### ANNUAL REPORT

# 2015



### **ABOUT UN-WATER**

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

The work of UN-Water is organized around
Thematic Priority Areas and Task Forces, as well
as the global awareness-raising campaigns that it
coordinates, such as World Water Day (22 March)
and World Toilet Day (19 November). The main
purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add
value to existing programmes and projects by
facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to
maximize United Nations system-wide coordinated
action and coherence. By doing so, UN-Water seeks
to increase the effectiveness of the support provided
to Member States in their efforts towards achieving
international agreements on water.

At the end of 2015, UN-Water had 31 Members and 37 Partners.

# N WATER SANITATION





Michel Jarraud speaking at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2013

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2015 Annual Report Foreword Michel Jarraud

The year 2015 was truly pivotal, not only for sustainable development, but also for water and sanitation issues at large.

Against the backdrop of a growing global awareness of the fragility of our world's ecosystems, the importance of ensuring 'availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all', and our susceptibility to extreme natural events such as floods and droughts, world leaders passed a number of milestone agreements in 2015 to set the world on a course towards sustainable development by 2030. The international agreements forged in March, in Sendai, on disaster risk reduction, in July, in Addis Ababa, on financing for development, in September, in New York, on the global sustainable development agenda and in December, in Paris, on climate change will ensure that we have our work cut out for us over the years to come, in order to reach the lofty goal of a healthy, sustainable, prosperous world where no one is left behind.

The themes of water and sanitation run through all of these processes, which have required coherent, timely and coordinated technical input. In 2015, UN-Water Members rose to the challenge to 'deliver as one', as never before. Over the coming years, this momentum will be continued to help United Nations Member States deliver on these promises and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 25 September 2015. This includes ensuring the creation of a robust, integrated framework for monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

Throughout 2015, UN-Water geared much of its work towards drawing attention to the important role that water and sanitation play in an interconnected sustainable development agenda: by focusing its World Water Day and World Water Development Report on 'Water and Sustainable Development'; by looking at the links between sanitation and nutrition on World Toilet Day; and by publishing analytical and policy briefs on wastewater management and on eliminating discrimination and inequalities in water and sanitation access. UN-Water has worked through global campaigns, technical briefs, social media and dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders to help inform policymakers and the public about the indisputable and sometimes hidden links between water, sanitation and all other areas of sustainable development. Given past successes and the strength of membership, I am confident that UN-Water is up to the challenging task in the years ahead.

On a personal note, as my term as UN-Water Chair comes to an end at the beginning of 2016, I would like to express what a pleasure it has been to be involved in UN-Water and help steer this important and relevant interagency mechanism to meet the challenges of the new 2030 Agenda. I wish my successor, Guy Ryder of the International Labour Organization, all the best in this endeavour and I am sure that UN-Water is in excellent hands under his leadership.





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# Spotlight on 2015: A New Sustainable Development Agenda and a Global Goal for Water and Sanitation

The year 2015 was truly pivotal for international diplomacy: the beginning of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as the 2030 Agenda) and the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era. It was also a year in which several ground-breaking international agreements were reached after years of negotiations.

The process to develop a Post-2015
Development Agenda began in 2010 at
the Millennium Summit in New York,
when United Nations Member States
requested the United Nations SecretaryGeneral to initiate the process of a
follow-up to the MDGs. In 2012, at the
United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20),
the commitment to formulate a number
of goals on sustainable development was
clear, along with an acknowledgement of
the central role that water and sanitation
play in sustainable development<sup>1</sup>.

Since Rio+20, UN-Water has been working in earnest to fulfil its mandate to consolidate technical advice on water and sanitation from across the United Nations system, in addition to a range of

organizations outside the United Nations, in order to recommend a coherent post-2015 goal for sustainable development that would expand and improve upon the MDG era, to take the entire water cycle into account. The result is Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, 'Ensure availability and sustainable management

of water and sanitation for all', which includes targets and indicators that will be used to measure and track global progress on water and sanitation through to the 2030 deadline. Further information is available at http://www.unwater.org/sdgs/en/.





### Sustainable Development Goal 6

Agreed unanimously by the 193 United Nations Member States, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are applicable to all people from all nations. SDG 6 contains six outcomes and two means of implementation (MOI) targets that expand significantly upon the Millennium Development Goal era, which focused on access to improved water and sanitation and sustainable water withdrawals. SDG 6 now includes issues such as water quality and wastewater management, water use and scarcity, integrated water resources

management including transboundary cooperation and water-related ecosystems. SDG 6, as with the other SDGs, contains two MOI targets that focus on international cooperation and capacity-building, and local community involvement in water and sanitation management.

# 2015 Highlights

Throughout 2015, a number of major international processes culminated and connected, in order to feed into the ambitious 2030 Agenda and its comprehensive and interlinked set of SDGs. The year 2015 was also the end of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', which saw several events and publications aimed at reviewing the achievements of the time period 2005—2015. Further information on UN-Water's role in each of these events can be found below.

