory process

for the UN 2023 Water Conference, as well as advancing the work on gender contextualization and water basin disaggregation.

Implementing a coherent, integrated and efficient monitoring framework

In 2022, the UN custodian agencies for the SDG 6 indicators refined their monitoring methodologies and tools to prepare for the 2023 Data Drive, including the following: an SDG Water Quality Hub including functions to quality control data, new guidance for more detailed water quality reporting and improved guidance for water quality target-setting (6.3.2), a protocol for disaggregating water stress data by basins (6.4.2), and the integration of river flows in ecosystem reporting (6.6.1).

In addition, across indicators, the work on gender contextualization continued, with the development of a draft policy tool to support countries to contextualize the SDG 6 global indicators by gender to ensure the consideration of gender issues in their water policies and plans. An online workshop was organized to gather expert feedback on the tool, and pilot testing was initiated in Brazil, and will continue in 2023 in Senegal, Philippines, State of Palestine and Spain.

The work on water basin disaggregation also intensified during the year, with the decision to develop a common SDG 6 Basin Map, to enable harmonized collection, presentation and analysis of water basin data across SDG 6 at all levels, in support of integrated policy- and decision-making and management. A dedicated working group agreed on the



Residents of Tillor Khurd Village in India, testing the water quality with a portable kit. UN Photo/Srikanth Kolari

requirements for the SDG 6 Basin Map, as well as a stepwise process to implement it, starting in 2023 with a draft built on existing basin maps, which then will be continuously improved based on country feedback.

Engaging Member States and enhancing national capacity

During 2022, the data collection and associated capacity building support on the indicators on international cooperation and local participation (6.a.1 and 6.b.1, WHO and OECD) was concluded, with 123 countries submitting the 2021/2022 UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) survey. Technical support was provided to 20 countries for the development of national WASH accounts based on TrackFin methodology.

Meanwhile, a new round of data compilation and validation was initiated for the indicators on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (6.1.1 and 6.2.1, WHO and UNICEF) and wastewater (6.3.1, WHO and UN-Habitat). For the latter, guidance was provided to both national statistical offices and national line ministries, and consultation webinars were organized in Asia, Arab and Africa regions.

For other indicators, the focus was on preparing for the upcoming 2023 Data Drive, and capacity building activities included online workshops (6.3.2, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.6.1), bilateral conversations with countries (6.3.2, 6.5.1, 6.5.2), country-specific capacity development support (6.3.2, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.6.1) and the testing of the use of citizen science in four African countries (6.3.2).

In terms of cross-cutting work, the 2nd Global Workshop on Integrated Monitoring of SDG 6 was held over three days in February, with 317 participants from 119 countries attending, in

addition to 74 participants from 28 international organizations. Thanks to the online format, for the first time the overall and indicator-specific focal points from all participating countries could join at the same time. The global workshop offered a platform to take stock of country experience to date, including on data use for policy- and decision-making at various levels, and to discuss country needs and how these might be addressed during the upcoming third phase of IMI-SDG6. Ahead of the workshop, all focal points within each country were encouraged to convene a meeting together and jointly respond to a short voluntary assignment. This exercise, which served to support the establishment of a cross-sectoral dialogue on SDG 6 monitoring at the national level, was completed by 30 countries.

To support countries' use of data for refining national targets and/or for informed planning and management, a number of indicator-specific activities were offered, including three high-level events focusing on the use of wastewater data for fundraising and investment decisions (6.3.1); support on water quality target-setting in three countries (6.3.2); development of IWRM roadmaps for nine countries (6.5.1); and outreach to 23 international, regional and basin organizations on the use of data to improve transboundary cooperation (6.5.2).

All focal points also received regular updates about the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory process, with an encouragement to contribute evidence to their national processes and voluntary commitments. This included a dedicated webinar in September, for which 127 countries registered and in which 267 participants attended.

