

UN-Water 2030 Strategy



General Assembly opens seventy-third general debate.
UN Photo/Manuel Elias.



**THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Part 1. Introduction

THE SUSTAIN

UN-Water, 2020

Cover:

UN Photo/John Isaac
Hohhot, China 1982

UN Photo/P Magubane
South Africa 1985

UN Photo/Mark Garten
Kulaura, Bangladesh 2011

UN Photo/Martine Perret
Oecusse, Timor-Leste 2012

UN Photo/Evan Schneider
Copán Ruinas, Honduras 2015

UN Photo/Mark Garten
Beqaa Valley, Lebanon 2016

UN Photo/Harandane Dicko
Tarabangou, Mali 2017

UN Photo/Manuel Elias
United Nations, New York 2019

UN Photo/Marie Frechon
North Kivu, Democratic
Republic of the Congo 2008

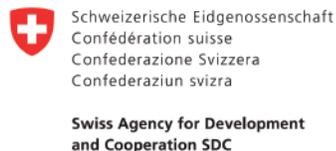
UN Photo/Marco Dormino
Gao, Mali 2013

UN Photo/Marco Dormino
Gao, Mali 2013

UN Photo/Evan Schneider
Livingstone, Zambia 2012

Copies available from:
UN-Water
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, 1202
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 730 8636
Email: unwater@un.org
Web: www.unwater.org

We gratefully acknowledge the
contributions to the UN-Water
Inter-Agency Trust Fund from
the following entities:



1. Introduction

The water and sanitation crisis is an urgent, interconnected challenge that requires a collective, coordinated response. Water and sanitation challenges are growing at an alarming rate, threatening people, planet, peace and prosperity. Water scarcity, already widespread, is projected to rise, while billions of people are still denied their basic human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation services and live without access to basic hand-washing facilities in their homes. The effects of climate change are already impacting on both the availability and quality of water resources and the frequency and severity of extreme events. Indeed, over the last decade, floods, storms, heat-waves, droughts and other weather-related events represented more than 90 per cent of major natural hazards.¹

Rapid population growth, chronic underinvestment in the water and sanitation sector – as exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic – a changing climate, urbanization, migration, land use change and pollution are all factors that impact on water and sanitation services and resources, from melting glaciers and depleted aquifers to rivers contaminated by untreated human waste and toilets damaged by flood. Adding to the complexity of the challenges, 153 countries share rivers, lakes and aquifers, and 286 river basins and 592

aquifers cross sovereign borders, making transboundary cooperation crucial to prevent possible negative impacts of unilateral measures and to make climate change mitigation and adaptation more effective.

Failure to address this multitude of challenges will threaten the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the goals on biodiversity, health, food security, gender equality, livelihoods, ecosystems and sustainable economic growth.

Coordinated action to tackle the complexity and magnitude of the water and sanitation challenges is urgently needed. To be successful, such action requires:

- an integrated, human rights-based approach, that gives a voice to all people through non-discriminatory processes and inclusive participation;
- prioritization of marginalized groups to reach the billions of people living without basic services, who already suffer from water scarcity and pollution, especially those living in fragile countries;
- harnessing of synergies and consideration of trade-offs between water and sanitation and key sectors, such as

¹ UN-Water (2019). UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water



A view of flags held by students at the annual ceremony held by the Peace Bell at the UN headquarters in observance of the International Day of Peace (21 September). UN Photo/Laura Jarriel.

agriculture, energy, health, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- promotion of transboundary water cooperation by integrating ongoing work under the development, peace and security, and human rights pillars; and
- acceleration of progress in countries by connecting global policy frameworks to local action and addressing fragmented governance and bottlenecks in areas such as finance, human capacity, data and information.

United Nations entities and international organizations, coordinating through UN-Water, are committed to working together to advance solutions that ensure availability

and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Through UN-Water, over 30 United Nations entities (“UN-Water Members”) and many other international organizations (“UN-Water Partners”) jointly drive action and enable the United Nations system to deliver as one on water and sanitation-related issues where needed.

“The water and sanitation crisis is an urgent, interconnected challenge that requires a collective, coordinated response.”

