

Collaborative Implementation Plan

2025-2028

July 2025

UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM-WIDE
STRATEGY FOR
**WATER AND
SANITATION**



United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation
Collaborative Implementation Plan 2025-2028
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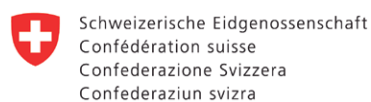
UN-Water, 2025

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Chair's message

Sustainably managed water and sanitation are essential for development, climate resilience, public health and peace.

Yet, billions of people still live without these human rights, making the fight against hunger, disease, inequality, instability, climate change and ecological breakdown even more of an uphill battle.

In response, countries have called for greater, more unified support from the international community to accelerate results – a call which led to the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

Now, the Strategy has its first Collaborative Implementation Plan, backed by the highest levels of UN leadership.

To support country-level progress over the next four years, UN-Water Members will 'deliver as one' through six Priority Collaborative Actions, ensuring a more holistic and integrated approach for faster and greater impact.

And, through more than 150 Contributing Actions already committed to by UN entities and partners, we will align efforts and leverage existing mandates within and beyond the water sector to maximum effect.

The vision of the Strategy and the essence of the Plan is to bring the UN system, governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders together to tackle the world's most pressing problems through the lens of our most precious resource.

We will continue to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss by mainstreaming these issues into global policy dialogues on food, energy, gender, and into the three Rio Conventions.

The two upcoming UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028 will be landmark opportunities for countries to deliberate on water and sanitation as critical issues.

Today, the need for multilateral cooperation through the UN system has never been so acute – and the imperative to accelerate progress on water and sanitation has never been so well supported.

As the UN's foundational values are put under strain, our efficient and impactful collaboration and cooperation around water can be a model for tackling all the shared issues we face.

In a world facing deepening uncertainty, this Plan is a commitment to practical multilateralism that can transform lives – and to ensure water becomes a driving force for a more just, secure and sustainable world.

Alvaro Lario

President of the International Fund for
Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Chair of UN-Water

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I. Introduction

The first United Nations (UN) System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation (to be referred to as the Strategy) marks an important milestone in the UN system's decades-long work on water and sanitation.¹ Mandated by Member States, the Strategy responds to the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and Water Action Agenda, which elevated water as a central priority across the UN.

The Strategy brings together the UN system's work through a unified approach for UN entities² and their diverse network of partners to work collaboratively on water and sanitation – not as a sector in a 'silo', but holistically to address the interrelated cross-sectoral aspects of water and sanitation as a driver for sustainable development, human rights and peace.

The Strategy enhances UN system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation priorities supporting countries to accelerate progress on national plans and priorities, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, the realization of human rights, and transformative solutions. This will be achieved by fully operationalizing inter-agency coordination, capitalizing on reforms of the UN development system, and leveraging upscaled water and sanitation action of UN entities and partners at all levels³ to provide more strategic, effective, coherent, collaborative and efficient support to Member States. To guide the implementation of the Strategy, UN-Water⁴ has developed this Collaborative Implementation Plan for 2025-2028.⁵

Purpose and objectives. For decades, the UN system has been actively working on water and sanitation issues and there are already many existing examples of effective

joint programming. Building on this experience, the Collaborative Implementation Plan initiates a common set of forward-looking, transformative, system-wide actions that UN entities and its partners can implement together in response to the higher level of ambition set forth in the Strategy.

The Collaborative Implementation Plan supports the implementation of the Strategy in the following ways:

- (a) Identify time-bound actions towards achieving the Strategy outputs and outcomes;
- (b) Show the contributions by UN entities and partners and collectively by the UN system to facilitate synergies, address gaps and avoid duplication of efforts;
- (c) Provide a basis for alignment of water and sanitation components of UN entities' strategic plans, work programmes, and results and resources frameworks and development of joint programming and programmes;⁶
- (d) Serve as a common framework to jointly review and monitor progress on the Strategy;
- (e) Help facilitate mobilization of additional funding to collectively implement the Strategy.

Approach. As this is the first Collaborative Implementation Plan of the first Strategy, the approach is designed to be flexible and to adapt to needs and available resources and capacities. The Collaborative Implementation Plan and its four-year cycle are aligned with the orientations provided by Member States through the adoption of the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive

1 UN-Water (2024), United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>; and UN System (2024), Chief Executives Board for Coordination, Summary of deliberations CEB/2024/1/Add.2. Available at: <https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>

2 For the purposes of the Collaborative Implementation Plan, the term "UN entities" refers to specialized agencies, funds and programmes, Secretariat offices and departments, other entities and bodies, and related organizations according to the United Nations, *UN System Chart* (2023). As such, UN-Water Members are, by definition, "UN entities".

3 According to the CEB *common principles to guide the UN system's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, stakeholders include governments, parliaments, the scientific and academic community, civil society, the private sector, the international community and the UN system. Additionally, supporting actions at all levels can promote multi-stakeholder involvement, including civil society, concerned populations, local communities, private sector, women and youth (para. 148). This includes recognizing and supporting Indigenous knowledge holders, women and youth in national, local and international water and sanitation policies and decision-making processes (para. 83). UN, *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028* (New York, 2023). A/CONF.240/2023/10. "All levels" refers to global, regional, transboundary, national, sub-national and local levels.

4 UN-Water is the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for water and sanitation. Information is available at: <https://www.unwater.org/about-un-water>

5 UN-Water (2024), United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>. See Annex 1. Approach to the collaborative implementation plan, A. Terms of Reference.

6 UN Sustainable Development Group, Guidance Note on a New Generation of Joint Programmes (2022). Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/guidance-note-new-generation-joint-programmes>

Policy Review (QCPR) resolution 79/226 by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2024.⁷ For the first time, a specific request from Member States related to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 has been included in the QCPR resolution (see box A). The Collaborative Implementation Plan actions have been developed and calibrated in response to the 2024 QCPR resolution and strategic landscape over the four-year cycle (see section II).

Achieving the ambitious outcomes of the Strategy will require individual and collective action by the UN system and its diverse network of partners. Actions to implement the Collaborative Implementation Plan are grouped into two categories: (i) 'Priority Collaborative Actions' undertaken by the UN system and its partners together (see section III) and (ii) 'Contributing Actions' taken by UN entities and partners within their respective strategies, workplans and budgets (see section IV). The needs and priorities of developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Least Developed Countries and other special circumstances, including those countries affected by and recovering from conflict and disaster-induced displacement, as well as those hosting migrants and displaced populations facing acute WASH challenges, will be emphasized, as appropriate.

The coordination, review, monitoring and reporting arrangements for the Collaborative Implementation Plan build upon and strengthen the existing UN-Water inter-agency coordination mechanism, alongside other UN system processes (see section V). A detailed indicative budget is presented with the costs for the first two years (2025-2026) of the Priority Collaborative Action workplans (see section VI). An additional large share of the resources required to implement the Collaborative Implementation Plan come from in-kind support and staff time from UN-Water Members and Partners as well as the foundation costs of UN-Water's coordination activities.

The Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework follows the results chain of the Strategy (see figure 1). It is structured around the five Entry Points and contributes towards the achievement of the five outcomes. Both Priority Collaborative Actions and Contributing Actions are part of the Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework (see section VII). UN-Water will refine this approach progressively over time based on lessons learned.

Process. Following the approval of the Strategy by the High-level Committee on Programmes during its 47th session and endorsement by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination during its first regular session of 2024, UN-Water under the leadership of the UN-Water Chair was mandated to develop a Collaborative Implementation Plan. The Collaborative Implementation Plan has been developed and shaped through a consultative, co-creation process with UN-Water Members and Partners,⁸ including in-depth discussions and decisions during the 39th, 40th, and 41st UN-Water Meetings and virtual technical consultations.

⁷ UN General Assembly resolution 79/226 adopted on 19 December 2024, available at: <https://undocs.org/a/res/79/226>.

⁸ UN-Water comprises Members representing UN entities and Partners representing non-UN system actors. The full list is available on the UN-Water website at <https://www.unwater.org/about-un-water/members-and-partners>.

Box A. Water and sanitation in the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolution

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is the mechanism through which the UN General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development. The QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts.

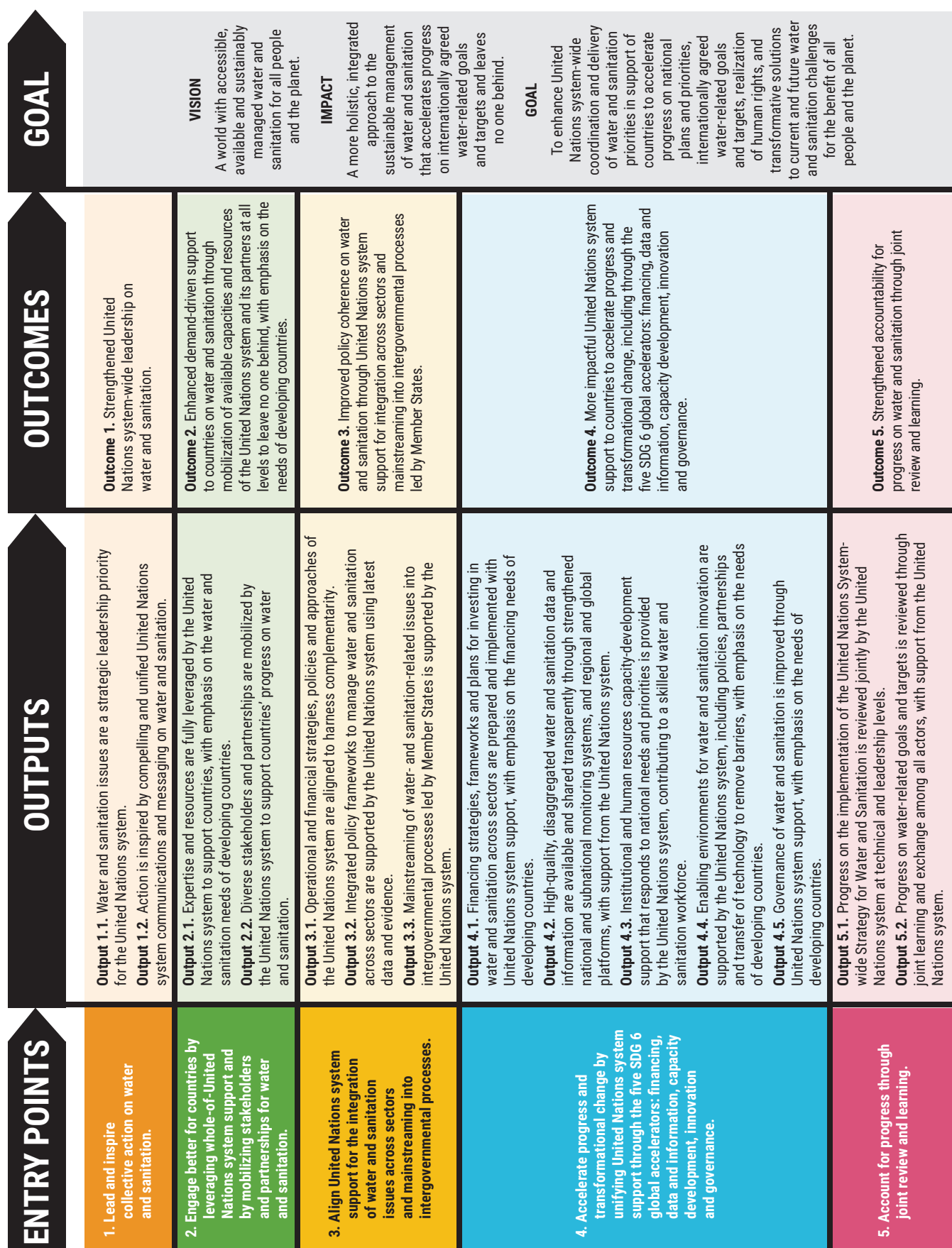
Water and sanitation are included in the 2024 QCPR resolution 79/226, in paragraph 28:

28. Also requests the United Nations development system to strengthen actions to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 in programme countries, upon request, in line with national priorities, needs and plans, acknowledging that water and sanitation are critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty;

This request from Member States is an important opportunity for greater prioritization and upscaling of the UN system's work to support acceleration of SDG 6 through the implementation of the Strategy over the next four years.

Sources: UN Economic and Social Council website, <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/oas-qcpr>, accessed on 27 April 2025; and resolution 79/226 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2024, available at: <https://undocs.org/a/res/79/226>.

Figure 1. Summary of the results chain for the Strategy





II. Strategic landscape – 2025 to 2028

This section presents the barriers and opportunities for the UN system's work on water and sanitation over the next four years.

Accelerating progress on SDG 6 – the need for speed

At the halfway mark, progress remains off track on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and many of its SDGs, including SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.¹ While there has been modest improvement on some indicators of SDG 6, progress has been slow, fragmented and under-resourced.² Falling short on water and sanitation targets undermines sustainable development and can even threaten hard-won gains in areas such as health, gender, jobs, environment, food security, education, energy, resilience, economic development and stability. Over the next four years, the pace of implementation will need to be significantly increased to advance progress towards water- and sanitation-related goals and targets by 2030.

However, there are positive and encouraging signs of progress. The most recent SDG 6 Progress Reports based on the 2024 Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG 6) data drive shows modest gains across eight global indicators since the previous reporting cycle in 2020, with only one indicator showing no change and four experiencing declines.³ Countries are demonstrating leadership and commitment to prioritizing SDG 6 and accelerating progress, as demonstrated by the UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies.⁴

To close the financing gap for SDG 6 will require different approaches and new partnerships. Public funding alone cannot meet the massive investment needs. Overall trends show a decreasing share of official development assistance (ODA) disbursements directed to water- and sanitation-related sectors.⁵ There is growing urgency to develop new

financial instruments, including blended finance mechanisms to ‘crowd in’ private capital to complement public expenditure and ODA for investments in water and sanitation including infrastructure and services. Guarantees, concessional loans, green bonds, and impact bonds help fund high-risk or underserved projects. These tools attract private capital, reduce investment risks, and support innovation. Private sector engagement in SDG 6 offers opportunities to speed up the pace of progress and bring innovation into the sector.

Additionally, to address emerging and accelerating water and sanitation-related challenges linked to climate change - such as drought, desertification, flooding, sea-level rise and glacier melt - there is a pressing need to increase the prioritization of water- and sanitation-related projects to access climate finance for investments in adaptation and mitigation measures. These environmental changes are also increasingly driving human mobility, making climate-induced migration an emerging priority for water and sanitation planning. Integrated responses that address the water and sanitation needs of climate migrants and displaced populations are essential to building resilience across development and humanitarian settings.

Overall, the SDG 6 journey has imparted valuable insights, stronger partnerships, and growing momentum to accelerate action not only until 2030 but also beyond. The next four years are a critical period to consolidate learning, set priorities and build a foundation for the post-2030 global development agenda. The Strategy will redouble efforts to support the five SDG 6 global accelerators⁶ (financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance). The in-depth review of SDG 6 at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (High-level Political Forum) in 2026, UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028, and the follow-up on the Pact for the Future in 2027 will be key opportunities to shape the Sustainable Development Agenda up to and beyond 2030.