# Focusing on water and sustainable development



UN-Water chose to focus the annual World Water Day campaign in 2015 on 'Water and Sustainable Development', to coincide with and inform the international processes throughout the year, culminating in the finalization and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its interconnected Sustainable Development

Goals. The campaign, coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme with the active collaboration of a large number of UN-Water Members and Partners, including the Global Water Partnership and the Stockholm International Water Institute. enabled an in-depth and sustained focus on the inextricable links between water. sanitation and all other areas of sustainable development. A range of materials was produced for World Water Day 2015, tailored for use and dissemination by numerous user groups and stakeholders around the world. Further information on activities around World Water Day can be found in the section of this report on 'Outreach and communication'

#### Visit the official website at

www.unwater. org/worldwaterday for training packages, films, social media kits and other downloadable materials from the campaign.

### January-July 2015: Negotiating the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Following an unprecedentedly open and inclusive process led by the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs and adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/309 in September 2014, at the beginning of 2015, United Nations Member States began a series of intergovernmental sessions to negotiate the text of the 2030



Agenda including the SDGs. This process culminated in the agreement of the SDGs at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

To support the OWG and coordinate and support the post-2015 process, the United Nations Secretary-General established a United Nations Task Team (UNTT) on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. Co-chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNTT comprises more than 60 United Nations entities and international organizations. UNTT has structured its work into the areas of renewed global partnerships on development, monitoring and indicators, and financing for sustainable development, representing three simultaneous processes leading up to the final design of SDGs.



To coordinate technical support to these processes, a Technical Support Team (TST) was created to feed into UNTT.

Throughout 2015, as it had in 2014, UN-Water continued to provide input to these processes as the focal point in the TST for SDG 6, coordinating the input of United Nations organizations contributing to SDG 6. Through its Secretary in UN-DESA, UN-Water was consistently called upon to provide coordinated technical input on SDG 6 and its targets, including a set of global indicators, and provided input on accountability mechanisms for water and sanitation-related follow-up and review in the 2030 Agenda.

### March 2015: Tackling disasters and risk in Sendai

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts, and to agree on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The resulting Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is a complementary part of the 2030 Agenda, and includes a set of global indicators that will be agreed upon in a separate process by the end of 2016.

To highlight the role of water-related disasters, which affect more than 90% of all people impacted by disasters worldwide<sup>2</sup>, the Governments of Namibia, Switzerland and the Netherlands, together with UN-Water led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and the Global Water Partnership and with support from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, organized a session at Sendai on Integrated Water Resources Management.

# July 2015: Discussing financing for development in Addis Ababa

Immediately before the final sessions of negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, the third International Conference on Financing for Development convened in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. The conference resulted in a negotiated outcome, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as well as a comprehensive set

of policy actions and concrete commitments by United Nations Member States. Water and sanitation featured prominently in AAAA, in particular in reference to water-related infrastructure and investments.

To provide input to the financing for development (FfD) process, UN-Water prepared a compilation of means of implementation (MOI) on SDG 6 in July 2015, with sections on water- and sanitation-related: finance; technology; capacity-building; data, monitoring and accountability frameworks; and partnerships.

Further information is available at: http://www.unwater.org/sdgs/means-ofimplementation/en/.

### September 2015: Adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York

The signing and final agreement of the 2030 Agenda took place at the Sustainable Development Summit from 25 to 27 September 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which marked the high-level opening of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Water and sanitation received prominent attention at several events. On 27 September, the UN-Water Chair spoke at a high-level

special event on 'Catalysing implementation and achievement of the water-related SDGs', co-convened by the Government of Tajikistan and UNDP. At this meeting, which discussed accountability and follow-up and review of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda,

the role and importance of UN-Water was reflected upon by many of the speakers.

On 29 September, UN-Water co-organized, with Sanitation and Water for All, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Women for Water Partnership and WaterAid, a high-level lunchtime side event hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh, Hungary, the Netherlands and South Africa on 'Making it happen: ending inequalities and ensuring sanitation, water and hygiene for all as a basis for achieving the SDGs'. This event focused on the planned commitments of countries and organizations on the panel such as the World Bank Group and several countries - to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related targets.

### December 2015: Agreeing on climate change action in Paris

The twenty-first session of the Conference

### THE GLOBAL GOALS





























of the Parties (COP 21), which took place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, provided one of the last pieces of the sustainable development puzzle in 2015. The outcome, the Paris Agreement, was a landmark accord that commits its 195 Party signatories to lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, to help stave off the most drastic effects of climate change and to limit the increase in global temperature to less than 2 °C by 2100. Water is a key medium through which climate change affects lives; encouragingly, water issues, though largely absent in past climate change negotiations, received increased attention at COP 21, with a Water Resilience Focus COP event organized by the Lima-Paris Action Agenda on climate change and the signing of a Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation. In addition, UN-Water, through its Thematic Priority Area (TPA) on Water and Climate Change, coordinated an official COP 21 side event led by the United Nations Economic Commission for

Europe (UNECE), WMO and UNESCO on 7 December on 'The pivotal role of water in climate change adaptation and mitigation', in which several Member States provided inputs and insights into the topic.