Information about Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and the role of data and evidence in this process was sent to all 41 countries



Fishermen gather their nets in at dawn on the shores of Lake Turkana, the world largest permanent desert lake.
UN Photo/Nichole Sobecki

who had signed up for a VNR in 2023, with an email to all monitoring focal points in the country (encouraging them to engage in the process), a separate email to the VNR focal points in the country (if existing) informing them about available data and focal points, and an article targeting the UN Country Teams in the UN DCO Policy Bulletin.

Reporting on global progress

Throughout 2022, IMI-SDG6 systematically provided data and evidence to the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory process, including the regional consultations. This included tailor-made key messages on SDG 6 status and progress to the Conference organizers, the Regional Commissions and

other sectors (e.g. oceans and climate). The IMI-SDG6 agencies also provided data-driven contributions to the five Interactive Dialogues of the Conference and used the data to identify a set of countries that have made great progress on the different SDG 6 targets, for inspiration and learning, in the forthcoming IMI-SDG6 Acceleration Snapshots and the UN-Water 2023 Country Acceleration Case Studies.

Indicator-specific progress updates were published for 6.a.1 and 6.b.1 in December. The SDG 6 Data Portal was launched in French and Spanish, while the monitoring website was migrated to the UN-Water website and the content fully reworked.

Key results of IMI-SDG6 Phase 2 (2019-2022)

- **Focal points** were established in nearly all UN Member States, including overall focal points in 134 UN Member States. If a country has focal points for all 12 SDG 6 global indicators, an SDG 6 overall focal point and an SDG contact in the National Statistical Office, it is considered to have a full set of focal points (13 in total). In 2022, the average UN Member State had 9.9 focal points.
- **Capacity building** carried out in nearly all Member States, ranging from technical helpdesk support to webinars and online courses to country workshops. 185 UN Member States participated in cross-cutting activities, such as the global workshop, webinars on SDG 6 wide topics, and the IMI-SDG6 community of practice.
- **Institutional processes for integrated monitoring** at the national level promoted in 33 Member States, through a voluntary country assignment, country webinars and bilateral conversations.
- In 2022, the average UN Member State **reported on 8.5 of the SDG 6 indicators**, which is an increase from 4.7 in 2018.
- **2nd global workshop** organized for all country focal points, attended by about 400 participants from 119 countries and 28 international organizations.
- **Global baseline estimates published for all 12 SDG 6 indicators, and trend analysis on 10 indicators.** In 2022, 9 of the indicators were classified as Tier I by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG), meaning that data on the indicators are regularly produced by a majority of countries, and the remaining 3 indicators were classified as Tier II, meaning that data are not yet regularly produced by a majority of countries.
- **SDG 6 Data Portal** launched and translated into French and Spanish, with over 60,000 visitors per year.
- **Indicator progress updates** published at least once for all 12 SDG 6 indicators, with an average of over 2,000 downloads per publication and year.
- **2021 Summary Progress Update** published to inform the 2021 President of the General Assembly (PGA) meeting and feed evidence into the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference, with more than 15,000 downloads in 2021-2022.
- Draft approaches for **gender contextualization** developed and pilot testing started.
- Requirements and process for developing a joint **SDG 6 Basin Map** specified.

Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action

Ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, 2022 was a year to prepare and lay the ground for this watershed moment. The theme of the year's World Water Day and World Toilet Day was 'Groundwater' and the year ended with the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, the first of its kind. UN-Water's Members and Partners worked together during the preparatory process for the Conference to position water and sanitation issues higher on the global agenda.

Managing a knowledge hub on water and sanitation

In 2022, an exhaustive website migration was completed to comply with the latest technological and security standards of UN websites. The migration also enabled the UN-Water website to better showcase and promote popular pages and to bring the IMI-SDG 6 website under www.unwater.org. This integration enabled a strengthening of the UN-Water brand where users can now find information on all of UN-Water's work in one place. One of the important features of the UN-Water website is the refreshed section on About UN-Water, which is now

cross-referenced to enable users to get a more coherent understanding of UN-Water Members' and Partners' activities.