1 UN (2024), Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024. Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/>.

2 UN-Water (2024), Summary brief: Midterm status of SDG 6 global indicators and acceleration needs. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/summary-brief-mid-term-status-sdg-6-global-indicators-and-acceleration-needs>.

3 Ibid.

4 UN-Water website: Country Acceleration Case Studies, <https://www.unwater.org/publications/country-acceleration-case-studies>, accessed on 26 April 2025.

5 UN (2024). The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024: SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation. Available at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/extended-report/Extended-Report_Goal-6.pdf.

6 UN-Water (2020), SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/sdg-6-global-acceleration-framework>.

Growing awareness of water's centrality to sustainable development solutions

Increased recognition of the importance of sustainably managed water and sanitation to address global challenges is opening new avenues for cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder action. Recent efforts have resulted in significant momentum behind mainstreaming water and sanitation issues into policy dialogue, including within major global events and intergovernmental processes led by Member States,⁷ notably including the series of Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the three UN Rio Conventions in 2024.⁸ New analyses and forecasting that links water and sanitation with the clean energy transition, climate mitigation⁹ and adaptation¹⁰ food systems, digitalization, circular economies, land and habitat protection and restoration among others are building a greater understanding that water and sanitation are critical paths to the achievement of many sustainable development outcomes and that the cost of inaction is too high.¹¹

The UN system and its partners have a unique opportunity over the next four years to advance an integrated, systems-thinking approach to water and sanitation management in UN development system programming. Water is an essential entry point for SDG acceleration and achievement and can support SDG transitions at country level.¹² This aligns with the efforts led by the UN Development Cooperation Office and the Resident Coordinator system to support SDG acceleration and

the implementation of the Pact for the Future which also guides discussions on the sustainable development agenda beyond 2030.¹³

Increasing ambition for water and sanitation on the international agenda

After a gap of 46 years between the first and second UN conferences on water, the UN General Assembly has mandated two conferences that will take place during the next four-year period. There is growing demand from Member States to discuss water and sanitation issues as part of their deliberations at the UN.

The UN International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028 (Water Action Decade), adopted by Member States in 2016,¹⁴ has provided a platform for water-related issues that led to the mandate for the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 (UN 2023 Water Conference) that took place in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. Subsequently, Member States have unanimously adopted a follow-up resolution 77/334 that mandates two UN conferences on water in 2026 and 2028, a UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, and the presentation of a final report on the implementation of the Water Action Decade by the UN Secretary-General to the 81st session of the General Assembly.¹⁵

7 For the Collaborative Implementation Plan document 'major global events and intergovernmental processes that are relevant for water and sanitation' refer to those mentioned in the Strategy paragraph 45: climate change, disaster risk reduction, desertification and drought, food and agriculture, health, biodiversity, pollution, oceans, environment, education, urban development, women's empowerment, finance, international cooperation and human rights mechanisms among others; and, also including 2030 Agenda and possible future post-2030 global sustainable development agenda processes and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028.

8 All three UN Rio Conventions held Meeting of the Conferences of the parties in 2024: UNCCD COP16, UNFCCC COP29, CBD COP16.

9 UN-Water (2024), UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water for Climate Mitigation. Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-analytical-brief-water-climate-mitigation>.

10 UN-Water (2019), UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-policy-brief-climate-change-and-water>.

11 Global Commission on the Economics of Water (2024), The Economics of Water: Valuing the Hydrological Cycle as a Global Common Good. Available at: <https://watercommission.org/publication/the-economics-of-water/>.

12 UNSDG (2023), Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Six%20Transitions%20English.pdf>.

13 UN General Assembly Resolution 79/1, The Pact for the Future adopted on 22 September 2024. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/79/1>.

14 UN General Assembly Resolution 71/222 adopted on 21 December 2016. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/222>.

15 UN General Assembly Resolution 77/334 adopted on 1 September 2023. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/334>.

This increasing attention on the global water agenda at the UN will allow for more ambition over the coming four years. The UN system at all levels,¹⁶ together with Member States and stakeholders, will be called upon to provide comprehensive support and leadership to engage on water and sanitation policy discussions at the highest levels and to ensure the success and follow-up of the upcoming UN conferences on water in 2026¹⁷ and 2028.

Navigating change – the multilateral system in flux

Against a backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions, intensifying impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, increasing populations facing multi-dimensional vulnerabilities and protracted crises,

combined with a highly resource-constrained fiscal environment with growing unsustainable debt burden and changing global aid architecture, closing the gaps on water and sanitation will be complex, but can also be a driver for peace, prosperity and resilience.

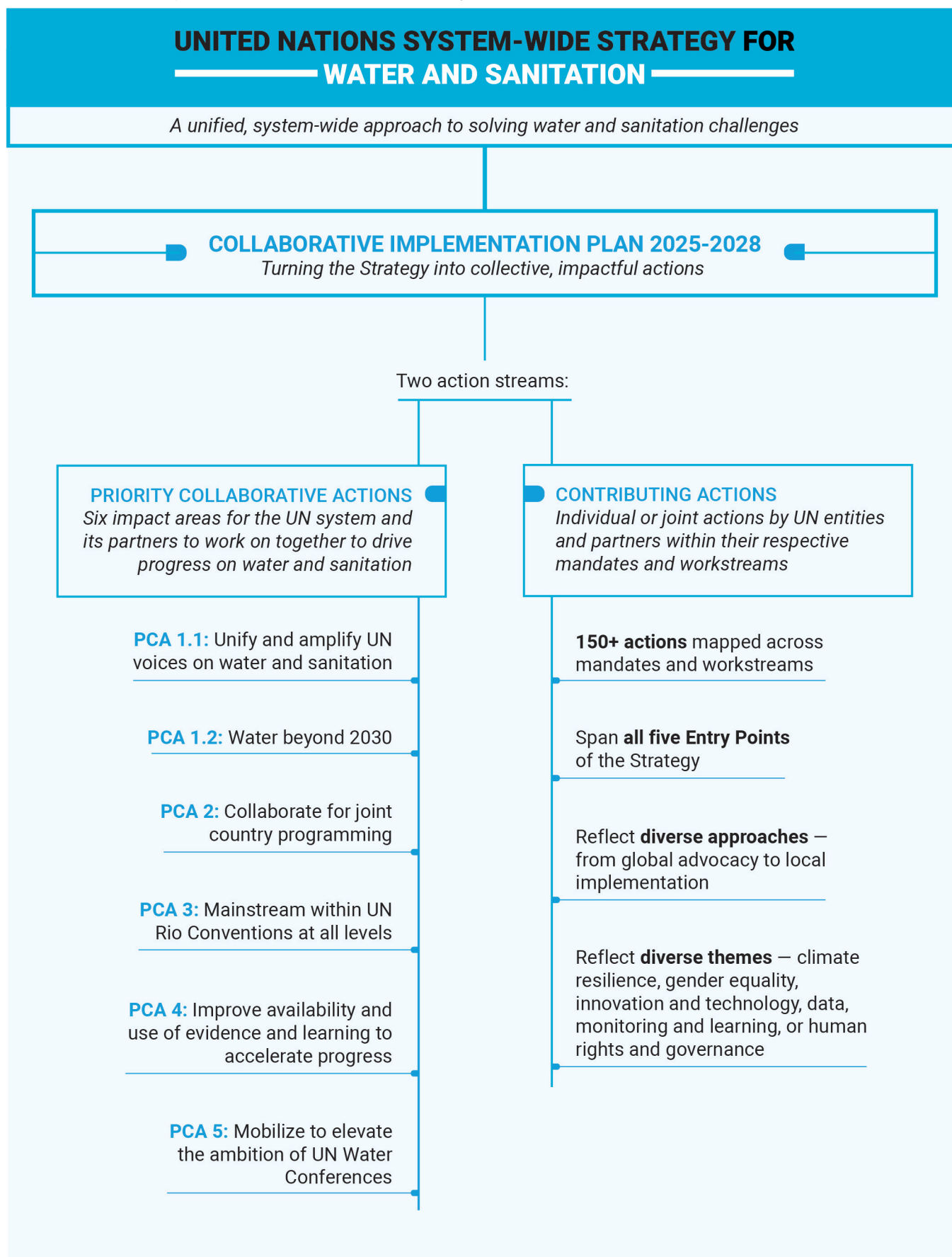
In response, the UN Secretary-General has launched the UN 2.0 and UN80 initiatives which aim to update the UN's structures, priorities, and operations for the 21st century.¹⁸ A declining trend in many UN entity budgets for water and sanitation programmes will require increased efficiencies through enhanced coordination and joint delivery of water and sanitation priorities. This must be coupled with a call for increased resources for the UN system to coordinate and deliver support to Member States to accelerate progress on water-and sanitation-related goals and targets and leave no one behind.

¹⁶ For this paper, "the UN system at all levels" refers to UN entities and respective offices operating at headquarters, global, regional, transboundary, national, and local or sub-national levels.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly Resolution 78/327 adopted on 6 September 2024. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/78/327>.

¹⁸ UN (2023), UN 2.0 Forward-thinking culture and cutting-edge skills for better UN system impact. Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 11. Available at: https://www.un.org/two-zero/sites/default/files/2023-09/un-2.0_policy-brief_en.pdf, and UN (2025), "Guterres prioritizes reform at 'UN80 Initiative' launch." Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/guterres-prioritizes-reform-un80-initiative-launch>.

Figure 2. Collaborative Implementation Plan structure: turning strategy into action.





III. Priority Collaborative Actions

Priority Collaborative Actions – or “PCAs” – are high-impact actions that will be undertaken by the UN system and its partners for the first four-year Collaborative Implementation Plan cycle. These actions are timely and relevant for UN policy and programming and are transformational, inspirational and forward-looking. They represent areas where there is additionality of UN system-wide engagement and demonstrate in practice the principle of “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”. Through these Priority Collaborative Actions, the UN system and its partners can have a measurable impact to ‘move the needle’ within the four-year Collaborative Implementation Plan timeframe. These actions also include emerging areas or where there are gaps in coordinated action. Finally, these are areas where there is high potential for UN system-wide collaboration and partnership across mandates and sectors and across the levels of the UN system: global, regional, transboundary, national, sub-national and local communities.

The UN system and its partners have adopted six Priority Collaborative Actions for the period 2025-2028 (see figure 2). These actions were identified and developed through a consultative co-creation process with UN-Water Members and Partners launched at the 39th UN-Water Meeting (March 2024). Each Priority Collaborative Action includes a description, success statement of what will be achieved by 2028, a designated coordination structure and means of verification. The Priority Collaborative Action entries in the Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework were approved at the 40th UN-Water Meeting (November 2024). Subsequently, Priority Collaborative Action workplans and budgets developed and approved at the 41st UN-Water Meeting (April 2025).

UN-Water Members and Partners are mutually accountable for the coordination, implementation and monitoring of Priority Collaborative Actions that will be implemented jointly, system-wide. The two-year Priority Collaborative Action workplan activities and budgets will be integrated into UN-Water Work Programmes and will be actively coordinated, implemented, and reviewed regularly through UN-Water inter-agency structures (e.g. Expert Groups, Task Forces, Initiatives, etc.) and during UN-Water biannual meetings. Resourcing, managing and operationalizing the Priority Collaborative Actions and their respective activities will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the UN-Water Work Programmes.

Priority Collaborative Action 1.1: Unify and amplify UN voices on water and sanitation

Effectively communicating and advocating for water and sanitation remains a challenge despite their central role in sustainable development. The complexity of these issues, coupled with fragmented messaging across multiple actors, often results in limited political attention and insufficient commitment. Recognizing this need, the UN 2023 Water Conference emphasized the urgency of improving coordination, amplifying messaging, and strengthening advocacy to accelerate progress on water and sanitation goals. This Priority Collaborative Action aims to enhance coordination within the UN system to ensure consistency, impact, and alignment of communications on water and sanitation. Externally, it will work to elevate water and sanitation by strengthening leadership, engagement and messaging.

To strengthen internal UN system coordination, this Priority Collaborative Action will establish a shared communication framework. The UN-Water communicators network (the ‘Pipe’) will be reinforced to enhance collaboration among communication professionals, the UN Department of Global Communications, UN Information Centres, and UN Country Teams. These efforts will ensure that by 2028, common messages on water and sanitation are strategically leveraged to enhance the UN’s position on water and sanitation.

To drive high level-political commitment, this Priority Collaborative Action will enhance leadership strategies through external advocacy. Targeted communication materials will support the UN-Water Chair and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Water in strategic engagements. General outreach materials will be developed to support UN entities in advocating for water and sanitation. Close coordination with intergovernmental bodies will ensure alignment with global policy frameworks, while outreach efforts in non-traditional global forums will amplify key messages.

Regular monitoring and evaluation, including digital analytical tools, will measure the impact of these efforts and ensure continued alignment with evolving priorities. This Priority Collaborative Action provides a strategic roadmap to strengthen both internal coordination and external outreach to ensure water and sanitation receive the attention and commitment needed to drive tangible progress.

Box B. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 1.1

Strengthening UN system-wide processes for coordinated communication. The UN-Water communicators network will be strengthened to enhance collaboration among communications professionals. Its terms of reference, and its membership will be updated to align with evolving priorities. Coordination with UN Department of Global Communications, UN Information Centres, and UN Country Teams will be reinforced. Efforts will also focus on identifying and collaborating with other key networks within the UN system to strengthen and expand communication. A shared platform will be developed to facilitate access to communications materials and allow communicators to draw and learn from each other's experiences.

Advocating for water and sanitation as a strategic leadership priority. Strategic communications will elevate water and sanitation at the global level by developing common messaging and working with relevant UN entities and external partners to integrate it into strategic plans, reports, and policy discussions. Targeted advocacy materials will be developed for the UN-Water Chair and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water. Additionally, communication materials will be shared with entities to support UN Principals, Resident Coordinators and other high-level advocates. Finally, efforts will focus on amplifying water-related messaging through already established channels like World Water Day and World Toilet Day as well as identifying non-traditional global forums. Water champions – including youth, local influencers, goodwill ambassadors and business leaders – will be identified with the help of UN-Water Members and Partners.

Monitoring and evaluating outcomes to strengthen impact. The impact of communications efforts will be reviewed regularly – by tracking visibility, engagement and alignment with the Priority Collaborative Actions' goals – to identify what works, what does not and to correct course as needed. Regular check-ins with the communicators network will ensure that coordination is running smoothly and will help identify additional opportunities. Findings will be shared with Senior Programme Managers as well as during the annual UN-Water Principals meeting.

Priority Collaborative Action 1.2: Water beyond 2030

Our current progress falls short of achieving all eight SDG 6 targets, even in the face of continuous efforts and global commitments. Advancing SDG 6 by 2030 is vital to ensure everyone has reliable access to safe water and sanitation, which forms the foundation of public health, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth. Focusing on accelerating the achievement of SDG6 by 2030 is still essential, as persistent challenges

such as water scarcity, pollution, and unequal access to sanitation continue to hinder global progress. Meanwhile, the future of water and sanitation in the UN sustainable development agenda post-2030 is already on the horizon. The adoption of the Pact for the Future resolution 79/1 by the UN General Assembly in September 2024 started the clock by inviting the High-level Political Forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider in September 2027 how to “advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.”