### End of the Millennium Development Goals and the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'

December 2015 also saw the end of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', which was designated by the United Nations as the period from 2005 to 2015 and coordinated by UN-Water. The 'Water for Life' Decade aimed at helping Member States achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including MDGs.

In December 2014, under General Assembly Resolution 69/215, the President of the United Nations General Assembly was invited to convene a high-level event in March 2015 to review the Decade. The Government of Tajikistan was welcomed to host an international conference in Dushanbe in June 2015, to review the Decade, and the United Nations Secretary-General was requested to report on the Decade at the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During and in support of the Decade, two UN-Water Decade programmes were in operation: the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication in Zaragoza, Spain, and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) in Bonn, Germany. Both of these





programmes were financed by the respective national governments and both successfully completed their work in 2015. Final reports are available from the UN-Water website.

Further information about the events held throughout 2015 in celebration of and reflection on the 'Water for Life' Decade can be found below.

### UN-Water annual Zaragoza conference

Zaragoza, Spain, 15–17 January 2015

Annual conferences were held throughout the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', but the fifth and final UN-Water Annual International Zaragoza Conference was held from 15 to 17 January 2015 on the topic of 'Water and Sustainable Development: From Vision to Action'. It focused on the tools for implementation stated in the Rio+20 outcome document, which included finance, technology and capacity-building, and added institutional and policy dimensions.

### High-level interactive dialogue at United Nations Headquarters

New York, 30 March 2015

UN-Water supported the organization of a high-level interactive dialogue, convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on 30 March 2015, to discuss and celebrate achievements during the 'Water for Life' Decade. The achievements included the declaration of the drinking water MDG target having been met, the declaration of

the human right to water and sanitation, and a spotlight put on transboundary water issues during the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013.

The dialogue's panellists noted that lessons learned during the Decade included recognition of the cross-cutting character of water management to sustainable development, and the need to make sophisticated, better quantifiable and clearer indicators within the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and the importance of disaggregated data. Other important messages included the human-rights-based approach to water and sanitation, and the need for increased investment in water.

During the full-day event, participants discussed how the lessons learned could be translated into concrete actions for sustainable water management in the new 2030 Agenda that would be negotiated later in 2015.

The achievements made throughout the Decade are also presented in the Report on the Achievements during the International Decade for Action Water for Life 2005-2015<sup>3</sup>, which was launched at the dialogue.

### Opening of the 'Water for Life' photographic exhibition and presentation of the 'Water for Life' Best Practices Awards

New York, 30 March 2015

During the lunch break of the high-level interactive dialogue, a photographic exhibition on 'Water for Life' was opened in a high-level ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters, and which ran for several weeks in the United Nations exhibition area.

This occasion was also used to honour the recipients of the annual 'Water for Life' Best Practices Awards, which ran throughout the Decade with the aim to acknowledge and promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made to water and water-related issues. The 2015 'Water for Life' UN-





Water Best Practices Awards were presented to Cultivando Água Boa / Cultivando Agua Buena in Brazil for best water management practices, and co-awarded to the ONE DROP project in India and to the Wildlife Environment Society of South Africa Eco-Schools water project for best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and education practices.

### International conference on the implementation of the 'Water for Life' Decade

Dushanbe, 9-11 June 2015

From 9 to 11 June 2015, Tajikistan, which had initiated the General Assembly resolution declaring 2005–2015 to be the 'Water for Life' Decade, hosted a high-level international conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life' 2005–2015 in Dushanbe. In the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General, the conference gathered the international community for a three-day-conference to assess and plan for the future. UN-Water was represented on the International Steering Committee of the conference.

### Celebrating achievements of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development

Bonn, 23 June 2015

With the end of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', in 2015, the mandates of the two UN-Water Decade programmes also successfully came to an end. The work of UNW-DPC, hosted by the United Nations University (UNU) in Bonn and funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, concluded at the end of July 2015. On 23 June 2015, high-level representatives from UN-Water, UNU and German ministries convened at the United Nations Campus in Bonn for a closing ceremony of the programme, to celebrate its achievements since its inception in 2007 and to acknowledge the role that UNW-DPC has played in strengthening the capacity development activities of UN-Water Members and Partners, in order to assist Member States in achieving MDGs and other water-related goals.

Between 2007 and 2015, UNW-DPC carried out more than 120 activities in collaboration with 34 of UN-Water's Members and Partners, reaching over 2 300 people from 150 countries. The closing ceremony was attended by more than 80 participants, among them highlevel representatives from United Nations agencies, German ministries, research organizations, the city of Bonn, nongovernmental organizations and other organizations active in the field of water and development cooperation.



# Power of collective capacity



Reza Ardakanian United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES)

In 2005, the United Nations established an international decade for water, 'Water for Life'. Ten years later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) was adopted and the decade came to a close. What was achieved during this time and what were the lessons learned?

Reza Ardakanian is the Director of UNU-FLORES. He established the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development in 2007 and led it for eight years until the end of the 'Water for Life' Decade. He is happy with the outcomes: "Starting from scratch, we built a programme that brought together UN-Water Members and Partners in collaborative capacity development activities - not only on paper and in spirit, but in real activities."