After the migration, at the end of 2022, the enhanced UN-Water website had around 2.2 million page views, a 47 per cent increase from 2021. The most visited pages were the home page with news and highlights, followed by the water facts pages on water scarcity, climate change, WASH and human rights. In total, all the UN-Water websites generated around 3.3 million page views, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year, with over 170,000 downloads of publications, fact sheets and other materials.

In addition to UN-Water-created content and news, users were also able to access in-depth analysis and news on water and sanitation through the Knowledge Hub – a partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Several Members and Partners also published guest articles in this space (www.sdg.iisd.org/sdgs/goal-6-clean-water-sanitation), allowing for a broader readership base and reach, for example for the UN-Water GLAAS report launch or the IMI-SDG6 Acceleration Snapshots. IISD also

continued to report on the UN-Water Meetings enabling the wider community to get rapid insight to conversations and decisions.

The appetite for sharing information and curating a one-stop-shop on knowledge was reflected in the growth (7 per cent) of UN-Water's LinkedIn group, Pipe Professionals. At the end of 2022, the group had almost 17,000 members, posting on average 60 posts per month. The UN-Water LinkedIn page increased by 140 per cent during 2022, reaching a total of 27,000 members at the end of the year. In preparing for the UN 2023 Water Conference, the page enabled the community to keep abreast of events, projects and campaigns, and find synergies for their work.

Informing, engaging and inspiring action

In 2022, World Water Day, World Toilet Day and the UN World Water Development Report focused on the theme of 'Groundwater', with the campaign slogan "Making the invisible visible".

At the 34th UN-Water Meeting in 2019, the decision was taken to organize a UN-Water Summit on Groundwater in December 2022 at UNESCO, Paris, as a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The Summit featured 120 high-level speakers joined by 700 on-site delegates and 3,000 online participants and concluded with a call for governments and other stakeholders to scale up efforts to better manage groundwater and make voluntary commitments to accelerated action at the forthcoming UN 2023 Water Conference.

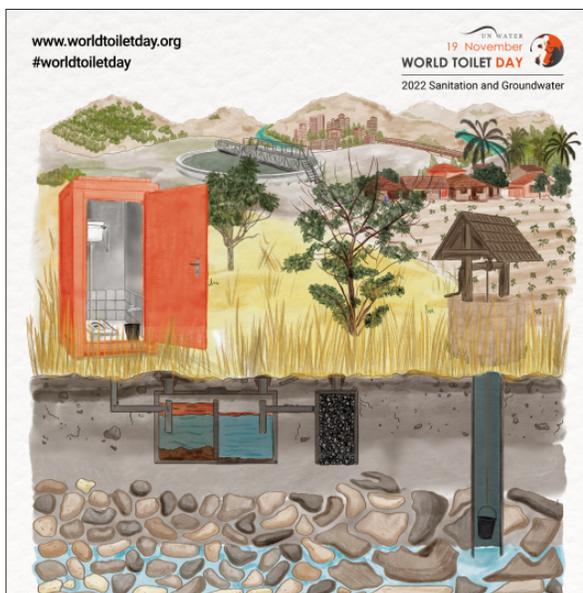
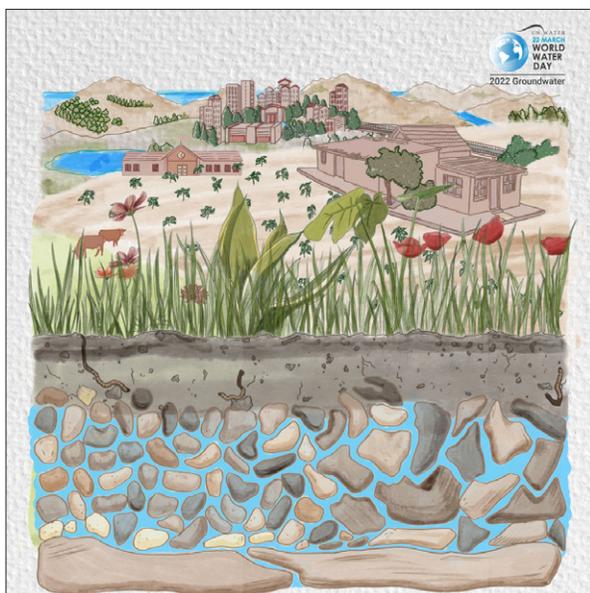
The World Water Day 2022 Task Force was coordinated by UNESCO and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), with WHO and UNICEF added for the

coordination of World Toilet Day. Together with many Members and Partners, they carried out two successful campaigns, highlighting the dependency of humans and ecosystems on groundwater, increased policymakers' understanding of the urgency of better groundwater stewardship, and enhanced collaboration to strengthen the interface between science, policy and practice.