Priority Collaborative Action 1.2 will set the course for the UN system's support for water and sanitation in the post-2030 Agenda using a two-level approach. At a technical level, the UN system and its partners will provide the best available evidence based on SDG indicators reporting and data collection experience, learning both from successes and failures, to collectively position water and sanitation to play an innovative and critical role in the preparation of the post-2030 Agenda goals and targets. Building on the experiences with SDG 6 and its role in the 2030 Agenda, UN-Water jointly will formulate and put forward clear technical advice on how water issues¹ could be framed in the post-2030 agenda goals and targets

framework. UN-Water will draw on extensive experience and expertise of UN-Water Members and Partners, the UN development system, and the IMI-SDG6 to bring together learning, evidence, and stakeholder engagement in a 'future-focused' dialogue on water and sanitation in the post-2030 Agenda.

At the global level, UN-Water Principals and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water will lead the effort to advocate for water and sanitation in the global sustainable development framework beyond 2030. They will actively engage with Member States to champion water in the post-2030 Agenda.

TABLE 1. TIMELINE OF MAJOR UN-RELATED EVENTS RELEVANT FOR "MAKING THE TECHNICAL CASE FOR WATER BEYOND 2030"

2025	July	One-day meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly, to promote the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and to agree on the themes of the interactive dialogues for the 2026 UN Water Conference (A/RES/78/327, New York)
2025		High-level international meeting in Dakar to support an effective preparation for the 2026 UN Water Conference (A/RES/78/327, Senegal)
2026	July	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2026, including an in-depth review of SDG 6 and annual Special Event (A/RES/78/285, New York)
2026	December	2026 UN Water Conference to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (A/RES/78/327, United Arab Emirates)
2027	September	UN Secretary-General's final report to assess progress on the Water Action Decade by the end of the 81 st session of UN General Assembly (A/RES/77/334)
2027	September	High-level political forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider how to advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as mandated by the Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1, New York)
2028		UN Conference: Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 (A/RES/77/334, Tajikistan)
2028	September	Review of the overall implementation of the Pact for the Future by the UN General Assembly through a meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government (A/RES/79/1, New York)

Important global events will inform the Priority Collaborative Action 1.2 workplan over the next four years (see table 1).

By 2028, the aim is that a comprehensive body of evidence on water and sanitation is available and actively used by UN-Water Principals and the UN Secretary-General's Special

Envoy on Water to strategically contribute to the negotiations on a possible post-2030 Agenda. Clear lessons learned, data and tools from IMI-SDG6 will be consolidated and made available to inform the future development of goals, targets and approaches for the post-2030 Agenda.

¹ With water in this context, we mean the entirety of SDG 6 with the addition of water-related disasters currently under SDG 11.5: "By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations".

Box C. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 1.2

Making the technical case for 'water beyond 2030'. A key area for Priority Collaborative Action 1.2 is to prepare technical inputs from the UN system on water and sanitation to inform the development of the post-2030 Agenda. Priority Collaborative Action 1.2 will engage with Priority Collaborative Action 4 /IMI-SDG6 to develop a document on lessons learned from the entire SDG 6 experience. It will analyse the value of a strong water goal for in-country implementation and coordination of technical and financial support, with a connection to Priority Collaborative Action 2. The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in-depth review of SDG 6 in July 2026 will showcase the latest SDG 6 data and evidence, the impact of SDG 6 implementation on country progress, value added from SDG 6 (global water goal) towards the achievement of sustainable development outcomes and the importance of SDG 6 to the water community. A future-focused UN-Water technical advice paper will be produced with options on how 'water' could be framed in the post-2030 Agenda framework by 2028. These technical inputs will inform the Member State-led political processes, such as the Open-Working group of the General Assembly (or equivalent) that will be tasked to prepare and coordinate the negotiations on the post-2030 Agenda.

Advocating for water and sanitation in the post-2030 sustainable development framework. Efforts will focus on advocacy and outreach to highlight the critical value of a strong water goal as a cornerstone of sustainable development. UN-Water's efforts will focus on mobilizing all key stakeholders across sectors including civil society organizations, young people, influential private sector and public figures to advocate for a strong water goal based on the technical advice. UN-Water Members and Partners will engage their diverse and vast networks to gather inputs and build a strong base of support through outreach, events and other forums. To support these efforts, UN-Water will develop social media and other communication products, snapshots, infographics etc. on water beyond 2030. UN-Water will prepare common key messages to support UN-Water Principals, Heads of UN-Water Partner organizations and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water to deliver key messages about a strong water goal.

Priority Collaborative Action 2: Collaborate for joint country programming

Water links all aspects of the 2030 Agenda. However, water's role as a key entry point for accelerating progress across the SDGs remains underutilized, particularly at the country scale. Priority Collaborative Action 2 strengthens country-level collaboration across the UN system by empowering UN Country Teams to leverage water in their systems approach towards SDG progress. Through joint

and complementary programming, the UN system and its partners will leverage the unifying focus of SDG 6, clean water and sanitation for all, to fulfil the needs and ambitions of Member States.

Many UN Country Teams have already developed joint responses to urgent water challenges in their countries, paving the way for future successful efforts. These coordination efforts illustrate that successful acceleration across the SDGs must build on the UN reform and the Resident Coordinator system, as well as non-UN and

non-governmental water-related organizations, and that water- and sanitation-related issues should be adequately reflected in country-level planning documents such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (Cooperation Frameworks). It is also crucial that joint programming among UN Country Teams and UN-Water Partners² focus on expressed country needs and demands, including the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, particularly for vulnerable groups such as migrants, displaced populations and their host communities. UN-Water will amplify the success of country-level efforts through this Priority Collaborative Action by leveraging water-related expertise and resources within and beyond the UN system, including multilateral development banks, and providing tailored support to UN

Country Teams (e.g., training, tools, consultation, advisory activities, resource mobilization, technical support, etc.) as needed. In addition, linkages with the regional level and platforms such as Regional Coordination Platforms, Issue-Based Coalitions will be made and transboundary cooperation will be supported, if requested.

By 2028, this Priority Collaborative Action will result in the UN system and its partners being acknowledged as trusted and efficient actors in responding to and connecting national priorities with sustainable partnerships, strategic financing and capacity development initiatives, thereby contributing to strengthening multilateralism in the water and sanitation sector and beyond.

Box D. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 2

Advancing water- and sanitation-related issues as key entry points for SDG acceleration in UN country programming. UN Country Teams will have access to structured support, enabling them to integrate water and water-related issues into UN programming documents in a coordinated and strategic manner (e.g., Common Country Analyses, Cooperation Frameworks, Joint Workplans). Each year, UN-Water will reach out and offer support to countries carrying out their Common Country Analysis and support the development of joint programming and resource mobilization for joint programme implementation and results.

Leveraging expertise and resources across the UN system to respond to and support countries, with emphasis on the water and sanitation needs of developing countries. Each part of the UN system, as well as UN-Water Partners, will contribute its expertise, skills and assets on water and sanitation in a coherent and complementary manner. As part of this, inter-agency initiatives like the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) will spearhead effective system-wide approaches to address country-level needs. UN-Water will channel requests for support on water and sanitation issues from Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, regional economic commissions and other UN offices to such initiatives as well as to the relevant UN-Water Expert Groups and Task Forces, as appropriate.

Strengthening of country coordination for delivery on water and sanitation priorities. Reinforcement of UN system-wide coordination that is centred around Member States' needs and demands, to support coherence and synergies across actors and sectors and between country, transboundary, regional and global levels. Activities include an assessment of priorities and coordination of water actions at the country level and organization of multi-stakeholder 'Country Days'.

² UN-Water Partners are international organizations, professional unions, associations or other civil-society groups that are actively involved in water and are international in structure and membership. The full list of UN-Water Partners can be found on: <https://www.unwater.org/about-un-water/members-and-partners>

Priority Collaborative Action 3: Mainstream within UN Rio Conventions at all levels

As water-related issues flow through many of the most pressing global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification, water and sanitation must be mainstreamed into the relevant intergovernmental processes at all levels. Priority Collaborative Action 3 will enhance the UN system's delivery of technical and governance expertise in water and sanitation to Parties to the three Rio Conventions: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). By working together through UN-Water, the UN system will provide targeted technical and scientific assistance, policy advice and joint guidance to interested Parties as well as share best practices. Additionally, Parties to these Conventions will also be assisted to address water and sanitation considerations in Convention decisions, declarations, work programmes and national implementation plans, in alignment with SDG 6 and its targets.

By 2028, this Priority Collaborative Action will lead to water and sanitation content being increasingly reflected in the outcome

documents and proceedings of Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the Rio Conventions and in the key planning and reporting instruments by more countries. By pooling resources, creating synergies, leveraging expertise and reducing duplication, these changes will improve the efficiency of UN system financial resources for water and sanitation initiatives, programmes and projects. This approach will also support more coherent and holistic actions to be implemented at the national level including across multiple ministerial agendas, from environment and health to agriculture and infrastructure.

Intersections and synergies between the three Rio Conventions and existing UN Water conventions, specifically the 1992 UN Water Convention, the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (and Draft Articles on Transboundary Aquifers) will be harnessed and maximized, since the inter-governmental nature of the latter conventions can support mainstreaming water into the three Rio Conventions. Where relevant, links will also be made with the UN General Assembly resolutions on the human rights to water and sanitation³ and the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment⁴.

Box E. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 3

Supporting implementation of existing water- and sanitation-related mandates by collaborating with the three Rio Convention secretariats and constituted bodies to fulfil specific mandates (e.g., National Adaptation Plans, Global Goal on Adaptation, among others).

Supporting the inclusion of water and sanitation considerations in the work programmes and negotiated documents of the three Rio Conventions.

Providing coordinated UN system support to Parties to the three Rio Conventions with technical, scientific and policy expertise to integrate water and sanitation in countries' key planning instruments, through (i) enhanced mandates and funding to the UN System and (ii) improved integrated cross-agency support to Parties.

Enabling and supporting Member States to make best use of the 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences, Rio Convention COPs, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as other major events to promote mainstreaming opportunities.

3 UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 adopted on 28 July 2010, available at: <https://undocs.org/a/res/64/292> and UN General Assembly resolution 70/169 adopted on 17 December 2015, available at: <https://undocs.org/a/res/70/169>

4 UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 adopted on 28 July 2022, available at: <https://undocs.org/a/res/76/300>

Priority Collaborative Action 4: Improve availability and use of evidence and learning to accelerate progress

SDG 6 will only be achieved by progress on the ground in Member States. The unique added value of Entry Point 4 in the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation is providing support to Member States to accelerate progress and transformational change via the five accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. For the first Collaborative Implementation Plan period from 2025 to 2028, UN-Water has chosen to focus Priority Collaborative Action 4 on the 'data and information' accelerator, in particular because of the leveraging effect data can play for the other accelerators (governance, finance, innovation, and capacity building).

Through Priority Collaborative Action 4, UN-Water intends to accelerate progress and transformative change toward SDG 6 through strengthening the evidence base, improving data availability and use, advancing monitoring, using science and innovation, and documenting good practices and lessons learned.

Priority Collaborative Action 4 aims to provide value to Member States and the global community in the following ways:

- **Improved awareness of the status** of water and sanitation at multiple levels and among multiple stakeholders, inspiring discussions and action toward increased sustainability.
- A regular supply of evidence enables **stronger accountability** and transparency and reduces the incidence of waste and corruption.
- A comprehensive and multidimensional data set allows for **better informed policy** and investment decisions that account for synergies and trade-offs between the many components of water and sustainable development more broadly.
- **Data disaggregation and contextualization**, a key principle of monitoring under the SDGs, will help to identify the populations with unmet needs and higher levels of risk and to target policies and investments to reach those who most need it.
- A stronger body of evidence provides a common language for **learning and sharing across countries** and can serve as a platform for bringing together

countries to discuss issues of water and sanitation implementation.

Over the next four years, Priority Collaborative Action 4 will consolidate and build on the wide range of evidence on water and sanitation that is currently available, so that, by 2028, increased availability and use of high-quality data contributes to better informed water and sanitation policy, regulation, planning and investment at all levels. Data will come from a wide range of sources including governments, civil society, scientific community, academic institutions, and the private sector.

Box F. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 4

‘Evidence’ is defined broadly to include SDG 6 global indicators and other global, regional and national water and sanitation data; citizen science; scientific research; local knowledge; case studies; lessons; etc. The Priority Collaborative Action will build on UN-Water’s ongoing activities in support of SDG 6 global monitoring with the following areas of focus:

Continuing **support to water and sanitation monitoring**, making sure that all countries and other stakeholders have the skills and people in place to collect and use water and sanitation evidence, and to **regularly collect, analyse, and report** on data on the global indicators for various audiences.

Making data more useful for countries. The wide range of evidence that exists will be made available to different stakeholders in as useful a way as possible to enable maximum uptake into various policy processes. For the global SDG 6 indicators this means increased resolution and disaggregation and contextualization of the data where possible.

Uptaking into policy at all levels. As we move beyond data for general reporting and awareness raising, different audiences will be targeted at country, regional, and global levels for advancing the actual use of evidence. At the national level, the focus will be on national target setting, use in UN Common Country Assessments and inputs to country processes for planning, policy and investment decision-making.

Priority Collaborative Action 5: Mobilize to elevate the ambition of UN Water Conferences

The UN is entering a new era of diplomacy and action for global water challenges. After nearly 50 years since the first UN conference on water, countries are convening around set of UN conferences on water in 2023, 2026 and 2028. This represents a new era of intergovernmental dialogue and action. With the experience gained during 2023, the UN system is now organizing to offer the best strategic advice and input to the upcoming conferences co-hosted by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Republic of Senegal in 2026 and by Tajikistan in 2028. In an era of multilateral retreat, the global dialogue on water is a bright spot.

This Priority Collaborative Action area will mobilize UN system and stakeholders’ expertise, knowledge, data, policy guidance, and best practices at all levels to

elevate the ambition of the UN 2026 and 2028 Water Conferences while leveraging UN-Water’s respected role and brand. This work will consider what is happening across a broad swath of organizations both inside and outside the UN system to develop a strategic approach. Focus will be placed on crafting a future-oriented vision of success for the conference outcomes based on a coherent set of actions.

The ultimate aim is that by 2028, UN Member States and other subnational, national, regional, and global stakeholders have used the knowledge, data, and best practices to inform and shape the intergovernmental discussion throughout the period from 2025 to 2028. The outcomes of these conferences could ultimately create the context for robust post-2030 water and sanitation related objectives and will thereby link to the work of Priority Collaborative Action 1.2.