One of the great benefits of the structure was the ability to draw on the individual and collective expertise of the Members and Partners of UN-Water: "These collaborative activities addressed complex challenges which individual agencies, despite high disciplinary competence and experience, struggle to make further progress due to the complex interlinkages with other fields and sectors", says Ardakanian.

Collaboration among sectors and agencies is easily called for, but it can be difficult to implement. "One simple reason is that all agencies already have a full agenda within their mandates and collaboration with outside partners are additional efforts", explains Ardakanian. The programme showed that if there is a structure that fosters and facilitates collaboration, excellent results can be achieved: "For the benefit of all – both the partners involved and for UN Member States".

So, what about the future? With the 2030 Agenda, the needs for skilled workers are greater than ever before.

"The UN can contribute in many ways to build capacity for the future and it seems like the topics we engaged in are more urgent than ever", according to Ardakanian. Safe use of wastewater in agriculture, development of national drought management policy and drinking water loss reduction are just a few worthy of mentioning.

"But the need for skilled workers has been high for long", he argues.

To address this, one way is to assist Member States in identifying the skill gap and improve the reputation of technical jobs. But more is needed from the international community: "We can't leave the challenge of bridging silos solely on the shoulders of Member States", concludes Ardakanian and adds: "We have to actively engage in cross-disciplinary activities within the UN".



### Other major water-related events

In addition to the major milestone events listed above, UN-Water took part in or organized several other major international water-related events in 2015, with further information given below.

#### 7th World Water Forum

#### Daegu and Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 12–17 April 2015

Held triennially since 1997, the World Water Forum is the largest international event related to water. Organized by the World Water Council, a Partner of UN-Water, the forum is an important place for the exchange of ideas and experiences and brings together a wide range of stakeholders. The 7th World Water Forum took place in Daegu and Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015. Representatives from UN-Water were present and participated in many of the events, including a special high-level session on SDGs. UN-Water also took the opportunity to organize a well-attended donor dialogue and a UN-Water pavilion for 10 participating Members and Partners.

#### **World Water Week**

#### Stockholm, 22-28 August 2015

World Water Week in Stockholm is an important annual meeting place for urgent global water-related issues. Organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), a Partner of UN-Water, it brings together 2 500 experts, practitioners, decision-makers and business innovators from around the globe to exchange ideas and foster new thinking to discuss and develop solutions. In 2015, World Water Week was held under the theme 'Water for Development'. As in past years, UN-Water organized several events during the week, including the annual UN-Water stakeholder dialogue, a review and preview of the World Water Development Report (WWDR), and an event on the World Water Day campaign for 2016: 'Water and Jobs'.

### United Nations high-level days on water and sanitation and World Toilet Day 2015

New York, 18-20 November 2015

From 18 to 20 November 2015, the United Nations organized a coordinated set of events at United Nations Headquarters, the High-level Water and Sanitation Days 2015, which also had UN-Water support and involvement. These included the final meeting of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), a UN-Water Partner with special status, culminating on 20 November with the UNSGAB final ceremony. In addition to this final ceremony, the second United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters was held on 18 November, and the United Nations World Toilet Day was celebrated at a high-level event on 19 November. During the High-level Water and Sanitation Days, participants reflected on the transition from MDGs to the set of interconnected water-related SDG targets that set forth a broad and ambitious vision for the next 15 years.

Further information on the 2015 World Toilet Day can be found in the section of this report on 'Outreach and communication'.

## 2015 Achievements

UN-Water is more than the sum of its parts: it brings together and leverages the input from its Members, which are the organizations in the United Nations system (31 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions) that work on various and interlinking aspects of water and sanitation, and also gathers input from outside Partners (currently 37 international organizations representing civil society, academia and the private sector). Together, a coherent and coordinated effort has meant that water and sanitation in all their aspects have received attention wherever technical input is needed.

The work of UN-Water is carried out through its United Nations Members with support from outside Partners, which are organized into various groups of varying duration, tasks and structures. Further information on the work of the UN-Water Working Groups, Task Forces (TFs) and TPAs can be found in the section of this report on 'Thematic Priority Areas and Task Forces'.

### Technical input to the Sustainable Development Goals

Through its Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Water continued in





2015 to provide input on water-related SDGs. In March 2015, an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) was created by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session and tasked with proposing a limited set of global indicators for SDGs. IAEG-SDG has a membership of 26 United Nations Member States, with additional Member States and multilateral bodies serving as observers. UN-Water was invited to serve as an observer on IAEG-SDG to provide consolidated input on SDG 6. By the end of 2015, the set of indicators proposed by UN-Water was included in the overall list

of global indicators. As SDG 6 is expanded in scope compared to the MDG era, and now covers water quality and wastewater, water use and scarcity, water resources management, and water-related ecosystems, any 'new' indicators have to be carefully crafted, capturing the ambition of the targets, while, at the same time, building on existing methodologies and data to minimize the reporting burden on countries. This technical input on the SDG indicator framework is intrinsically linked to the development of the integrated monitoring of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda.