Both campaigns had dedicated websites and social media outreach, engaging the audience by inviting people to learn more about the topic through the UN World Water Development Report and activities and reports from UN-Water Members and Partners, by sharing and amplifying the material from the website and the dedicated Trello board, and by encouraging people to take action by, for example, engaging in a photo contest or organizing their own promotional activities.

World Water Day and its pivot event, which featured the launch of the UN World Water Development Report, was organized at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, and a major event was organized for World Toilet Day in New York by the Permanent Missions of Singapore, India, Nigeria, Tajikistan and the Netherlands with the support of UNICEF and UN-Water to kick off UNICEF's advocacy initiative to accelerate progress on sanitation. The inflatable toilet was stationed outside the UN headquarters, attracting attention from passers-by and providing a backdrop for images posted to social media. The World Toilet Day campaign materials featured the launch of a stamp graphic – 'Countdown to 2023: Sanitation for all' – to help remind the world that time is running out.

The focus on groundwater was seen in the results on social media where the World Water Day 2022 campaign generated more mentions



Campaign visuals for World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2022, with a thematic focus on groundwater.

than World Water Day 2021. One reason for the higher engagement could be that the theme was relatively easy to understand for a large audience compared to the theme of valuing water in 2021. It could also indicate that groundwater is an engaging topic that is a local issue of concern in many areas.

Overall, the impressions reached 8.7 billion with an online mention of World Water Day at 817,000, the highest number of mentions since 2017. This was a positive indication that the framing of the campaign drove discussions. The campaign slogan “Making the invisible visible” broke through effectively, thanks to UN-Water Members and Partners and the engaged community driving conversations, with a total of 150,000 unique contributing authors.

However, the number of unique authors dropped by 58 per cent and landed at the same level as in 2020 when the public’s attention was drawn to the COVID-19 pandemic. This indicates that this year’s campaign had a lower capability to generate wider

discussions among a broad audience but that the contributing authors had stronger voices on social media in their own community.

Geographically, the coverage increased from 113 countries in 2021 to 204 countries and territories in 2022. India continued to drive most traffic and conversation, and increased its share of total mentions from 29 per cent in 2021 to 32 per cent in 2022. Similar to previous years, the United States was the second biggest country in terms of traffic and conversation, and represented 11 per cent of the mentions.

The attention in South America was also highly visible, where the total number of mentions in South American countries constituted 17 per cent of the total mentions. Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and Chile had the most conversations and Spain was, as previous years, one of the most active countries in Europe. For the first time, China was among the top 10 countries driving traffic.

For World Toilet Day, conversations took place in 147 countries, which is an increase from 116 countries in 2021. India continued to be the country with the most mentions and increased its share of voice from 26 per cent to 39 per cent. In total, 18 per cent of mentions stemmed from Africa and 46 per cent from Asia. Several news outlets were among the most influential actors in terms of followers, contributing in-depth stories often focused on local issues.

“As we face an uncertain future, there is an urgent need to protect groundwater from pollution and use it sustainably, balancing the needs of people and the planet.” Gilbert F. Hounqbo, Chair of UN-Water.

Building on the development, together with UN DESA, of the dedicated webspace for the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework in 2020, this space continued to be a strong feature of UN-Water’s efforts to inform policymakers and the wider water community. As the web space also integrated a function for adding voluntary commitments for the Conference, it provided an entry point for stakeholders to engage in the commitments for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Throughout the year, UN-Water supported or participated in 35 relevant global celebrations and events such as the UN Secretary-General’s call to action on WASH in healthcare facilities, World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, World Water Week in Stockholm, World Wetlands Day, International Women’s Day, World Meteorological Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day, International Youth Day, Hand Hygiene Day, World Food Day, World Cities Day and Human Rights Day.