Box G. Four-year outlook 2025-2028: Priority Collaborative Action 5

Supporting the Member State Water Conference process. Responding to requests from the UN Water Conference Member State co-hosts for UN system support – such as participation in decision-making bodies, preparatory meetings or stakeholder dialogues. Some examples include the international meeting that will be organized by the Republic of Senegal, the UAE’s Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative, Water Action Decade-related conferences, reports and other events in 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Coordinating the UN system to support Water Conferences. Responding to requests from the 2026 UN Water Conference Secretary-General and the conference secretariat for support. This will include support for the one-day meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly (9 July 2025) to promote the achievement of SDG 6 and to agree on the themes of the interactive dialogues for the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Shaping strategic inputs to the UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028. Drawing on UN-Water Member and Partner expertise to develop substantive foundation for messaging including for the UN-Water Chair and UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Water for the UN Water Conferences (link to Priority Collaborative Action 1.1).



IV. Contributing Actions

IV. Contributing Actions

Contributing Actions are individual and joint actions taken by UN-Water Members and Partners within their respective mandates and at all levels that contribute towards the implementation of the Strategy. For example, UN programmes and initiatives that are implemented individually or jointly and do not need active system-wide coordination. Contributing Actions also include country-level joint programming and joint programmes that are undertaken as part of Cooperation Frameworks implemented by UN Country Team members that are often also UN-Water Members under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator system. UN entities and UN-Water Partners are accountable for their Contributing Actions in accordance with their respective planning documents and governance processes.

UN entities have the option to submit their Contributing Actions as part of the Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework (section VII.B). Information about the Contributing Actions is available on the UN-Water website landing page on 'Contributing Actions',¹ which includes a searchable, web-based platform. The information for each Contributing Action includes a description of the action, geographic coverage, success statement, list of collaborating entities, as well as whether it is linked to a registered commitment in the Water Action Agenda.² This content will be updated by UN entities (which includes UN-Water Members and other UN entities at all levels) and UN-Water Partners periodically during the four-year Collaborative Implementation Plan cycle. UN-Water meetings will provide a platform to exchange information, identify synergies and promote opportunities for collaboration and partnership in support of the implementation of Contributing Actions.

In September 2024, UN-Water issued a call for the submission of Contributing Actions for the first Collaborative Implementation Plan 2025-2028 of the Strategy. By the 41st UN-Water Meeting, over 150 Contributing Actions were submitted by UN-Water Members and Partners. The Contributing Actions have been posted on the UN-Water website to promote collaboration, partnerships and coordination.

Box H. Contributing Actions online database

UN-Water Members and Partners' activities are categorized as Contributing Actions towards the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. Through this searchable database, you can discover who does what, and where, on water and sanitation.

Check it out:



<https://www.unwater.org/our-work/un-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation/contributing-actions>

Across all Contributing Actions, several common themes emerge: a strong focus on inclusive governance, evidence-based decision-making, and the integration of water and sanitation into broader development, climate, and human rights agendas. The Contributing Actions are organized according to the five Entry Points of the Strategy:

- The main themes of Contributing Actions under primary **Entry Point 1** focus on building strong legal and normative foundations for water governance while making water and sanitation central to global advocacy and crisis response. Many of these Contributing Actions promote inclusive leadership, particularly by empowering youth, women, and vulnerable groups, to ensure resilient and equitable access to water.
- Contributing Actions under primary **Entry Point 2** primarily emphasize inclusive, participatory approaches tailored to national and local needs. By leveraging the

¹ UN-Water website, Contributing Actions to the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/our-work/contributing-actions-united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>.

² UN Water Action Agenda. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>.

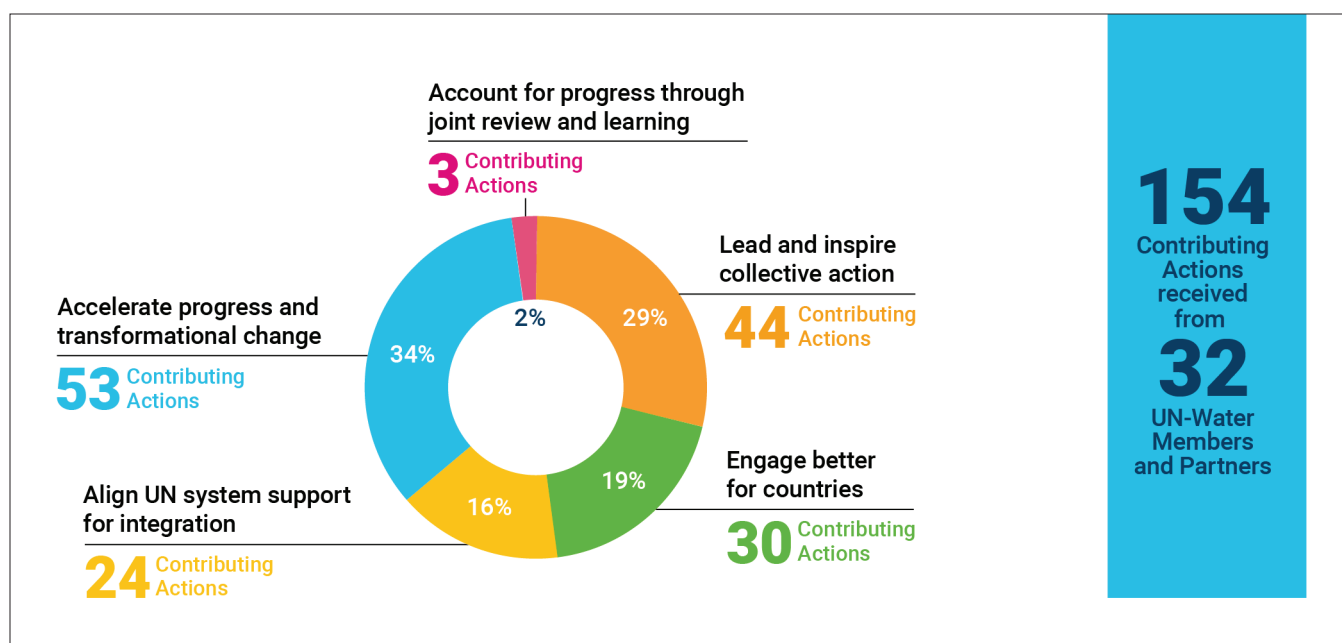


Figure 3. Contributing Actions by Strategy Entry Point – as of 41st UN-Water Meeting (2-3 April 2025)


full range of UN expertise, these Contributing Actions help bridge technical knowledge and community priorities, supporting more effective and sustainable water management.

- Many Contributing Actions under primary **Entry Point 3** aim to integrate water and sanitation across sectors and global agendas like climate, biodiversity, land, and disaster risk reduction. These efforts promote policy coherence and cross-sectoral collaboration, positioning water governance as a driver of resilience and sustainable development.
- Contributing Actions under primary **Entry Point 4** are anchored in the five accelerators SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework — finance, data, capacity development, innovation, and governance — and represent the bulk of all submissions. They focus on scaling up progress through technology, scientific tools, and cross-sector partnerships that support smarter, faster water solutions.
- Contributing Actions under primary **Entry Point 5** are focused on strengthening accountability, exchange of knowledge and learning, and applying a human rights-based lens to water and sanitation.

Box I. Outcomes: First Contributing Actions Roundtable Dialogues – April 2025

At the 41st UN-Water Meeting, the Contributing Actions Roundtable Dialogues were held, inviting UN-Water Members and Partners to present their Contributing Actions in five roundtables – one for each Entry Point of the Strategy. Following these short ‘lightning talks’, participants engaged in open discussions to identify new opportunities, synergies, and collaborative approaches for maximizing the impact of their initiatives.

Across all discussions, participants repeatedly stressed the importance of forging strong partnerships among UN agencies, governments, private sector actors, and civil society to address water challenges more effectively. Participants highlighted that momentum generated through platforms like the Water Action Agenda and Contributing Actions can be sustained only by joining forces to pool expertise, resources, and innovative solutions. Another consistent theme was the need to break silos, engage a broader range of stakeholders (including youth and underrepresented groups), and leverage emerging technologies and data to drive impact. Several participants emphasized how ongoing dialogues, capacity-building efforts, and platforms for knowledge-sharing foster mutual learning and spark new collaborative initiatives.



V. Coordination, review, monitoring, and reporting

The Collaborative Implementation Plan is guided by the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose at the heart of the Strategy. As this is the first cycle, the Collaborative Implementation Plan approach to coordination, review, monitoring, and reporting will be practical, flexible and adaptive based on real needs and lessons learned. The Collaborative Implementation Plan will follow the general coordination and operational arrangements outlined in the Strategy¹ and will use existing structures and processes to the maximum extent possible.

Leadership level. The UN Secretary-General designated the UN-Water Chair to provide high-level leadership, guidance and coordination support for the implementation of the Strategy, including through the development and implementation of the Collaborative Implementation Plan. The UN-Water Chair will convene an annual UN-Water Principals meeting on water and sanitation. The Principals will: (i) oversee strategic and policy aspects on the operationalization of the Strategy and corresponding Collaborative Implementation Plan; (ii) review progress, agree on priorities, and address gaps and issues related to implementation of the Strategy; and (iii) ensure linkages and coherence with processes related to water and sanitation goals and targets, intergovernmental meetings and conferences, and UN system policy and processes. The UN-Water Chair will circulate the report of the annual UN-Water Principals meeting to all relevant UN entities.

Technical level. UN-Water will coordinate the implementation of the Collaborative Implementation Plan and support technical-level review, monitoring and reporting:

- **UN-Water Expert Groups, Task Forces and initiatives** will provide technical guidance and support. UN-Water has designated coordination structures for each Priority Collaborative Action. Each Priority Collaborative Action coordination structure is responsible for preparing the workplan and budget, allocating funds, coordinating implementation, tracking progress and reporting.
- The two-year Priority Collaborative Action workplan activities and budgets will be incorporated into the

biennial UN-Water Work Programmes. Progress on the implementation of the Priority Collaborative Action activities over the two-year timeframe will be tracked using indicators from the results framework of the respective UN-Water Work Programme.

- **UN-Water Meetings** will provide a platform for Collaborative Implementation Plan preparation, planning, information exchange, consultation/discussion, periodic review, reflection and decision-making.
- **The UN-Water Annual Report** will include a dedicated Strategy section that will report on the progress and main achievements. Reporting will draw on progress reports for Priority Collaborative Actions, voluntary qualitative reporting (e.g. impact stories), and other means of verification sources outlined for each Priority Collaborative Action in the Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework. This content will be complemented with data collected from other UN system monitoring processes and analysis of the UN-Water Contributing Actions database. Voluntary qualitative reporting will showcase case studies and impact stories for both Priority Collaborative Actions and Contributing Actions.
- The **UN-Water Management Team**² will support the high-level leadership and inter-agency coordination for the Strategy and its implementation through the Collaborative Implementation Plan. It will be the technical-level interface for engagement with UN entities that are not UN-Water Members, as well as other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, the Environmental Management Group and coordination units for other UN system-wide strategies and plans. The UN-Water Management Team will prepare and submit progress reports to the High-level Committee on Programmes, QCPR processes, Pact for the Future process and others upon request.
- **Communications** and knowledge management will be enhanced to raise awareness and support operationalization of the Strategy through its action-oriented, time-bound Collaborative Implementation Plan. UN-Water will communicate about the launch of

1 UN (2024). United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, see paragraphs 77 and 78 and Annex 1 Approach to the Collaborative Plan. Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>; and CEB/2024/1/Add.2 Available at: <https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/2413594E.pdf>.

2 The UN-Water Management Team is composed of the UN-Water Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, and the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit. See UN-Water Operational guidelines (2022). Available at: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-operational-guidelines>.

the Collaborative Implementation Plan and support outreach to ensure its operationalization at global, regional and country levels. UN-Water will coordinate and support production and dissemination of joint knowledge products, advocacy, messages and communications about the results and impact. A **knowledge management plan** will be developed and coordinated by UN-Water to document and gather learning and good practices of UN system-wide collaboration on water and sanitation.

- The **UN-Water website** will act as the main entry point to the UN system's work on water- and sanitation-related issues and as a repository of UN-Water publications and flagship reports by UN-Water Members and Partners.

Other UN system-wide mechanisms. Actions undertaken as part of the Collaborative Implementation Plan will need to be additionally coordinated with other mandated UN system coordination mechanisms, including for example at global level via UN Sustainable Development Group and the Development Coordination Office; at regional level with Issue-based Coalitions, Regional Coordination Mechanisms and Regional Coordination Platforms convened by UN regional economic commissions; and at country level with the Resident Coordinator system

and UN Country Team in humanitarian settings with the Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Humanitarian Country Team, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and relevant Inter-agency Standing Committee clusters (e.g. WASH Cluster); or in integrated UN mission settings under the leadership and coordination of the respective Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The reporting will also build on existing UN system monitoring mechanisms including UN entities' own results-based management systems, UN Country Team reporting (via UN INFO) and the UN Sustainable Development Group Output Indicator Framework.

International community. The UN system will have the opportunity to jointly review progress and learning on the Strategy and its Collaborative Implementation Plan with Member States and stakeholders during the High-level Political Forum Special Event on SDG 6 and the Water Action Agenda, forthcoming UN water conferences in 2026 and 2028 and related preparatory meetings and events, and in-depth review of SDG 6 at the High-level Political Forum in 2026. Additionally, an update on progress and main achievements from the Strategy can be included as part of the final report on the implementation of the Water Action Decade by the UN Secretary-General to the 81st session of the General Assembly.³

3 UN General Assembly Resolution 77/334 adopted on 1 September 2023. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/334>.



VI. Indicative budget

Resources required to deliver the Collaborative Implementation Plan. While the implementation period for the Collaborative Implementation Plan is four years, from 2025 to 2028, the figures presented in the indicative budget only account for the indicative budgets of the six Priority Collaborative Action workplans for the first two years (2025 and 2026). These indicative budgets represent 'catalytic funds' that will be used to leverage system-wide coordination through the Priority Collaborative Actions.

However, the delivery of the Collaborative Implementation Plan requires far more resources to be allocated by the whole UN system and beyond to ensure its successful implementation. These resources include:

- Contributing Actions implemented by UN-Water Members and Partners as their individual contribution through their respective strategies, workplans and budgets.
- In-kind support provided by UN-Water Members and Partners.
- Foundational costs of ongoing coordination efforts provided by UN-Water which are necessary for the implementation of the Strategy.

Putting the Collaborative Implementation Plan into action will require an unprecedented willingness to work together, to do more with less, and an urgent need for the optimization of existing resources.

Contributing Actions' and their budgets. The Contributing Actions represent the individual contributions of UN-Water Members and Partners towards the implementation of the Strategy. These actions are planned and resourced through the submitting entities' individual strategies, workplans and budgets;¹ therefore, they are not funded nor accounted for through the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund.

Priority Collaborative Action budgets and workplans.

Priority Collaborative Action workplans and budgets cover two-year timeframes (2025-2026 and 2027-2028). The first two years of the Priority Collaborative Action workplans (2025-2026) have a total indicative budget of **USD 2.6 million.**

This only represents the catalytic funds needed for leveraging the implementation of this ambitious common agenda. The Priority Collaborative Actions are funded and accounted for through the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund and will be reflected as part of the UN-Water Work Programme.