The UN-Water 2030 Strategy represents a collective way forward to address the water and sanitation challenges over a ten-year period

with necessary focus, urgency, effectiveness and coherence. As the 2030 Strategy will take UN-Water to the target date for the 2030 Agenda, it has a focus on accelerating progress towards the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which at the start of the 2030 Strategy period are alarmingly off-track, as well as other relevant global targets. Thus, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched in 2020 as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030², constitutes a central element of the 2030 Strategy.

The 2030 Strategy builds on UN-Water's 2014-2020 Strategy, Terms of Reference and mandate, and the [UN-Water External Review 2018](#). It has been collectively developed through a consultative process including UN-Water Members, Partners and External Support Agencies. The 2030 Strategy document presents UN-Water's vision, mission and three lines of work, and outlines a Theory of Change through which UN-Water can fully realise its potential during the ten-year period. Lastly, it sets out how the collective success for UN-Water will look like in 2030.

² <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4>

Autumn Peltier, 13-year-old water advocate from the Anishinaabe tribe of Canada, addresses the event to launch the International Decade for Action titled "Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028". UN Photo/Manuel Elias.





Part 2. Vision, mission and role

2. Vision, mission and role

UN-Water's vision is a world where water and sanitation make people and planet thrive.

UN-Water's mission is to coordinate the United Nations system's support to Member States to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

UN-Water's role: UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater-related matters, including sanitation. It is the platform to address the cross-cutting nature of water and sanitation³ issues, to identify gaps and opportunities in disciplinary and sectoral interfaces in the hydrological cycle, and to maximise system-wide coordinated action at the global, regional and country levels and across the United Nations pillars. UN-Water enhances the coherence, credibility, efficiency and visibility of United Nations system actions through its three lines of work:

Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues related to water and sanitation

UN-Water identifies strategic issues and priorities, and facilitates timely, coordinated and effective responses by the United Nations system at global, regional, and country levels in relation to both policy formulation and implementation. UN-Water

also acts as the United Nations system's "voice on water and sanitation", facilitates an interdisciplinary view and inter-agency exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned, and provides Member States and a wider audience with a collective point of entry to the system's initiatives and responses in areas within its purview. This includes support to informed decision-making.

Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation

UN-Water facilitates work at the global, regional and sub-regional levels, both within and outside the United Nations system, to review and follow-up on water and sanitation related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant frameworks, supporting the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and relevant existing inter-agency mechanisms.

Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action

UN-Water communicates to a variety of audiences across multiple platforms, digital and traditional, to build support for prioritising water and sanitation issues through publications, global campaigns, outreach

³ The term "water and sanitation" refers to the title of SDG 6, and includes freshwater resources development, management and use, comprising the different uses for domestic water supply, rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, hydropower generation, industrial water use, maintenance of aquatic ecosystem integrity, products and services, and hydraulic structures and other measures for water storage, flood and drought control; it also includes the management of wastewater (evacuation, treatment and re-use), and safe sanitation and hygiene in the domestic and public context.

activities and the coordination of the United Nations international observances World Water Day (22 March) and World Toilet Day (19 November), and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. UN-Water reaches people with objective information and an inclusive message

that enables and encourages the public, Member States, civil society and the private sector to engage in the work of UN-Water.



Students wash their hands at a newly built handwashing point at the primary school in Kuzungula District, Southern Province, Zambia. © UNICEF/UN0271531/Schermbrucker.

Photo by Pixabay.