Strengthening the UN-Water corporate brand

UN-Water’s corporate communications continued to be guided by the overall cause-based and audience-centric UN global communications strategy that enables the UN to offer real-life examples and ways problems can be solved, rather than simply communicating to draw people’s attention. This positive approach helped UN-Water’s social media outreach achieve a steady growth in 2022 across its channels on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with the total number of followers reaching 575,330 – an increase of 11 per cent from 2021. One noteworthy growth is on LinkedIn, where the engagement rate grew by 140 per cent due to an increased focus on sharing relevant content, especially linked to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

In 2022, there was an increase of followers from Africa, particularly in Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya. In Asia, Pakistan and India remained strong voices. In Latin America, conversations were most impactful in Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and Chile. In all regions, conversations were more focused on local issues than in previous average posts.

UN-Water’s *Goal of the month* feature on social media, a concept introduced in 2020, helped increase followers and position the brand by focusing the audience’s attention on one SDG per month and how it links to water. Using simple, eye-catching design and short animations, coupled with clear, engaging messages, the audiences showed the most interest and engagement in topics relating to water’s relevance to climate change, sustainability, and human rights. The posts with the most impressions discussed plastic use, biodiversity loss, wetland decline, and groundwater’s role in adapting to climate change.

There was significant interest in posts on human rights centred around the high proportion of the global population that lacks access to safe water and sanitation. This shows the great potential for engagement around water and human rights issues, particularly when specific situations and human-interest stories are featured. Another important social media finding from 2022 was that local issues drove engagement on all social media channels and had the highest share of voice. This was also seen in the launch of the UN-Water GLAAS report at the end of 2022 where the availability of segmented data was prominent. The communications around the report, done jointly with WHO, proved successful, with major digital and media uptake.

One important factor in strengthening the corporate brand in 2022 was the focus on reaching outside the water community. This was done both through the *Goal of the month* on social media, and by the UN-Water Office Bearers and other representatives who participated in activities like the World Water Forum in Senegal and the World Water Week in Stockholm.

At the end of 2022, an opinion editorial by the UN-Water Chair focusing on the outcomes of the climate negotiations at COP27 was placed across seven regions with good uptake. On social media, the UN Principals' and other Heads of organizations' support for water and sanitation was showcased in a special series of quote cards designed for sharing and re-posting. This enabled the UN-Water Members and Partners' communications departments to easily communicate the importance of water and sanitation at the highest level.

Another strong feature of UN-Water's corporate branding is the UN-Water communications network, The Pipe. The group held its meetings throughout the year, focusing on sharing information, amplifying each other's initiatives, assisting each other with contacts or sources and learning about the latest communication trends and development. At the end of 2022, a major update of The Pipe contact list was undertaken, and a survey conducted to understand the group's expectations and needs.



On the front lawn of the UN headquarters in New York the giant inflatable toilet, standing over four meters tall, reappeared after a three-year absence due to COVID- related restrictions. UN Photo/Cheng Li

Governance and financial aspects

Documents

UN-Water's activities in 2022 were guided by the UN-Water 2030 Strategy and UN-Water Work Programme 2022–2023. All governance documents can be accessed at www.unwater.org/about-unwater/governance.

Annual UN-Water Meetings

With pandemic-related measures gradually easing and travel resuming around the world, it was possible to hold the 36th and 37th UN-Water Meetings in person at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO headquarters in Geneva and Paris, respectively. The Meetings focused largely on preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference and featured updates from the Conference co-hosts and the Conference Secretariat as well as strategic discussions and an information session for Permanent Missions in Geneva.

At the 36th Meeting on 7 and 8 April, the UN-Water family decided to pursue the work of the Task Force on Country Level Engagement following its pilot phase in 2020-21; planned for the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater; learned about the outcomes of the World Water Day campaign and planned for the World Toilet

Day campaign; and made key decisions on the publication of the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 on Water and Sanitation.