¹ Please note that the total budget for the Contributing Actions has not been calculated since not all submitted contributing actions have an estimated annual budget attached to them. For detailed budget figures and funding status of Contributing Actions, kindly contact the relevant submitting entity.

VII. Results framework

The Collaborative Implementation Plan Results Framework is structured according to the results chain of the Strategy. It is presented in two parts: Priority Collaborative Actions and Contributing Actions.

Priority Collaborative Actions

UN SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGY FOR WATER AND SANITATION

COLLABORATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2025-2028

A world with accessible, available and sustainably managed water and sanitation for all people and the planet

Goal: To enhance UN system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation priorities in support of countries to accelerate progress on national plans and priorities, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, realization of human rights, and transformative solutions to current and future water and sanitation challenges for the benefit of all people and the planet.

Impact: A more holistic, integrated approach to the sustainable management of water and sanitation that accelerates progress on internationally agreed water-related goals and targets and leaves no one behind.

Priority Collaborative Actions – approved at the 40th UN-Water Meeting

1. LEAD AND INSPIRE COLLECTIVE ACTION ON WATER AND SANITATION

Outcome 1. *Strengthened UN system-wide leadership on water and sanitation*

Output 1.1. Water and sanitation issues are a strategic leadership priority for the UN system

Output 1.2. Action is inspired by compelling and unified UN system communications and messaging on water and sanitation

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 1.1	Amplify the voices of UN-Water Member and Partner leadership as well as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water by targeting major global events to put water and sanitation challenges centre stage in international processes through targeted, common and powerful messaging.	By 2028, common messages on water and sanitation appear in major global events and international processes. ^a Work programmes of relevant intergovernmental bodies incorporate water- and sanitation-related activities.	The UN-Water Management Team (UN-Water Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Technical Advisory Unit) which allows for the participation of the UN-Water Chair who will coordinate common messaging with UN-Water Principals and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water. In terms of content, the 'Pipe' (UN Water's communication network) will play an active coordinating role among communication leads and relevant Task Forces and Expert Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements and outcome documents of relevant major global events and intergovernmental processes reflecting water and sanitation common messaging. • Reports and participation of annual UN-Water Principals meetings. • Outcome of High-level Political Forum discussions relevant to water including the annual SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event.

^a Priority is given to water and sanitation in the content and outcomes, decisions or resolutions adopted at major intergovernmental meetings and summits including the High-level Political Forum, and negotiations on climate change, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, combatting desertification, environment, health, food, oceans, peacebuilding, migration, gender equality and human rights, and other sustainable development areas.

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 1.2	<p>'Water Beyond 2030': In support of the Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1) which <i>"Invites the high-level political forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider in September 2027 how we will advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of our work"</i>:</p> <p>a) at global level, UN-Water Principals and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water will lead the effort to promote the significance of SDG 6 beyond 2030; and,</p> <p>b) at technical level, the UN system and its partners will provide the best available evidence based on SDG indicator reporting and data collection experience to collectively position water and sanitation to play an innovative and critical role in the preparation of the post-2030 Agenda goals and targets.</p>	<p>By 2028, a comprehensive body of evidence on water and sanitation is available and actively used by UN-Water Principals and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water to strategically contribute to the negotiations on a possible post-2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Clear lessons learned, data and tools are available from the IMI-SDG6 to inform future development of goals, targets and approaches for post-2030 Agenda.</p>	Currently, the UN-Water Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda (to possibly evolve with an updated mandate for 'post-2030'), in close collaboration with IMI-SDG6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Water Meeting reports. • Reports from high-level Member State bodies tasked with developing the possible post-2030 Agenda. • Best practice/lessons learned collection, guidance notes and toolkits from IMI-SDG6.

2. ENGAGE BETTER FOR COUNTRIES BY LEVERAGING WHOLE-OF-UN SYSTEM SUPPORT AND BY MOBILIZING STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR WATER AND SANITATION

Outcome 2. *Enhanced demand-driven support to countries on water and sanitation through mobilization of available capacities and resources of the UN system and its partners at all levels to leave no one behind, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries*

Output 2.1. Expertise and resources are fully leveraged by the UN system to support countries and basins, with emphasis on the water and sanitation needs of developing countries

Output 2.2. Diverse stakeholders and partnerships are mobilized by the UN system to support countries' progress on water and sanitation

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 2	Strengthen country collaboration to support joint and complementary programming towards the achievement of water- and sanitation-related goals and targets, including SDG 6.	<p>By 2028, the UN Resident Coordinators have coordinated and empowered UN Country Teams delivering joint programming together with UN-Water Partners based on expressed country needs and demands, enabling countries to enhance their capacity to accelerate progress toward SDG 6 and realize the human rights to water and sanitation.</p> <p>Water- and sanitation-related issues will be prioritized and embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams receive focused support through UN-Water country-level engagement (e.g., training, tools, consultation, advisory activities, etc.) as needed.</p> <p>The UN system will provide a unified response to Member States requests to increase their human and institutional capacity to address challenges and improvements identified in their national water plans or in response to specific demands.</p>	<p>The Task Force on Country-level Engagement, in close collaboration with the Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination, the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative, IMI- SDG 6, the Human Rights Roadmap, the Expert Group on Water and Climate Change, the Expert Group on Water Quality and Wastewater, and Development Coordination Office.</p> <p>Capacity development requests from countries will be coordinated by the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Country Analysis documents. • UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. • UN Country Team Joint Workplans. • Progress reports of the UN-Water Task Forces, Expert Groups and Initiatives. • UN Country Team Annual Results Reports. • UN Country Team feedback mechanisms. • SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative reports and country plans.

3. ALIGN UN SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WATER AND SANITATION ISSUES ACROSS SECTORS AND MAINSTREAMING INTO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Outcome 3. *Improved policy coherence on water and sanitation through UN system support for integration across sectors and mainstreaming into intergovernmental processes led by Member States*

Output 3.1. Operational and financial strategies, policies and approaches of the UN system are aligned to harness complementarity

Output 3.2. Integrated policy frameworks to manage water and sanitation across sectors are supported by the UN system using latest data and evidence

Output 3.3. Mainstreaming of water- and sanitation-related issues into intergovernmental processes led by Member States is supported by the UN system

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 3	<p>Coordinate support to mainstream water and sanitation through policy advice, technical input and scientific assistance:</p> <p>a) within the UN Rio Conventions (UNFCCC,^b UNCCD,^c and CBD^d); and,</p> <p>b) within national and regional climate, desertification, biodiversity and other relevant policies, strategies, and plans, as well as to climate-proof national, regional, and transboundary water and sanitation policies.</p>	<p>By 2028, Rio Conventions' outcome documents increasingly include water and sanitation content, and more countries include water and sanitation actions in key planning instruments, including their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), UNCCD National Action Plans (NAPs), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and other strategies and plans as relevant.</p>	<p>UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change will coordinate the UNFCCC-related processes, with the support of the Task Force on Country Level Engagement and working closely with the secretariats of UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Conventions intergovernmental outcome documents. • UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. • CBD National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. • UNCCD National Action Plans. • UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. • Other relevant strategies and plans.

^b UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Available at URL: <https://unfccc.int/>

^c UNCCD: UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Available at URL: <https://www.unccd.int/>

^d CBD: UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Available at URL: <https://www.cbd.int/>

4. ACCELERATE PROGRESS AND TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE BY UNIFYING UN SYSTEM SUPPORT THROUGH THE FIVE SDG 6 GLOBAL ACCELERATORS: FINANCING, DATA AND INFORMATION, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE

Outcome 4. *More impactful UN system support to countries to accelerate progress and transformational change, including through the five SDG 6 global accelerators: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance*

Output 4.1. Financing strategies, frameworks and plans for investing in water and sanitation across sectors are prepared and implemented with UN system support, with emphasis on the financing needs of developing countries

Output 4.2. High-quality, disaggregated water and sanitation data and information are available and shared transparently through strengthened national and subnational monitoring systems, and regional and global platforms, with support from the UN system

Output 4.3. Institutional and human resources capacity-development support that responds to national needs and priorities is provided by the UN system, contributing to a skilled water and sanitation workforce

Output 4.4. Enabling environments for water and sanitation innovation are supported by the UN system, including policies, partnerships and transfer of technology to remove barriers, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries

Output 4.5. Governance of water and sanitation is improved through UN system support, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 4	Accelerate progress and transformative change toward SDG 6 through strengthening the evidence base, improving data availability and use, advancing monitoring, using science and innovation, and documenting good practices and lessons learned.	By 2028, increased availability and use of high-quality data contributes to better informed water and sanitation policy, regulation, planning and investment at all levels.	Existing integrated monitoring structure: IMI-SDG6, including national SDG 6 focal points and stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of evidence-based policies and actions to improve SDG 6 implementation. • Examples of strengthened national monitoring and review mechanisms to better monitor SDG 6. • Formulated policy recommendations on how SDG 6 monitoring and reporting could be improved in the possible post-2030 sustainable development agenda. • IMI-SDG6 annual progress reports. • UN-Water Meeting reports.

5. ACCOUNT FOR PROGRESS THROUGH JOINT REVIEW AND LEARNING

Outcome 5. *Strengthened accountability for progress in water and sanitation through joint review and learning*

Output 5.1. Progress on implementation of the Strategy is reviewed jointly by the UN system at technical and leadership levels

Output 5.2. Progress on water-related goals and targets is reviewed through joint learning and exchange among all actors, with support from the UN system

Priority Collaborative Action		Success statement	Coordination structure	Means of verification
PCA 5	Mobilize UN system and stakeholders' expertise, knowledge, data, policy guidance, and best practices at all levels to elevate the ambition of the UN 2026 and 2028 Water Conferences, and in support of the in-depth review of SDG 6 during 2026 High-level Political Forum, and other UN follow-up and review processes.	By 2028, UN Member States and other subnational, national, regional, and global stakeholders have used the knowledge, data, and best practices from the UN system to assess progress, identify gaps and needs, and adjust strategies towards achieving SDG 6 and other internationally agreed water- and sanitation-related goals and targets.	The UN-Water Task Force for Water Action Decade Implementation will be tasked with planning, coordination, implementation, follow-up and reporting for this Priority Collaborative Action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN 2026 and 2028 Water Conference proceedings. • Annual 2025-28 SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Events at High-level Political Forum. • Contributions from UN Members States at High-level Political Forum in 2025-28. • Assessments of the Water Action Agenda. • Report of the UN Secretary-General on the work of the Organization during the 81st session of the General Assembly.

Contributing Actions

Contributing Actions ¹					
1. LEAD AND INSPIRE COLLECTIVE ACTION ON WATER AND SANITATION					
Outcome 1. <i>Strengthened UN system-wide leadership on water and sanitation</i>					
Output 1.1. Water and sanitation issues are a strategic leadership priority for the UN system					
Output 1.2. Action is inspired by compelling and unified UN system communications and messaging on water and sanitation					
Contributing Actions		Success statement	Collaborating UN entities and Partners ²	Geographic scope	Water Action Agenda commitment
CA1.1	Advancing water for peace	By 2028, i) widespread recognition throughout the UN family and in major global events and international processes of the role water can play in peacebuilding processes, humanitarian relief, and development agendas; ii) wider recognition of the benefits of protecting water from armed conflict and economic sanctions; iii) greater recognition of the merits of policy based on scientific evidence ; iv) advancement of the knowledge of the interplay between international water law, human rights law, international humanitarian, environmental law and economic law, to guide the use of water towards peace.	Geneva Water Hub, UN-Water, UNECE, DPPA, UNICEF, OCHA, WMO, OHCHR, UNHCR, IOM, UNESCO, Switzerland, Slovenia, ICRC, University of Geneva, Geneva Graduate Institute, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Pole eau Dakar, Ecole régionale de l'eau, ISW	Global level	Yes

¹ Submissions received as of 16 June 2025. The regularly updated database of Contributing Actions is available [online](#).

² Due to space limitations, only acronyms of UN entities and Partners have been included in the Results Framework table. The full names are provided in the Abbreviations and Acronyms table at the end of the document.

CA1.2	Bringing together national water associations for sustainable solutions	Increased collaboration between national water associations.	IAHR	Global level	No
CA1.4	Climate Smart Utilities initiative	Success is measured by the increased resilience of water utilities to climate impacts and the implementation of sustainable practices that enhance operational efficiency.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.5	Convening, informing and enabling global policies and enabling commitments on water that address the environmental and climate perspectives necessary for long term water sustainability to meet both human and ecosystem needs and aligned with human rights	Stronger and more global policies and commitments on water that address the environmental and climate perspectives necessary for long term water sustainability to meet both human and ecosystem needs and aligned with human rights.	UNEP	Global level	No
CA1.6	Digital Water Programme	The initiative's success is defined by the widespread adoption of digital technologies in water management, leading to improved data-driven decision-making and service delivery.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.9	IAHR Label for Water Training and Education, a flagship initiative of UNESCO-IHP	Increased number of better-skilled national workforces on water issues across the globe.	IAHR, UNESCO	Global level	No
CA1.10	IHP-IX 5.1. Raising awareness among decision makers about science-based water governance to enhance	Success is defined by enhanced awareness and integration of science-based water governance among decision makers, leading to improved community resilience to global change.	UNESCO	Global level	No

	community resilience to global change				
CA1.13	Inclusive Urban Sanitation initiative	Success is defined by the establishment of equitable and sustainable sanitation systems in urban areas that ensure all residents have access to safe and dignified sanitation services, particularly for marginalized populations.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.15	UNITAR Global Water Academy (UGWA)	The success of the contributing actions for the UGWA is defined by the effective training and capacity-building of stakeholders, mobilization of diverse partnerships, tangible improvements in water management, and the creation of joint learning platforms that lead to measurable progress on SDG 6 targets and the implementation of innovative water and sanitation solutions.	UNITAR, UNDESA, UNESCO, CAWST, CDP, FAO, GCF, HR2W, IAH, IAHR, IAHS, IGRAC, ILO, IOM, IRC, IWA, IWMI, IWRA, OHCHR, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, RWSN, SIWI, SWA, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNU, WaterAid, WfWP, WB, WHO, WMO	Country level	Yes
CA1.16	Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies	Success is measured by the increased resilience of water utilities to climate impacts and the implementation of sustainable practices that enhance operational efficiency.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.17	Preparing and responding to water-related disasters	Reducing number of deaths, people affected, and economic losses caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, through emergency preparedness, emergency response, DRR, climate change adaption and transition and recovery.	IOM	All levels	No