# Leading by example



Johan Gély Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Switzerland is sometimes called the Water Tower of Europe, and is known for its high-quality water and sustainable management. In a country where there are few water problems, what drives Switzerland as a donor to have this strong focus?

"It's easy", says Johan Gély, Head of the Global Programme for Water Initiatives at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: "Solidarity, exemplarity and commitment. We believe that we can show solidarity by promoting human rights, sustainable development, economic growth and peace efforts – all linked to water."

As an upstream country, Switzerland argues that it has a responsibility to be exemplary to its neighbours. "Sometimes we even absorb parts of floods to avoid disasters downstream", explains Gély.

Solidarity and exemplarity are two important aspects, but commitment may be what defines Switzerland as a donor country. Article 54 of the Swiss Constitution refers to poverty alleviation, human rights, democracy and conservation of natural resources. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, this commitment will continue to drive Switzerland in the next 15 years.

But there are great challenges ahead: "Current water management practices are just unsustainable and we cannot carry on this way", says Gély. Some predict that by 2050, over 50% of the global population may be living under water stress, and 45% of the world's gross domestic product may come from water-stressed regions. "This accounts in trillions - not billions or hundreds of billions - but trillions. What is needed is a paradigm shift — especially to meet the goal of universal access."

When Switzerland became a full Member State of the United Nations in 2002, the President of Switzerland said that the United Nations was the only universal organization that could take up imminent global challenges. Is UN-Water fit for the challenge? "UN-Water is a powerful vehicle for a strong, shared and sustainable vision among UN entities. This can help tackle disparity", says Gély. Innovation also helps. Switzerland strives for coherence and coordination within the United Nations system, and is also a country that embraces new ideas and ways of work. Gély concludes: "The innovative task forces, publications and campaigns make UN-Water an influencer. Strengthening this entity is something that Switzerland highly supports."



### Integrated monitoring of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

With the end of the OWG process, UN-Water began to focus its work on designing the post-2015 monitoring framework for water and sanitation, building on the experience and lessons learned during the MDG period.

In close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), seven United Nations agencies (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO, WHO and WMO), with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and also the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, joined forces under the UN-Water umbrella to

develop the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI) initiative

After the first partner meeting held in April 2014, the work focused on developing global monitoring methodologies for domestic and industrial wastewater treatment and reuse, water quality, water withdrawals and use efficiency, integrated water resources management including transboundary cooperation, and ecosystem resources. This work culminated in the first stakeholder consultation in Geneva in January 2015, where feedback was received from Member State representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

Building on this feedback, during 2015, the project partners revised the draft monitoring methodologies, and started preparations for pilot testing the methodologies in the field, in a balanced group of countries representing all regions of the world and income groups.

This pilot testing will happen during 2016, with a view to revising the monitoring methodologies and starting global implementation in 2017. Further information is available at

http://www.unwater.org/gemi/.

### Outreach and communications

UN-Water coordinates two annual global campaigns: World Water Day on 22 March, and World Toilet Day on 19 November. Each has a rotating annual theme, and the appropriate United Nations Member(s) take(s) the lead on these topics. World Water Day also sees the launch of WWDR on the same theme, produced by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) on behalf of UN-Water. The year 2015 saw a significant increase in visibility, in terms of both reach and high-level engagement in these campaigns. Through social media, an improved UN-Water website launched in early 2015; other channels, these campaigns and related publications reached millions of individuals and were well received.

### World Water Day 2015: Water and Sustainable Development

World Water Day, 22 March, has been held annually and celebrated globally since 1993 as a means to focus attention on the importance of freshwater, and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

In 2015, the United Nations system

- working closely with its Member
States and other relevant stakeholders

- collectively brought attention to the
connections between water and sustainable
development. The objective of the campaign,
carried out through the official website
(www.unwater.org/worldwaterday), social
media campaigns and high-level events
throughout the year, was to raise awareness
of the interlinkages between water and
sustainable development and to contribute
to a policy dialogue that focuses on the
broad range of related issues. Several official
events were held:

(1) 20 March 2015: UN-Water celebration of World Water Day, New Delhi. Organized in collaboration with the UNDP Indian country office to cast a political spotlight on water issues in the region, this event involved a high-level presence from the Government of India and the United Nations system, with nearly 200 participants attending. Activities included: the launch of WWDR and political discussion on water and sustainable development; a keynote presentation by Mr Sanwar Lal Jat, Honourable Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation; a commentary on global and Indian water issues by Mr N. Navalawala, Chief Adviser to the Ministry





of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation; a screening of the World Water Day 2015 video; and the announcement of the Stockholm Water Prize 2015 to Mr Rajendra Singh, Chairperson of the Tarun Bharat Sangh, for innovative water restoration efforts to improve water security in rural India, along with tireless advocacy for women's rights and improving the living conditions of those most in need (his work revived seven rivers, recharged aquifers, and improved and restored aquatic ecosystems).