IMI-SDG6 and CDI for SDG 6 provided updates on their work and, by approving the roadmap for the promotion and protection of human rights to water and sanitation, UN-Water's Members and Partners reaffirmed their commitment to upholding and further integrating human rights in their work. During an interactive session focused on climate change and water, participants reflected on opportunities to highlight water at the upcoming 27th COP27.

The 37th Meeting on 5 and 6 December focused primarily on UN-Water's contribution to the Conference. UN-Water's Members and Partners worked in breakout groups to discuss the concept papers presented by the Informal Preparatory Working Groups, distil their key messages and prepare guiding questions for the Interactive Dialogues' panellists at the Conference. The Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda updated participants on progress in the production of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023. During a panel discussion, participants reflected on the role of stakeholders in operationalizing the Water Action Agenda, focusing on how water solutions can be presented to stakeholders beyond the water sector. Participants were updated on the outcomes of the World Toilet

Day campaign and discussed the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, taking place immediately after the UN-Water Meeting.

UN-Water Joint Steering Group

The Joint Steering Group steers the operational management of UN-Water in-between UN-Water Meetings. In 2022, it reviewed three applications for Partner status received during the year.

UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund

The UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund is administered by the UN Office for Project Services. The indicative financial status¹ in 2022 is presented below as the total for targeted and core coordination activities :

Balance forward (2021): USD 2,157,325

Income (2022):	
Austria:	USD 397,200
Germany:	USD 308,642
Netherlands:	USD 169,590
Sweden:	USD 568,632
Switzerland:	USD 2,219,664
Interest (2022):	USD 4,616
Total income without balance forward from 2022:	USD 3,668,345
Total income including balance forward from 2022:	USD 5,825,670
Total expenditure (2022):	USD 4,276,418
Balance (31 December 2022):	USD 1,410,594

Progress overview

During 2022, UN-Water's governance operations included two well-attended in-person UN-Water Meetings. UN-Water welcomed two new Members – the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) – keen on embedding their respective water-related activities into those of the wider UN system, to deliver as one.

In addition to existing funding agreements with Sweden and Switzerland and remaining targeted funds from BMZ (the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Germany), a new funding arrangement has been agreed with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs covering the period 2022-2030. UN-Water also initiated the negotiation of new funding agreements with Switzerland, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Austrian Development Agency, and the European Commission.

¹ The figures presented in this report may be subject to minor changes in the final certified financial report.

Annex 1. Members and Partners

Members

(35 as at December 2022)

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Programmes and funds

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Regional Commissions

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

World Bank Group (WB)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Other entities

United Nations University (UNU)

United Nations-related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Partners

(45 as at December 2022)

AquaFed

CDP

Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)

Conservation International

Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Green Climate Fund (GCF)*

Human Right 2 Water (HR2W)

International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)

International Association for Water Law (AIDA)

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

International Water Association (IWA)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)	Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation*	Water.org
Public Services International (PSI)	WaterAid
Ramsar Convention	Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)
Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)	World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) *	World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)
Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)*	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future	World Water Council (WWC)
Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Toilet Board Coalition (TBC)	World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)
United Nations Global Compact*	
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)	* Partner with Special Status

Annex 2. Expert Groups and Task Forces

Expert Groups²

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [UNEP]

With a focus on the 2030 Agenda, this Expert Group advises on the strategic scope of UN-Water's engagement in the 2030 Agenda and coordinates interventions among UN-Water's Members and Partners. During 2022, the Expert Group was supporting the implementations and activities around the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. For example, the Expert Group developed the country case studies to support learning and sharing of good practices among countries. In addition, the Expert Group led on the development of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report as an official input to the HLPF 2023 and the in-depth review of SDG 6.

Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [UNICEF, WHO]

This Expert Group brings together the technical experience of the UN and other relevant experts to support ongoing global initiatives on WASH. In 2022, the Expert Group on WASH took the lead on developing the Concept Paper for the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive

Dialogue on Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation. In addition, the Expert Group on WASH coordinated the World Toilet Day 2022 campaign.