CA1.18	Progress towards the Water Action Decade in the Arab Region and preparing for the 2026 UN Water Conference	Arab Regional process leading into the UN Water Conference 2026 is well informed and ensures active engagement of Member States and regional stakeholders.	UNESCWA	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA1.21	Scale (freshwater) nature-based solutions and freshwater ecosystem based approaches for sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate goals	Enhanced adoption of nature-based solutions (NbS) on water at national and transboundary levels, addressing freshwater ecosystem protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management while contributing to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.	UNEP	Global level	No
CA1.23	The Global Water Analysis Laboratory Network (GloWAL Network)	Fully functioning sustainable global laboratory network that generates water isotope data that supports integrated water resource management.	IAEA, UNEP, WMO, UNESCO, IHE Delft	All levels	Yes
CA1.24	Water and Development Congress & Exhibition	The success of the Congress is evidenced by tangible improvements in water and sanitation access and quality in developing countries as a result of collaborative efforts and knowledge sharing.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.25	Water for Climate Pavilion collective	The Water for Climate Pavilion collective is successful if it unifies the voice of the international water community before, during and after each COP, supports ongoing collective action and creates synergies with other Rio Conventions and international platforms, and seizes opportunities to further promote water security, sound water management and water risk reduction as climate solutions within UNFCCC dialogues and COP outcomes and with stakeholders across sectors.	SIWI, FAO, SWA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat-GWOPA, UNECE, WMO, UNDRR, WHO, GCF, UNESCWA, Ramsar Convention, IAEA, WB. Many UN-Water Members and Partners are Core Partners of the Pavilion or participate in events.	Global level	Yes

CA1.26	Water Safety Plan Manual - 2nd edition (jointly with the WHO)	Success is achieved when the Water Safety Plan Manual is effectively utilized by water suppliers worldwide to enhance drinking water safety and public health.	IWA and WHO	Global level	No
CA1.27	World Tsunami Awareness Day	Awareness-raising and water-related disaster risk reduction.	UNDRR and others depending on topic. For 2024, it was UNESCO	Global level	No
CA1.28	World Water Congress & Exhibition	Success is reflected in the adoption of innovative practices and policies shared at the Congress, leading to significant advancements in global water management.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.29	World Water Week	The World Water Week can be considered successful if it provides a platform for participants to review, multistakeholder engagement and contribution align and accelerate collective water-positive action on a regular basis through shared learning and exchange.	SIWI, UN Water, WB. Many UN-Water Members attend or organize events at World Water Week, including FAO, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE, UNICEF, WHO, and WMO, among others. Many UN-Water Partners attend or organize events at World Water Week.	Global level	Yes
CA1.30	Young Water Professionals	The success of the YWP programme is determined by the professional growth and increased leadership roles of young water professionals within the sector.	IWA	Global level	No
CA1.31	Guidance on consistent reporting and monitoring for freshwater (inland waters) restoration	Innovative tools and guidance that support monitoring of ecosystem restoration globally and across ecosystem types.	FAO	Global level	No

CA1.32	Advancing sustainable mountain development and protecting the "water towers" of the world	Awareness raised, commitments and national policies, cooperation on transboundary water management and knowledge on the effects of cryospheric changes promoted.	FAO, WMO, World Bank	Global level	Yes
CA1.33	Menstrual health management as a human right	Success is if we are able to strengthen law and policy on this issue.	HR2W, OHCHR	Global level, Country level	No
CA1.34	Constitutional review of the human rights to water and sanitation and a healthy environment	We find a way to encourage more countries to recognise these rights in their constitution.	HR2W, OHCHR	Global level, Country level	No
CA1.35	IAH Congress "Groundwater now and for the future" 15-19 September 2025 Melbourne, Australia particular focus on indigenous groundwater knowledge	Improve capacity on sustainable groundwater resources management and governance.	IAH, UNESCO	All levels	No
CA1.36	Global norms and capacity building: Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A)	By 2030, the Hand Hygiene for All Initiative unites governments, partners, and communities to ensure everyone, everywhere has the facilities, resources, and habits needed for safe handwashing driving down preventable diseases and fully delivering on SDG 6.2.	WHO, UNICEF in collaboration with HH4A partnership	Global level	No
CA1.37	Health programmes: WASH and wastewater management to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	By 2030, comprehensive WASH and wastewater management woven into national AMR action plans will cut antimicrobial residues and resistant organisms across households, health facilities, farms, and factories to reduce preventable infections.	WHO, FAO, WOA, UNEP	Global level	No

CA1.38	Health programmes: Wastewater and environmental surveillance (WES)	Health authorities embed wastewater and environmental surveillance based on WHO guidance and strategy that reliably detects priority pathogens and triggers timely public-health action where clinical data are lacking as part of collaborative surveillance approaches.	WHO, UNEP	Global level	No
CA1.39	Health programmes: WASH for cholera prevention and control	By 2030, coordinated WASH action, rapid case management and targeted vaccination, guided by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control, will cut global cholera deaths by 90 per cent and enable at least 20 countries to declare themselves cholera-free.	WHO, UNICEF	Global level	No
CA1.40	Health programmes: WASH in public health emergencies	Countries are empowered to safeguard public health through WHO's multi-sectoral technical cooperation during emergency situations.	WHO, Members of emergency WASH cluster	Global level	No
CA1.41	Youth-led community action for water and sanitation and climate adaptation	Success is achieved when youth-led initiatives result in measurable improvements in local water management practices and climate resilience, alongside increased community awareness and capacity to address water-related challenges.	WYPW, ISW	Country level	No
CA1.42	Representing the global youth movement for water	Success is achieved when youth voices are effectively integrated into UN-Water discussions and governance decisions, resulting in tangible outcomes that reflect the needs and priorities of young people globally.	WYPW	Global level	No
CA1.43	Promote democratic water governance	Rights holders engage effectively and meaningfully with the UN-Water strategy, including the UN-Water Conferences and UN Water architecture.	The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation	Global level	No

CA1.44	Water for climate action	The success of this action is measured by its ability to enhance sustainable and equitable access to water resources while building climate resilience for the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems, as guided by the GCF's transformative project objectives.	GCF	All levels	No
CA1.45	Reducing the impact of water-related disasters through preparedness, response, and recovery, while advancing climate adaptation and sustainable water management in migration and humanitarian contexts.	Water-related disasters result in fewer deaths, fewer people affected, and reduced economic losses, thanks to effective preparedness, response, recovery, and transition efforts. At the same time, migrants, displaced communities, and their host populations have sustainable and long-term access to water, sanitation, and hygiene through integrated water resources management, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.	IOM	Global level	No
CA1.46	Ensure equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services for migrants, displaced populations, and host communities.	WASH services are strengthened and sustainably delivered to migrants, displaced populations, and host communities across humanitarian and migration contexts.	IOM	Global level	No

2. ENGAGE BETTER FOR COUNTRIES BY LEVERAGING WHOLE-OF-UN SYSTEM SUPPORT AND BY MOBILIZING STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR WATER AND SANITATION

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Contributing Actions		Success statement	Collaborating UN entities and Partners	Geographic scope	Water Action Agenda commitment
CA2.1	Assisting UN Member States in advancing on IWRM implementation through better integration	Substantial progress towards SDG indicator 6.5.1, in addition to other relevant SDG indicators, as defined by each participating country.	GWP, UNEP, IMI-SDG 6, UNDP Cap-Net	All levels	Yes
CA2.2	Country days	Success will be the amount of tangible collaboration and partnership work that results from each Country Day.	AquaFed, UN Country office lead is essential. Otherwise, everyone is welcome!	Country level	No
CA2.3	Ensure protection, health, well-being and dignity of forcibly displaced people by providing access to WASH services	Improved protection, health, well-being and dignity of forcibly displaced people.	UNHCR, IOM	All levels	No
CA2.4	UNESCAP contribution to the WMO Third Pole Regional Climate Center-Network (TPRCC-Network)	Translation of Climate Outlooks issued by the TPRCC-Network into socio-economic impact forecasting .	UNESCAP, WMO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA2.5	Facilitate confidential dialogue platforms	By 2028, the use of confidential dialogue platforms and processes is recognised as useful to achieve the aims of Priority Collaborative Action 2; ways to promote water for peace through networks at multiple levels is widespread and leads to more effective multilateral action.	Geneva Water Hub, UNECE, SMAB, Pôle Eau Dakar, Water Diplomacy Centre	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	Yes
CA2.6	Flash flood guidance system	Effective issuance of timely flash flood warnings and reduction of loss of life and property damage.	WMO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country-level	Yes

CA2.7	Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS)	The success of HydroSOS is defined by improved capacity of NMHSs to share hydrological status to their stakeholders and provide hydrological predictions at the sub-seasonal and seasonal scales.	WMO	All levels	Yes
CA2.8	IHP-IX 1.10. Integrating citizen science in the hydrological discipline.	The success of this action is measured by the effective integration of citizen science into hydrological research and decision-making, enhancing community engagement and improving water resource management through validated local knowledge and data.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA2.9	IHP-IX 2.2. Promotion of transdisciplinary research and education by UNESCO Water Family to enhance participatory holistic practices	The success of this action is characterized by the establishment of effective transdisciplinary collaborations and educational initiatives that enhance community engagement and understanding of water's importance across various contexts.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA2.10	IHP-IX 2.3. Development of water-related teaching materials for all education levels to enhance understanding of water's importance	The success of this action is defined by the effective development and dissemination of comprehensive water-related teaching materials that enhance understanding and engagement across all educational levels and communities.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA2.11	IHP-IX 4.1.: Ensure meaningful engagement of youth, local, and Indigenous communities in water management through inclusive, participatory approaches	Success is achieved through effective scientific research and sharing of best practices that ensure meaningful gender-responsive engagement of youth, local, and Indigenous communities in water management processes.	UNESCO, ISW	All levels	No
CA2.12	IHP-IX 4.2. Research on upstream-downstream river uses shared to	Success is defined by effective research and sharing of upstream-downstream river use practices to minimize socio-economic and ecological impacts,	UNESCO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	No

	minimize socio-economic and ecological impacts	enhance sustainability, and improve water management.			
CA2.13	IHP-IX 4.3. Research on non-conventional water resources (NCWRs) shared to improve water management and strengthen decision-making capacities	Success is achieved through effective research and collaboration on non-conventional water resources, enhancing water management practices, strengthening decision-making capacities, and promoting public acceptance.	UNESCO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	Yes
CA2.14	IHP-IX 5.2. Integrating sound science into water governance to enhance climate adaptation and IWRM, addressing surface and groundwater for decision maker use	Success is achieved when sound science is effectively integrated into water governance, leading to improved climate adaptation and informed decision-making for both surface and groundwater management.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA2.15	International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025	We have raised awareness of glaciers' vital role and the need for urgent action, implemented sustainable preservation measures, enhanced scientific understanding, strengthened policy frameworks, and secured financial support to mitigate the impacts of climate change on glaciers and downstream communities.	WMO, UNESCO, FAO, UNDESA	Global level	No
CA2.16	Platforms for disaster risk reduction	Awareness-raising and water-related disaster risk reduction.	UNDRR, Open to all UN-Water partners	Global level	No
CA2.17	Streamline actions from the 'Roadmap for the integration of human rights to water and sanitation' in support of	Data and analyses on inequalities and WASH services and on government actions to reach vulnerable populations and integration of the human rights to water and sanitation. Integration of the	UNICEF, WHO	Global level, Country level	No

	country-level efforts to reach people in vulnerable situations to leave no one behind	rights to water and sanitation within global norms and support for country level system strengthening.			
CA2.18	Support national government on development and humanitarian coordination efforts to incorporate gender-responsive, climate- and disaster-resilient approaches for water and sanitation across the whole of SDG 6	1. Mapping out how different UN agencies are present and support government programming and capacity at country level based on given mandate e.g. normative, specialized agency, programme implementation etc. 2. Compile lesson learned and good practice from country level cooperation platforms. Based on the outcome, address need to strengthen national platforms for development and humanitarian contexts at national and subnational levels.	UNICEF	Country level	No
CA2.19	To help countries better understand the water-related losses and damages they face, which will inform risk reduction and adaptation measures, as well as water resource management plans	Increase or decrease in losses and damages provide the litmus test for decrease or increase in resilience.	UNDRR, UNDP and WMO, besides other thematic partners	Country level	Yes
CA2.20	To leverage the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure to help countries identify and address vulnerabilities in their infrastructure systems. This will ensure that infrastructure investments take the changing climate into consideration, thus embedding resilience into	Resilience is integrated into the infrastructure lifestyle of water projects.	UNDRR	Country level	Yes

	water infrastructure decisions and investments				
CA2.21	Early Warning Systems for Floods (EWS-F)	The success of EWS-F is measured by the establishment of operational flood early warning systems that help protect lives and reduce the economic impact of floods in 14 SIDS countries.	WMO, WMO, UNDRR, ITU, IFRC	Country level	Yes
CA2.22	National water roadmaps towards the 2030 Agenda	Country-driven multi-stakeholder dialogue for policy coherence on water in national policies.	FAO, Other UN agencies are invited to join this initiative for greater integration and better results.	Global level, Country level	Yes
CA2.23	Global Dialogue on Water Tenure	Wide participation of countries to the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure.	FAO, Other UN entities are welcome to join, including UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, WMO, UN-Habitat	Global level, Country level	Yes
CA2.24	Addressing water scarcity in agriculture through partnerships and innovation (WASAG)	Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture.	FAO, CBD, UNCCD, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNU-INWEH, WMO, GWP	Global level, Country level	Yes
CA2.25	Global norms and capacity building: Training and capacity development for safe drinking water	National governments, utilities, municipalities and development partners apply health based guidance and tools from WHO to develop, implement, monitor and enforce climate resilient safely managed sanitation (SMS).	WHO, IWA, WaterAid, RWSN	Global level	Yes
CA2.26	Global norms and capacity building: training and capacity development for safely managed sanitation	National governments, utilities, municipalities and development partner apply WHO guidelines on drinking water safety including guideline values, surveillance protocols and climate resilient Water Safety Plans (WSPs) to	WHO, WaterAid	Global level	Yes

		develop, implement, monitor and safe drinking water supplies.			
CA2.27	Facilitating the presence of youth voices in global forums	Expected measurable impacts include a gradual increase in the number of youth participants trained and the frequency and quality of youth-led proposals submitted at forums such as the WWF.	WYPW	Global level	No
CA2.28	Catalyzing youth leadership for water and peace	Success is achieved when youth representatives contribute effectively to Blue Peace initiatives and basin-level governance discussions, demonstrating measurable influence in water and peace strategies across targeted regions.	WYPW	Global level	Yes
CA2.29	SR Water contribute to the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation through country visits	The governments and rights holders follow up on the SR recommendations in the country visit report.	The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation	Country level	No
CA2.30	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)	Reduction of disaster impact on populations in vulnerable countries; improved ability of disaster management experts in those countries to access satellite data and use space technologies in building disaster resilience and improving their early warning or response.	UNOOSA	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	No
CA2.31	Tripartite technical meeting on advancing decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector	This activity will be explicitly grounded in the enjoyment or fulfilment of labour rights as established in ILO Conventions. Many of the workers affected are vulnerable populations or minorities in their countries. Worker and	ILO	Global level	No

		employer representatives will participate on an equal footing with governments.			
CA2.32	Initiative for sanitation workers	Water-related disasters result in fewer deaths, fewer people affected, and reduced economic losses, thanks to effective preparedness, response, recovery, and transition efforts. At the same time, migrants, displaced communities, and their host populations have sustainable and long-term access to water, sanitation, and hygiene through integrated water resources management, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.	ILO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	No
3. ALIGN UN SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WATER AND SANITATION ISSUES ACROSS SECTORS AND MAINSTREAMING INTO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES Outcome 3. <i>Improved policy coherence on water and sanitation through UN system support for integration across sectors and mainstreaming into intergovernmental processes led by Member States</i> Output 3.1. Operational and financial strategies, policies and approaches of the UN system are aligned to harness complementarity Output 3.2. Integrated policy frameworks to manage water and sanitation across sectors are supported by the UN system using latest data and evidence Output 3.3. Mainstreaming of water- and sanitation-related issues into intergovernmental processes led by Member States is supported by the UN system					
Contributing Actions		Success statement	Collaborating UN entities and Partners	Geographic scope	Water Action Agenda commitment
CA3.1	Advance implementation of integrated water resources management and governance	Substantial progress towards SDG target 6.5, as measured through SDG indicator 6.5.1, in addition to other relevant indicators, as defined by each participating country.	UNEP, Various, on a project or programme basis (e.g. UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, UN regional orgs, GWP, UNDP Cap-Net, CEO Water Mandate, IUCN, IWMI)	Country level	Yes