### (2) 24 March 2015: An evening advocacy event at United Nations Headquarters

in New York. This event was organized directly after World Water Day to put the spotlight on water issues in view of the intergovernmental negotiations on SDGs. UN-Water combined efforts with the Global Poverty Project and WaterAid, with the support of UNICEF, the World Bank Group, SIWI, UNDP, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the United Nations Foundation, and contributions from the Rockefeller Foundation and Unilever. in an evening cocktail party co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Sweden and Benin to the United Nations. About 100 people attended, including permanent representatives in New York, to discuss synergies between the targets within the proposed SDG on water and sanitation and the indivisible nature of the goal. The links among targets on drinking water and wateruse efficiency, sanitation and hygiene, and water quality were particularly highlighted. In addition, the event focused on the links among SDG 6 and other goals on nutrition, health, infrastructure, climate change and

energy, and the importance of SDGs as a catalytic platform for action to achieve sustainable management of water and sanitation globally as a universal agenda.

(3) 20 March 2015: Lunchtime technical event at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This event was organized by UNSGAB in collaboration with UN-Water during the March intergovernmental negotiations session on SDGs and targets to provide further information on the 12 proposed global indicators for SDG 64 (which had been published shortly beforehand). The well-attended event provided further information on the feasibility, measurability and relevance of the 12 indicators, as well as the following potential data sources and monitoring mechanisms currently in place or being created: WHO / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), UN-Water GLAAS and GEMI.

In addition to these events, many UN-Water Members and Partners organized their own activities around World Water Day, with many other organizations inspired by the water and sustainable development theme. Hundreds of worldwide events were registered on the World Water Day website, which had over 600 000 page views in 2015. Social media engagement, including the hashtags #WorldWaterDay and #WaterIs, potentially reached 1.3 billion people owing to widespread interest, sharing, celebrity involvement and films. Overall, media coverage was vast, with numerous articles and features in major media publications and newswires, and several press briefings at the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva.



# "They can, they will, they want to"



Claire Lyons Water.org

Water.org is an organization and a UN-Water Partner who believes that people can be agents of change. Since its creation, over 20 years ago, the organization has anchored its work in finding sustainable financial solutions. The WaterCredit initiative makes small loans available and easy to repay. With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, how does Water.org see its work evolving in the coming 15 years?

"We believe in the power and autonomy of people", says Claire Lyons, Senior Strategist, Institutional Partnerships for Water.org. "We have always been catalytic and now [within the 2030 Agenda] we need to advance our understanding of our role at the intersection of advocacy and implementation." Referring to the evolving work as "exciting", Lyons explains that the organization has increased its attention to developing new channels such as a recent project with the India Post Payment Bank. "Governments and Agencies are asking, 'How do we do this faster?' Knowing that no one can do this alone, we have focused on scale – not necessarily scale ourselves but through projects like this we can get loans into the hands of people who make less than 5 US dollars a day."

The question of financing is at the top of the international agenda. What does Water.org, as a civil society actor, see as the role of the United Nations and the international community? Lyons argues that the sector absolutely must recognize the power of people solving problems at the household level. "Let people solve their own needs. They can, they will, they want to", she says. This has to be complemented with large system cooperation to extend beyond the reach of utilities. Water.org already works with other international actors such as the United Nations Children's Fund and WaterAid, partnering in Indian Prime Minister Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission to clean up India in support of the universal sanitation initiative.

What more can be done by the international community to globally advocate for water and sanitation? "A lot", argues Lyons, "We could and we should do more together as a community". Through UN-Water, Lyons sees the benefit of having a joint voice to reach citizens. "Now, going forward [within the 2030 Agenda] it would be interesting to bring the focus down to the domestic resource and really look at the monetary strength of the poor."

### World Toilet Day 2015: Linking sanitation and nutrition





World Toilet Day was first established by the World Toilet Organization, a global non-profit organization, in 2001, to draw attention to global sanitation issues. In 2013, the



United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing World Toilet Day as an official United Nations international day (United Nations Resolution A/67/L.75). As part of this resolution, UN-Water was tasked with facilitating "the implementation of World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All, in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders".

Similar to World Water Day, UN-Water, through its TPA on Water Supply and Basic Sanitation, coordinates the annual theme and designates one or more of its Member(s) to coordinate the day on its behalf. This is done in collaboration with other relevant entities such as the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the World Toilet Organization and the office of the Deputy Secretary-General, along with other engaged international organizations and actors from the private and public sectors.

For World Toilet Day 2015, UN-Water coordinated successful events at the United

Nations offices in Geneva (a photography booth at the United Nations seventieth anniversary celebration, with hundreds of portraits taken) and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (a high-level event during the United Nations Water and Sanitation Days 2015 and also reprising the photography booth from Geneva). These were combined with social media and public engagement activities led by various UN-Water Members. The event in New York, held on 19 November 2015, included participation from Jan Eliasson, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and helped to raise the profile of sanitation-related issues. It also saw the launch of a new report by WHO, UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development: Improving Nutrition Outcomes with Better Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Practical Solutions for Policies and Programmes<sup>5</sup>.