Regional Level Coordination [UNESCWA, UNESCAP]

The Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination was formed in 2019 from the former Task Force on Regional Level Coordination. In 2022, the Expert Group organized regional consultations to support the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]

The UN-Water Expert Group on Transboundary Waters provides a platform to coordinate inputs to policy processes related to transboundary waters. The Group coordinates awareness-raising and outreach efforts supporting transboundary water cooperation and promotes coherence in activities by UN-Water Members and Partners in the area of transboundary waters. In 2022, the Expert Group led on the development of the Concept Paper for the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue on Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and

² Expert Group coordinators in square brackets.

International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.

Water and Climate Change
[UNECE, UNESCO, WMO]

This Expert Group strengthens UN system coordination of activities related to water and climate change to support Member States in assessing the impacts of climate change on water and to adopt strategies for meeting the challenges of climate change in terms of both adaptation and mitigation in the related water sub-sectors. In 2022, the Expert Group co-hosted an event during COP 27. Furthermore, the Expert Group together with UNDRR developed the Concept Paper for the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue on Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Water Quality and Wastewater [UNEP]

This Expert Group brings together the UN and other relevant expertise on water quality and wastewater. It also provides the platform to share information on, and convene interested parties to join, the World Water Quality Assessment (mandated by UN Environment Assembly).

Water Scarcity [FAO]

This Expert Group brings together expertise on water scarcity and droughts, working closely with and in support of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), launched by FAO in 2017. In 2022, the Expert Group contributed to the FAO publication *The State of Land and Water for Food and Agriculture*.

Task Forces³

Country Level Engagement [UNDP, UNICEF, FAO]

The Task Force developed a strategy to strengthen UN-Water's engagement at the country level. This was in direct response to a recommendation made during the most recent external review of UN-Water. The Task Force provided technical assistance to 21 UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in the lead up to the UN 2023 Water Conference: Mauritania, Mauritius, Kyrgyzstan, Samoa, Vietnam, Colombia, Ecuador, Tanzania, Nigeria, Burundi, Comoros, Iraq, Djibouti, Bolivia, Zambia, Honduras, Serbia, Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal and Costa Rica.

Water Action Decade Implementation
[UN DESA, UNU]

Given the alignment of the 2018 UN General Assembly resolution on the "Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028", the Task Force led preparations for the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. In 2022, the Task Force supported the Water Action Decade processes in New York. The Task Force developed the concept paper for the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue on Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

³ Task Force coordinators in square brackets.

World Water Day 2022 [UNESCO and IGRAC]

The World Water Day 2022 Task Force coordinated World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2022, as well as the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater. Under the theme of 'Groundwater', the 2022 campaign generated a global, public conversation on social media about the importance of groundwater. The overarching message of the campaign was that exploring, protecting and sustainably using groundwater will be central to surviving and adapting to climate change and meeting the needs of a growing population.

Annex 3. Human Resources

Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Gilbert F. Houngbo, Chair, UN-Water

Kelly Ann Naylor, Vice-Chair,
UN-Water (until October 2022)

Johannes Cullmann, Vice-Chair,
UN-Water (from November 2022)

Madhushree Chatterjee, Secretary, UN-Water

Abou Amani, UNESCO

Eva Mach, IOM

Sonja Koeppel, UNECE

Daniel Tsegai, UNCCD (until April 2022)

Sasha Koo-Oshima, FAO (from April 2022)

UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit and others

Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser

Daniella Boström Couffe,
Communications Manager

Leanne Burney, Programme Officer

William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer

Maria Schade, Global Monitoring Specialist

Klas Moldéus, Technical Officer

Cheng Li, Technical Officer

Ulrike Kelm, Communications Specialist

Tomoyuki Okada/Eun Hee Lee, Special
Assistant to the Secretary (UN DESA)

Tamara Slowik, Administrative Assistant

Sarah Fragnière, Administrative Assistant



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