CA3.2	Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)	The success of APFM is defined by improved flood risk management strategies that save lives and enhance the sustainable use of floodplains.	WMO	All levels	Yes
CA3.3	Climate change impact scenarios in the Aral Sea	Further development and enhancement of climate change impact scenarios in the Aral Sea.	UNESCAP	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA3.4	Driving water and sanitation agenda in the pan-European region through the Protocol on Water and Health	Legally binding nature of the agreement engaging national authorities, water operators and NGOs in both national and intergovernmental work.	UNECE, WHO Regional Office for Europe	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	Yes
CA3.5	Identification of indicators for enhanced national and global monitoring of climate resilient WASH	Identification of indicators, integration of climate adaptation and mitigation risk assessment and management into water and sanitation, norms, policy, regulation and service provider risk management with associated increase in climate finance for water and sanitation, and support to government on initial monitoring of the indicators.	UNICEF, WHO, UN-Water, SWA	Global level, regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA3.6	IHP-IX 1.3. Research on climate uncertainty and adaptive water management strategies	The generation of robust knowledge on uncertainties in climatic, hydrological, and water use scenarios, effectively communicated to decision-makers and the public, leading to the adoption of adaptive water management strategies.	UNESCO, IAH, IAHS	All levels	No
CA3.7	IHP-IX 4.9. Implementing integrated water resources management through transboundary cooperation to achieve SDG target 6.5.	Success is measured by the effective implementation of integrated water resources management through strengthened transboundary cooperation, leading to progress on SDG target 6.5.2.	UNESCO, UNECE, UNSD	Global level, regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	Yes

CA3.8	Implement the UN Secretary-General's EW4All initiative through the Water at the Heart of Climate Action project	Installation and institutionalization of working end-to-end early warning systems that save lives and livelihoods.	UNDRR, WMO, IFRC, RCRC Climate Centre, SOFF	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA3.9	Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)	The success of IDMP is defined by improved drought risk management strategies that save lives and enhance the drought resilience.	WMO, UNCCD, WB, FAO, UNDRR, IOM, UNESCO-IHP, UNECE, UNOSAT, GWP	All levels	Yes
CA3.10	Normative support on water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation	Awareness-raising and water-related disaster risk reduction.	UNDRR, UNECE	Global level	No
CA3.11	Policy brief on strengthening climate adaptation through water cooperation and related technical assistance	Publication of policy brief and implementation of related technical assistance.	UNESCAP	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA3.12	State of Global Water Resources	Publish this assessment report annually with increasing amount of data shared by countries.	WMO, IGRAC, GWP	Global level	Yes
CA3.13	The Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water	Improved capacities of Arab States to develop the climate rationale for water investments to unlock access to global, regional and multilateral funds and financial institutions that aim to expand their climate resilient investments and achieve balance between their mitigation and adaptation portfolios.	UNESCWA, FAO, GCF	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	Yes
CA3.14	Supporting adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	Adaptive capacity increased of basins and countries, water and especially transboundary cooperation mainstreamed in climate processes.	Water Convention secretariat, UNECE, WMO, INBO	All levels	No

CA3.15	Integrated water resources management (IWRM) and sustainable inland fisheries	Inclusion of inland fisheries in basin management plans.	FAO	Global level	Yes
CA3.16	Management and governance of groundwater resource. Development of science-based policy and capacity on transboundary aquifers management and data collection. Organization of international events, congress, webinars. Publications of reports and text books	Improved capacity on groundwater resources management and governance.	IAH, UNESCO, UNECE	Global level, Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA3.17	Global Monitoring: Climate resilient WASH indicators	A concise, evidence-based set of climate-resilient WASH indicators is internationally endorsed, incorporated into JMP and GLAAS reporting, and actively used within national monitoring systems and climate resilient WASH is effectively monitored at the global level.	WHO, UNICEF	Global level	No
CA3.18	Global norms and capacity building: Drinking water quality guidelines	Global guidance on drinking water quality is informed by highest quality science and practice and regulators embed WHO GDWQ and derivative tools into national standards and apply Water Safety Plans with independent surveillance.	WHO	Global level	Yes
CA3.19	Global norms and capacity building: Household treatment and safe storage of water (HWTS)	Regulators and procurers embed WHO's HWTS performance criteria into integrated WASH policies, procure and scale WHO-validated household water-treatment technologies, and	WHO, RWSN	Global level	Yes

		independently verify sustained reductions in faecal contamination and diarrhoeal disease among populations relying on unsafe or emergency water sources where HWTS devices are used.			
CA3.20	Global norms and capacity building: Sanitation and Health guidelines	Global guidance on sanitation is informed by highest quality science and practice and health authorities embed WHO Sanitation & Health Guidelines and derivative tools into national policy and governance frameworks, implement risk-based, climate-resilient sanitation systems, and verify measurable reductions in sanitation-related disease.	WHO	Global level	Yes
CA3.21	Global norms and capacity building: Recreational water quality	Global guidance on recreational water site is informed by highest quality science and practice and countries adopt WHO recreational-water guidelines, routinely test beaches, pools and spas, and keep sites within health-based safety limits.	WHO	Global level	No
CA3.22	Global norms and capacity building: Safe use of wastewater	Global guidance on safe reuse of wastewater is informed by highest quality science and practice. Countries apply WHO's updated wastewater-reuse guidelines, run risk-based monitoring that meets health-based targets, and safely recover water and nutrients for agriculture without triggering disease outbreaks.	WHO, FAO, UNEP	Global level	No
CA3.23	Health programmes: WASH in health care facilities (HCF) initiative	By 2030, health authorities have adopted and implemented HCF's eight practical steps to ensure safe WASH practices in health care facilities.	WHO, UNICEF	Global level	Yes

CA3.24	Health programmes: WASH for prevention and control of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)	Endemic countries integrate WHO's WASH-NTD toolkit into national plans, deliver safe water, sanitation and hygiene where NTDs persist, and verify infection drops to 2030 elimination targets.	WHO	Global level	No
CA3.25	Support the launch and follow-up of the High-Level Compact on Water Security and Resilience during the 2025 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting	A Political Compact is launched and endorsed by participating countries of the 2025 Sectors Ministers Meeting; follow-up commitments are reflected in national strategies, global climate and water processes, and SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism.	UNICEF, SWA	Global level	No
<p>4. ACCELERATE PROGRESS AND TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE BY UNIFYING UN SYSTEM SUPPORT THROUGH THE FIVE SDG 6 GLOBAL ACCELERATORS: FINANCING, DATA AND INFORMATION, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Outcome 4. <i>More impactful UN system support to countries to accelerate progress and transformational change, including through the five SDG 6 global accelerators: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance</i></p> <p>Output 4.1. Financing strategies, frameworks and plans for investing in water and sanitation across sectors are prepared and implemented with UN system support, with emphasis on the financing needs of developing countries</p> <p>Output 4.2. High-quality, disaggregated water and sanitation data and information are available and shared transparently through strengthened national and subnational monitoring systems, and regional and global platforms, with support from the UN system</p> <p>Output 4.3. Institutional and human resources capacity-development support that responds to national needs and priorities is provided by the UN system, contributing to a skilled water and sanitation workforce</p> <p>Output 4.4. Enabling environments for water and sanitation innovation are supported by the UN system, including policies, partnerships and transfer of technology to remove barriers, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries</p> <p>Output 4.5. Governance of water and sanitation is improved through UN system support, with emphasis on the needs of developing countries</p>					
Contributing Actions		Success statement	Collaborating UN entities and Partners	Geographic scope	Water Action Agenda commitment

CA4.1	Arab groundwater knowledge platform	Improved knowledge on groundwater resources in the Arab region to inform policies for sustainable management of groundwater resources.	UNESCWA	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA4.2	Climate-resilient integrated water resources management	Improved and increased application of climate-resilient integrated water resources management.	UNEP	Global level	No
CA4.3	Contribute to accelerating progress on SDG 6 through the global accelerators	Better use of data, development of a global set of indicators, and alignment of global norms.	UNICEF, WHO, WB, UNEP, UN-Water, SWA, OECD	All levels	No
CA4.4	Customized training and capacity-building programmes on the use of water for peace to a wide range of audiences	By 2028, the knowledge of the interplay between international water law, human rights law, international humanitarian, environmental law and economic law will have advanced and guided the use of water as an effective mechanism for peacebuilding.	Geneva Water Hub, UNECE, Member States	Global level	Yes
CA4.5	Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction	Awareness-raising and water-related disaster risk reduction.	UNDRR, others depending on topic	Global level	No
CA4.6	Global Hydrometry Support Facility (WMO HydroHub)	Improved and sustained hydrological monitoring and data sharing in the world.	WMO	All levels	No
CA4.7	Global Water Education Network (GWEN)	One unified agenda on education and capacity development for water.	IHE-Delft, UNESCO, UNDP Cap-Net and SIWI	Global level	Yes

CA4.8	Acceleration of the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG6, through capacity building, with a focus on groundwater management and IAHI's strategic plan to 2030	Improve knowledge and open access to groundwater resources data and information.	IAH, UNESCO, UNEP, IAEA, WB, AIDA, IWRA	All levels	No	
CA4.9	IHP-IX 1.1. Strengthening global cooperation to advance hydrology research	Establishment of sustaining international collaboration, publications of synthesized research findings, and the implementation of a UNESCO Biennial Award and Conference Series that advances solutions to unresolved hydrological problems.	UNESCO, WMO, IAHR, IAHS, IAH	All levels	No	
CA4.10	IHP-IX 1.2. Ecohydrology research & innovation at UNESCO sites for IWRM integration	Widespread implementation of ecohydrology and nature-based solutions across UNESCO-designated sites, demonstrating improvements in water management, ecosystem sustainability, and resilience, with the findings shared globally to influence policy and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) practices.	UNESCO, WB, FAO, IAHR, IAHS, IUCN	All levels	Yes	
CA4.11	IHP-IX 1.4. Scientific research to accelerate the circular economy transition of the water sector	The success of this action is constituted by the effective dissemination and adoption of innovative business models, enhanced stakeholder collaboration, and the establishment of best practices that collectively accelerate the transition to a circular economy in the water sector.	UNESCO	All levels	Yes	

CA4.12	IHP-IX 1.5. Develop adaptive water management in line with socio-hydrology and the interaction between humans and water for water management	The success of this action is defined by the effective generation and dissemination of knowledge on socio-hydrology, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue among researchers and local stakeholders, and developing adaptive management strategies that enhance the sustainable interaction between humans and water.	<u>UNESCO</u> , IAHS	All levels	No
CA4.13	IHP-IX 1.6. Science towards timely forecasting of water-related disasters	The success of this action is measured by the effective development and dissemination of scientific knowledge, methodologies, and tools for timely forecasting and addressing water-related disasters, along with enhanced capacity building and a strong science-policy dialogue that leads to improved disaster resilience and management practices.	UNESCO, IAHS	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	Yes
CA4.14	IHP-IX 1.7. Embed the impacts of global change and human usage in water resources and services management plans	The success of this action is constituted by the effective integration of scientific knowledge into water management policies and practices that enhance the resilience of river basins, aquifers, cryosphere, and coastal areas in the face of global change.	UNESCO, IAHS	All levels	No
CA4.15	IHP-IX 1.8. Science for improving water quality and reducing water pollution	The success of this action is defined by the effective dissemination and implementation of innovative, science-based solutions that improve water quality and reduce pollution, ultimately enhancing public health and environmental resilience.	UNESCO, UNEP	All levels	No
CA4.16	IHP-IX 1.9. Using innovative technologies using earth observation, AI and IoT in hydrological	The success of this action is determined by the effective adoption and integration of advanced technologies—such as Earth observation, AI, and IoT—by water	UNESCO, WMO, UNEP	All levels	No

	planning, assessment, monitoring and distribution networks	stakeholders to enhance hydrological planning, assessment, and monitoring, leading to improved water resource management.			
CA4.17	IHP-IX 2.1. Public awareness raised about the vital roles of water in domestic life, ecosystems, and development	The success of this action is defined by the increased public awareness and understanding of water's multifaceted roles in society and ecosystems, leading to more informed community engagement and sustainable water practices.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.18	IHP-IX 2.4. Development and sharing of new methods and tools to translate scientific information for education and policymaking	Effective creation and dissemination of tools and training materials that enhance knowledge transfer and stakeholder engagement in water management and policymaking.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.19	IHP-IX 2.5. Strengthened capacities of water-related education professionals to identify gaps in sustainable water management and support Agenda 2030 targets	The success of this action is defined by the strengthened capacities of professionals and technicians in water-related education to identify and address gaps in sustainable water management, contributing to the achievement of Agenda 2030 targets.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.20	IHP-IX 3.1. Support for scientific research methods to accurately collect, analyze, interpret, and exchange data	The success of this action is defined by the effective development and application of scientific research methods that enhance data collection, analysis, interpretation, and exchange within the scientific community.	UNESCO, WMO, IAHS	All levels	No
CA4.21	IHP-IX 3.2. Establishment of harmonized experimental basins to collect data and advance	The success of this action is defined by the establishment of harmonized experimental basins that effectively collect and share scientific data to	UNESCO	All levels	No

	hydrological research and water management	advance hydrological research and holistic water management.			
CA4.22	IHP-IX 3.3. Validating open access data on water quantity, quality, and use to support sustainable water management	Success is achieved through enhanced access to validated water data, improved collaboration among stakeholders, increased participation in data services, and effective scientific validation and harmonization efforts.	UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, UNICEF, WMO, WHO, GEO, IGRAC	All levels	No
CA4.23	IHP-IX 3.4. Strengthened capacity of the scientific community to develop and share data processing tools, including assimilation and visualization methods	Success is defined by the strengthened capacity of the scientific community to develop, share, and apply advanced data processing tools, promote interoperability, and enhance stakeholder skills in hydrological data management.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.24	IHP-IX 4.4. Development and sharing of knowledge on source-to-sea and nexus approaches to enhance integrated water resources management across watersheds	Success is defined by enhanced knowledge and capacity in using source-to-sea and nexus approaches to improve integrated water resources management across watersheds, including transboundary contexts.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.25	IHP-IX 4.5. Improved understanding of pollutant sources and transport in freshwater systems to prevent water pollution and support management strategies	Success is achieved through enhanced understanding of pollutant sources and transport in freshwater systems, enabling effective strategies for pollution prevention and improved water resource management.	UNESCO	Global level	No
CA4.26	IHP-IX 4.6. Conducting and sharing assessments of ecosystem services and environmental flows	Success is defined by the effective integration of ecosystem services and environmental flows into water resource management, leading to enhanced	UNESCO	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	No

	to enhance integrated water resources management	sustainability and achievement of SDG 6.			
CA4.27	IHP-IX 4.7. Assessing and sharing methods to monitor changes in the cryosphere and runoff from melting glaciers, supporting decision-making at all levels	Success is measured by improved understanding and management of cryosphere changes, enhanced decision-making, and reduced vulnerabilities in water resources due to climate impacts.	UNESCO, WGSM	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level, Country level	No
CA4.28	IHP-IX 4.8. Developing and sharing methodologies and tools to integrate global changes into water management for better decision-making at all levels	Success is achieved when methodologies and tools for integrating global changes into water management lead to improved planning and informed decision-making at all levels.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.29	IHP-IX 5.3. Science-based guidelines to enhance water content in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans for better climate policy	Success is defined by the effective integration of science-based guidelines into Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, enhancing the water-climate policy nexus for adaptation and mitigation.	UNESCO, UNFCCC	Global level, Country level	No
CA4.30	IHP-IX 5.4. Researching and sharing novel adaptive water management approaches to strengthen capacities and enhance water governance	Success is achieved when novel approaches to adaptive water management are effectively researched, implemented, and shared, leading to strengthened governance and capacity among Member States.	UNESCO	Global level, Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No