### **Publications**

UN-Water has two flagship publications: WWDR, coordinated by UNESCO WWAP, and the UN-Water GLAAS report, produced biennially by WHO. In addition, UN-Water regularly consolidates inputs from its Members and Partners to prepare analytical briefs and policy briefs on pressing issues related to water and sanitation. This section contains an overview of the publications that UN-Water produced in 2015. Further information is available at

http://www.unwater.org/publications/

#### United Nations World Water Development Report 2015, Water for a Sustainable World



WWDR is the reference publication of the United Nations system on the status of freshwater resources. The report is the result of strong collaboration among UN-Water Members and Partners, and represents the coherent and integrated response of the United Nations system to freshwater-related issues and emerging challenges. The theme is harmonized with the theme of World Water Day (22 March). From 2003 to 2012, a WWDR was released every three years; it became an annual report in 2014, to provide the most up-to-date and factual information on how water-related challenges are addressed around the world.

The 2015 edition focused on 'Water for a Sustainable World' and was launched during the World Water Day celebration in New Delhi on 20 March. This edition helped to highlight the critical linkages among water- and sanitation-related issues and sustainable development at the time of

the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

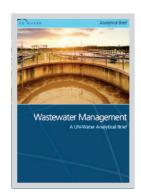
### UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water



GLAAS reports on the capacity of countries to make progress towards the MDG water and sanitation targets and on the effectiveness of external support agencies to facilitate this process. GLAAS focuses on the processes, or means, to implement drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, strengthening the accountability of national governments to their people; it has been designed to reduce the reporting burden and harmonize the different reporting mechanisms of United Nations Member States. A GLAAS report was not produced in 2015, as it is a biennial publication; the latest edition was launched in November 2014 on World Toilet Day<sup>6</sup>. In 2015, GLAAS continued working on establishing a globally accepted methodology to track financing directed towards drinking water, sanitation and hygiene at the national level. GLAAS also worked on the development of methodologies to monitor the global indicators for the SDG 6 MOI of targets 6.a and 6.b.

### UN-Water Analytical Brief on Wastewater Management

Launched in early February 2015 in Nairobi, the UN-Water Analytical Brief on Wastewater Management highlights the need to pay due attention to the end product of water and sanitation services:



wastewater. Estimates indicate that about 80% of all wastewater produced globally is released without any treatment at all, representing one of the major causes to degradation of ambient water quality and ecosystems. This analytical brief looks at wastewater management and water quality in detail, along with their cross-linkages among a range of other water and nonwater issues, such as in the water, energy and food security nexus.

### UN-Water Compilation of Means of Implementation for Water and Sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

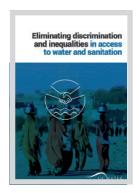


In April 2015, United Nations Member States completed their fourth set of intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, focusing on MOI and global partnerships for sustainable development. Later, in July, Member States continued this discussion during the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. To provide input to this process, UN-Water prepared a compilation of MOI



aspects related to water and sanitation. A draft compilation was released in April, and a revised version was launched in July as a contribution to FfD discussions on MOI.

#### UN-Water Policy Brief on Eliminating Discrimination and Inequalities in Access to Water and Sanitation

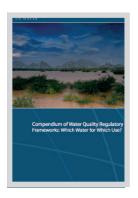


UN-Water launched this policy brief, the drafting of which was coordinated by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, at a side event to the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 27 October 2015, hosted by the Permanent Missions of Finland and Viet Nam to the United Nations. The side event featured a dialogue with key stakeholders from government and non-profit sectors, together with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The policy brief, intended as a resource to help countries address the needs of groups and individuals particularly disadvantaged in access to water and sanitation services, features contributions from across UN-Water's 68 Member and Partner organizations. It underscores the obligations of States and the role of other non-State actors, and reflects on the monitoring of progress as well as the efficiency of programmes and policies. It also highlights best practices in participatory decision-making processes and the importance of conflict resolution and access to remedies..

#### Compendium of Water Quality Regulatory Frameworks: Which Water for Which Use?

This compendium, released in December

2015, contains a selection of recent water quality guidelines and standards for different water uses. Scaling up and improving water-use efficiency requires regulatory frameworks that better reflect how different water uses require different water qualities, such as water from industrial processes



being recycled in other industrial process, and domestic wastewater being used in agriculture. The development of regulatory instruments to better manage water qualities that are 'fit for purpose' can benefit from the wide range of standards and guidelines currently available.



### Other Activities

### World Health Organization / United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation

The 2015 JMP report, Update and MDG Assessment of Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, was released in June 2015. This report provided a definitive analysis of the achievement of the MDG targets on drinking water and basic sanitation. In terms of drinking water, the global MDG target was met in 2010, with 91% of the global population using an improved drinking water source at the time of assessment. In total, 2.6 billion people gained access to an improved drinking water source between 1990 and 2005, with higher access levels in urban rather than rural areas (96% versus 84%). In 2015, it was estimated that 663 million people still lacked access to improved drinking water services.