CA4.31	IHP-IX 5.5. Strengthening capacities of the scientific community and decision makers in new frameworks and tools for water governance and resilience	Success is defined by strengthened capacities within the scientific community and decision makers to effectively utilize new frameworks and tools for enhanced water governance and resilience.	UNESCO	All levels	No
CA4.32	IPH-IX 2.6. Strengthened capacities of decision-makers and water managers to utilize new technologies and research for effective water policy design and implementation	The success of this action is defined by the enhanced capacities of decision-makers and water managers to effectively utilize new technologies and research for the development and implementation of integrated water policies.	UNESCO, UNDESA	All levels	No
CA4.33	IWRM Action Hub	Increased knowledge dissemination among water practitioners, decision makers and representatives of civil society and academia.	GWP, UNCCD, WMO	Global level	No
CA4.34	Provide freshwater data and information for environmental assessment, decision-making and early warning	Strengthened freshwater monitoring and integration of freshwater data into global goals and multilateral environmental agreements including for sustainable development, climate, and biodiversity frameworks.	UNEP	Global level	No
CA4.35	Risk and Resilience Portal	Enhanced data and applications of the Portal.	UNESCAP	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA4.36	Support technical preparations for discussions related to the post-2030 global Sustainable Development Agenda	Influence on the post-2030 global sustainable development agenda and ensure post-SDG agenda is informed by global evidence and practice.	UNICEF, WHO, UN-Water	Global level	No

CA4.37	Tackle Pollution of freshwater ecosystems and Improve water quality	Capacities of countries improved to design and implement national frameworks addressing pollution impacting freshwater ecosystems, ensuring alignment with international agreements aimed at achieving a pollution-free planet.	UNEP	Global level	Yes
CA4.38	The Space4Water Project	Funding approved, user and capacity building needs of developing countries towards the space sector/space agencies assessed, (re)assessment of water-related SDG indicators that can benefit from space technology, effective community of practice and collaboration therein, successful implementation of a collaborative mapping platform to provide for the development and hosting of space-based solutions to address water issues, impactful outreach attracting key actors and innovative space-based solutions.	UNOOSA	All levels	Yes
CA4.39	Unlock public and private capital for better access to water related services and IWRM	River Basin Organization and other non-sovereign entities have better access to capital and improved capacity to mobilize and manage funding and financing for water-related services and IWRM.	UNCDF	Global level	Yes
CA4.40	WMO Hydrological Observing System (WHOS)	Improved and sustained hydrological monitoring and data sharing in the world.	WMO	All levels	No
CA4.41	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS)	Improved and sustained hydrological monitoring and data sharing in the world.	WMO	All levels	No

CA4.42	Global monitoring of actual evapotranspiration, biomass production and water productivity through remote sensing (WaPOR)	Increase agricultural water productivity.	FAO, IWMI, IHE Delft	Global level, Country level	Yes
CA4.43	AQUALEX	Complete updated inventory.	FAO	Global level	Yes
CA4.44	The Interregional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity (iRTP-WS)	This platform was established under the direct guidance of the FAO Director-General. To ensure its long-term sustainability within FAO and beyond, a governance structure was developed and operationalized in 2024. This structure includes a Steering Committee, chaired by FAO Assistants Director-General (ADGs), along with a Technical Advisory Group and an inter-regional Technical Executive Secretariat (ES).	FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNESCWA, IMWI, Australia Water Partnership, PRIMA, ICARDA, UNEP, UNDP, ICID, UFM, ICBA, Arab Water Council	Regional, transboundary and sub-regional level	No
CA4.45	Global Monitoring: WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for SDG 6.1 and 6.2	Global, regional and national bodies routinely use these JMP data on access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation to track progress against SDG 6 targets, guide investments and publicly report progress.	WHO, UNICEF in coordination with the IMI-SDG 6	Global level	No
CA4.46	Global Monitoring: WHO/UN-HABITAT monitoring of SDG 6.3	Global, regional and national bodies routinely use these data on wastewater treatment to track progress against SDG 6 targets, guide investments and publicly report progress.	WHO, UN-HABITAT in coordination with the IMI-SDG 6	Global level	No
CA4.47	Global Monitoring: UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)	Data collected through GLAAS are used to inform decisions by governments and development partners.	WHO, UNICEF	Global level	No

CA4.48	Global Monitoring: Align to Accelerate (A2A)	National, regional and global monitoring of WASH systems is improved, and the burden of reporting on countries is reduced, based on the core indicators that have been agreed upon by the sector.	WHO, UNICEF, World Bank	Global level	No
CA4.49	Global Monitoring: WASH Accounts	WASH accounts are used by governments and development partners to inform WASH financial decisions.	WHO, UNICEF	Global level	No
CA4.50	Global Monitoring: WASH related burden of disease for SDG 3.9	Global and national strategy and policy on WASH and health is informed by up to date WASH-attributable burden of disease estimates.	WHO	Global level	No
CA4.51	Global norms and capacity building: International Network of Drinking-water and Sanitation Regulators (RegNet)	Public health regulation is accelerated through networking and sharing of best practice experiences among regulators and RegNet members align their regulatory frameworks with WHO guidelines and verify compliance.	WHO	Global level	Yes
CA4.52	Global Water Investment Programme (GIP) on water and climate resilience	USD 15 Billion to be leveraged by 2030 in climate-resilient water investments.	GWP	Global level	Yes
CA4.53	Water-related work on other SDGs	Reduced poverty among rural populations. Through improvements in income levels and living standards of smallholder farmers and rural communities.	IFAD	Global level	No

5. ACCOUNT FOR PROGRESS THROUGH JOINT REVIEW AND LEARNING

Outcome 5. *Strengthened accountability for progress in water and sanitation through joint review and learning*

Output 5.1. Progress on implementation of the Strategy is reviewed jointly by the UN system at technical and leadership levels

Output 5.2. Progress on water-related goals and targets is reviewed through joint learning and exchange among all actors, with support from the UN system

Contributing Actions		Success statement	Collaborating UN entities and Partners	Geographic scope	Water Action Agenda commitment
CA5.1	HRC panel discussion and report	Human rights are reflected in the agenda and outcome of the 2026 UN Water Conference and a meaningful and inclusive civil society participation is ensured during the Conference and its preparatory processes.	OHCHR, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	Global level	No
CA5.2	Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)	The success of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism lies in its collaborative approach, highlighting successes to inspire action and uniting diverse stakeholders to fulfil commitments toward water and sanitation targets in the SDGs.	SWA	Global level	No
CA5.3	Support to 2026 UNWC co-hosts	The organizational, communications and logistical elements of the Conference encourage and support the substantive ambition.	UNDESA	Global level	No
CA5.4	Strengthening inclusive global water governance through strategic communication and stakeholder mobilization	Mobilizing diverse stakeholders and amplifying civil society and youth voices to drive impactful UN water governance. Support UN-Water and UN DESA in expanding global participation in water dialogues by leading inclusive communication campaigns, promoting intergovernmental cooperation, ensuring civil society and youth engagement, and organizing strategic events and consultations towards the 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences.	ISW	Global level	No

Abbreviations and acronyms

2026 UN Water Conference: 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

2028 UN Water Conference: United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

2030 Agenda: Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

AIDA: International Association for Water Law

AquaFed: International Federation of Private Water Operators

CA: Contributing Action

CAWST: Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology

CBD: United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

CDI: UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative

Cooperation Framework: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

COP: Conference of the Parties

DPPA: United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GWP: Global Water Partnership

HH4A: Hand Hygiene for All

High-level Political Forum : United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

HR2W: Human Right 2 Water

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

IAH: International Association of Hydrogeologists

IAHR: International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research

IAHS: International Association of Hydrological Sciences

ICID: International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

ICRC: International Committee for Red Cross

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFRC: International Federation of the Red Cross

IGRAC: International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre

IHA: International Hydropower Association

IHE-Delft: IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

ILO: International Labour Organization

IMI-SDG6: Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6

INBO: International Network of Basin Organizations

IOM: International Organization for Migration

IRC: International Water and Sanitation Centre

ISW: International Secretariat for Water

ITU: International Telecommunication Union

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

IWA: International Water Association

IWMI: International Water Management Institute

IWRA: International Water Resources Association

IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management

OCHA: United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PCA: Priority Collaborative Action

QCPR: Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

Ramsar Convention: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

RWSN: Rural Water Supply Network

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

SIWI: Stockholm International Water Institute

SWA: Sanitation and Water for All

UAE: United Arab Emirates

UN: United Nations

UN 2023 Water Conference: United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

UN Country Team: United Nations Country Team

UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCDF: United Nations Capital Development Fund

UNDESA: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

Cap-NetUNDP: International Capacity Development Network for Sustainable Water Management

UNDRR: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO-IHP: UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

UNESCWA: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UN-Habitat-GWOPA: UN-Habitat-Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance

UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNOOSA: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

UNOSAT: United Nations Satellite Centre

UNU-INWEH: United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health

WASH: Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water Action Decade: International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028

WBG: World Bank Group

WfWP: Women for Water Partnership

WHO: World Health Organization

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

WOAH: World Organisation for Animal Health

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

WYPW: World Youth Parliament for Water

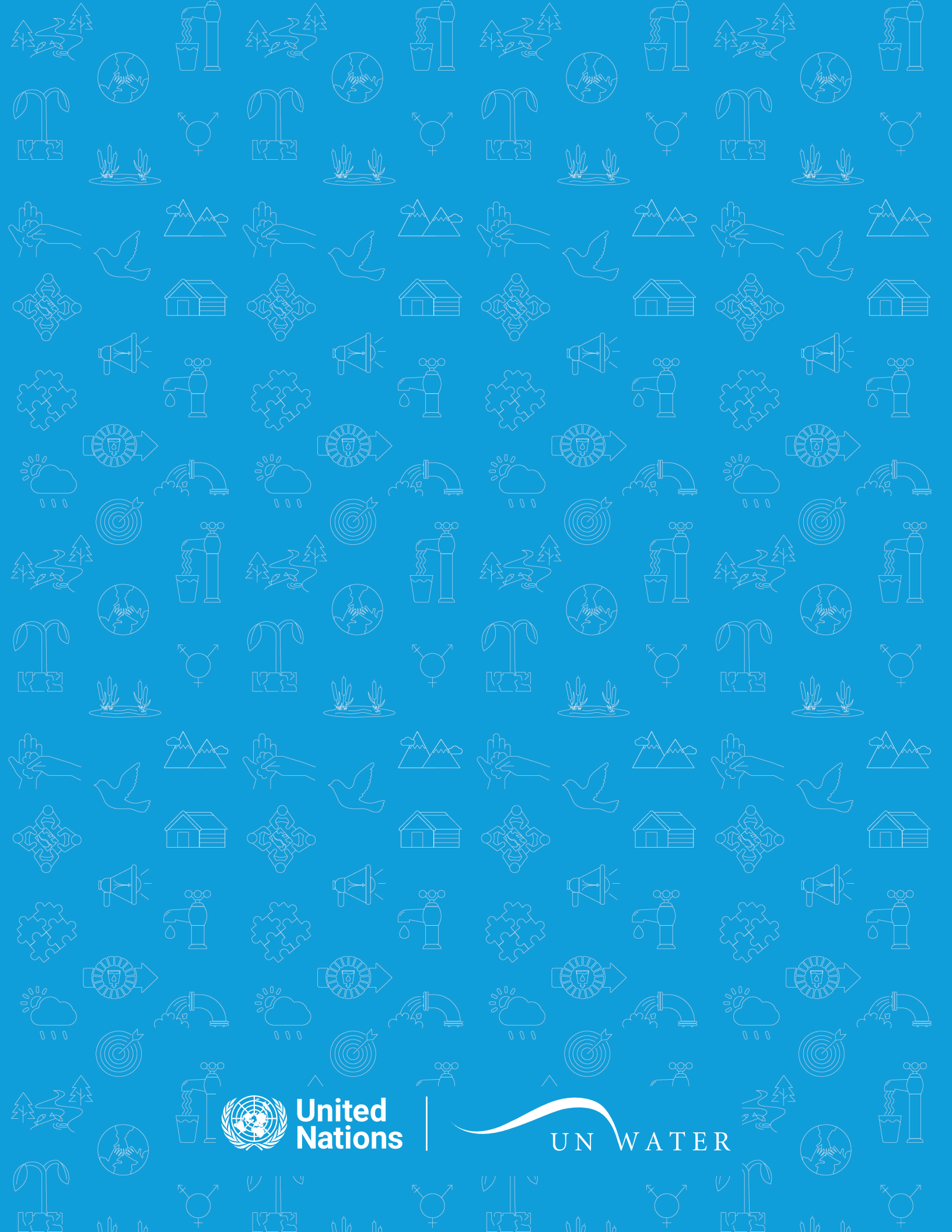
About UN-Water

As the UN's inter-agency coordination mechanism, UN-Water brings together 36 UN entities and 51 international partners to 'deliver as one' on water- and sanitation-related challenges across the spectrum of sustainable development.

Through its collaborative initiatives, UN-Water has helped elevate the importance of water and sanitation on the international stage, leading to significant advancements in internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, landmark agreements, improved monitoring and reporting, and heightened public awareness.

The UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation will accelerate progress through a more holistic and integrated approach that matches Member States' ambition and assists countries in ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

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