The picture on basic sanitation was less rosy, with the global MDG target for sanitation having been missed by almost 700 million people. Although 2.1 billion people did gain access to an improved sanitation facility between 1990 and 2015, JMP estimates that in 2015, 2.4 billion, or 32% of the global population, still lacked access to improved sanitation facilities. Here, too, urban populations were better served than rural ones (82% versus 51%).

In 2015, UN-Water continued to work closely with JMP to provide input to the SDG process, including indicators for SDG 6, and will continue to collaborate through integrated monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 in 2016 and beyond. Governance and Financial Aspects

### **Documents**

The UN-Water Strategy 2014–2020 and the UN-Water Work Programme 2014–2015 are the main documents that guided UN-Water's activities in 2015. All governance documents can be accessed at http://www.unwater.org/about/governance/en/.

### Annual meetings

The 22nd UN-Water Meeting took place at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 2 to 4 February 2015, hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat. The main discussion items were the end of the MDG era including the 'Water for Life' Decade, the related UN-Water Decade programmes and other work modalities, the ongoing negotiations of the 2030 Agenda including the proposed SDG 6, and progress on the integrated monitoring framework. Further important strategic discussions involved clarification of the role of UN-Water's activities following from the UN-Water Terms of Reference and the UN-Water Strategy 2014–2020, as well as the suggestion of guidelines for interaction with donor countries and responses to the needs and requests of these and other United Nations Member States. At this Meeting, the Partner status of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs was revoked due to its lack of participation in UN-Water activities<sup>7</sup>.

Balance forward (2014):	US\$ US\$ 1 385 139
Income (2015):	
Germany:	US\$ 110,616
Sweden:	US\$ 708,389
Switzerland:	US\$ 2,358,931
Interest (2015):	US\$ 8,655
Total income (2015):	US\$ 3,186,591
Total expenditure (2015):	US\$ 3,131,864
Balance (31 December 2015):	US\$ 1,439,866

Germany (until July 2015) and Spain (until December 2015) also provided direct support to the UN-Water Decade programmes based in their own countries.

The 23rd UN-Water Meeting took place at Stockholm City Conference Centre from 20 to 22 August 2015, hosted by SIWI. Main items under discussion revolved around water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda, including the intergovernmental negotiations, SDG 6 targets and indicators, integrated monitoring framework, and processes for follow-up and review in the 2030 Agenda. At this Meeting, the International Institute for Sustainable Development became a Partner to UN-Water, and the Mandate of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction became a Partner with Special Status.

### UN-Water Joint Steering Group

The Joint Steering Group steers the operational management of UN-Water in between UN-Water Meetings. It met twice during 2015 via videoconferencing to discuss issues related to the management of the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund, the review of Partner applications, and the oversight of TPAs and TFs.

### UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund

The UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services. The financial status in 2015 is presented below for both specific (targeted) and general coordination activities:

### ANNEX 1. Members

(Thirty-one as of 31 December 2014)

### United Nations Secretariats

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

### Programmes and funds

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

World Food Programme (WFP)

### Regional commissions

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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

### Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The World Bank Group (WB)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

### Other entities

United Nations University (UNU)

### United Nations related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

### Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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

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

### ANNEX 2. Partners

(Thirty-seven as of 31 December 2015)

AquaFed

Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)

Conservation International

Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

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

International Association for Water Law (AIDA)

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International Water Association (IWA)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre

Mandate of the Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water \*

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation \*

Public Services International (PSI)

Ramsar – Convention on Wetlands

Stakeholder Forum

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

United Nations Global Compact \*

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) \* (until February 2015)

United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) \* (until the conclusion of its work in November 2015)

WaterAid

WaterLex

Water.org

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Water Council (WWC)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

\* Partner with Special Status

## ANNEX 3. Human Resources

### Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Michel Jarraud, Chair, UN-Water

Ndey-Isatou Njie, Secretary, UN-Water

Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Vice-Chair, UN-Water

Giuseppe Arduino, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (from August 2015)

Carlos Carrión-Crespo, International Labour Organization

Thomas Chiramba, United Nations Environment Programme (until February 2015)

Carol Chouchani Cherfane, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (re-elected in August 2015)

Andre Dzikus, UN-Habitat (from February 2015)

Sergio Zelaya, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (until August 2015)

### **UN-Water Programmes**

Reza Ardakanian, Officer-in-Charge, UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (until the closure of the programme in July 2015)

Josefina Maestu, Coordinator / Director, UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (until the closure of the programme in December 2015)

### **UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit**

Daniella Boström Couffe, Communications Manager Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer Federica Pietracci, Special Assistant to the UN-Water Secretary Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser Maria Schade, Associate Expert Tamara Slowik. Administrative Assistant

# ANNEX 4. Acronyms

AAAA	Addis Ababa Agenda Action
COP	Conference of the Parties (under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FfD	financing for development
GEMI	Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets
GLAAS	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
IAEG-SDG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOI	means of implementation
OWG	Open Working Group (on the Sustainable Development Goals)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
TF	Task Force
TST	Technical Support Team (of the United Nations)
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSGAB	United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation
UNTT	
UNU	United Nations University
UNU-FLORES	United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources
	UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development
WHO	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	World Meteorological Organization
	World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report

### Notes


## Notes