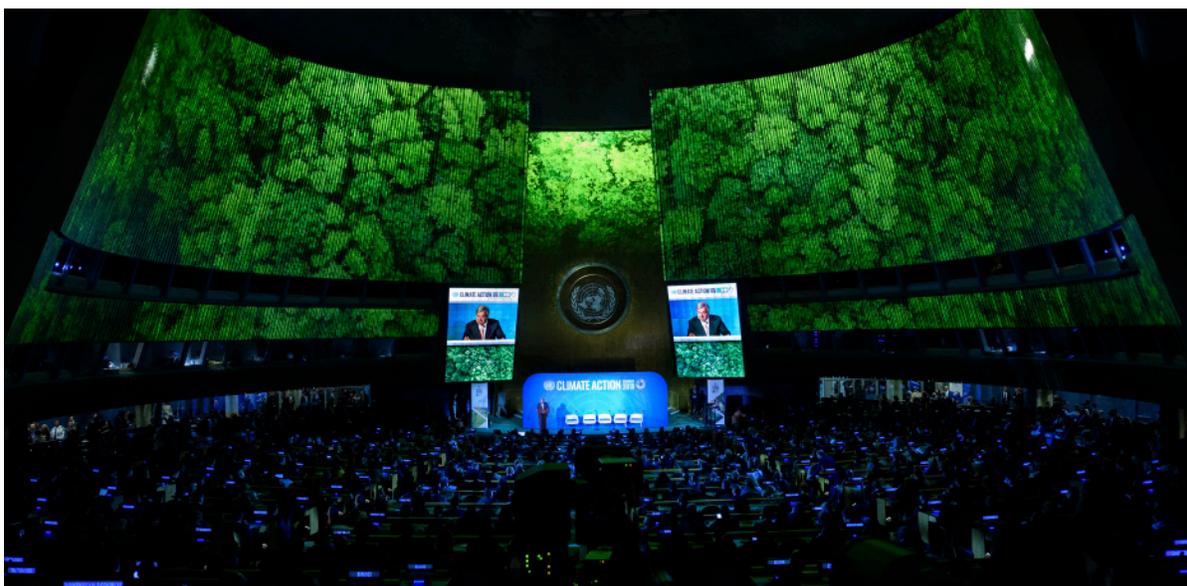
**Part 3.
Global
policy
landscape**

3. Global policy landscape

UN-Water’s 2030 Strategy is positioned within the context of the global policy landscape. A number of key frameworks, which are listed below, provide opportunities and connection points to policy processes for UN-Water during the Strategy period.

This landscape is defined by the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs](#) and the associated High-level Political Forum

on Sustainable Development and updated monitoring of progress towards SDG targets, [the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), [the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, [the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development](#), [the New Urban Agenda](#), [the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition](#), [the Convention on](#)



A wide view of the General Assembly Hall as Secretary-General António Guterres opens the UN Climate Action Summit 2019. The Summit was convened by the Secretary-General and aims to deliver new pathways and practical actions to shift global response into higher gear on confronting climate change, as well as to boost ambition and accelerate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. UN Photo/Loey Felipe.

[the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), the findings of IPCC 1.5 (2018) and IPCC Ocean and Cryosphere reports (2019), and [the human rights framework with reference to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation](#). There is also increased attention on water diplomacy and specifically on the link between water, peace and security and transboundary cooperation, following the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the global opening of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Other important frameworks include [the process of United Nations reform](#), [the UN General Assembly \(UNGA\) declaration of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028](#), and [the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030](#).

Finally, [the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#) (nine commitments for humanitarian and development actors to measure and improve the quality and effectiveness of their assistance), [the Global Compact on Refugees](#) and [the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) adopted by the UNGA on 19 December 2018, [the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#), [the Global Commission on Adaptation's 'Year of Action'](#), and [the outcome document of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action \(S.A.M.O.A.\) Pathway](#) also contribute to the policy context.

“There is [...] increased attention on water diplomacy and specifically on the link between water, peace and security and transboundary cooperation.”

MINUSMA supported community farming project in Gao, Mali. UN Photo/Harandane Dicko.





Part 4.
Theory
of Change

4. Theory of Change

Creating a world where water and sanitation make people and planet thrive requires integrated and coordinated action on multiple levels: across global, regional and country levels; across the global policy landscape; and across water and sanitation related actors, sectors and users.

UN-Water's Theory of Change will be delivered by this Strategy that will connect the relevant sectors and actors; realize the full potential of

its network and expertise to successfully deliver along its three lines of work; and ultimately help deliver the necessary impact across global, regional and country levels to achieve SDG 6 and other relevant global targets. A key strategic activity in the Theory of Change in this regard is the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, which aims to deliver fast results in countries at an increased scale as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.⁴

⁴ The Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 was launched by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2019 in order to step up progress towards the SDGs and put the world on track to realize their targets by 2030. More information in the [political declaration of the SDG Summit 2019](#).



A world where water and sanitation make people and planet thrive

Vision

Marginalized are prioritized to leave no one behind



At the GLOBAL level:

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



At the REGIONAL level:

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



At the COUNTRY level:

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

Impact

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

Monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation is effectively supported

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

Outcomes

Build on core strengths of UN-Water Members and Partners



Scale Impact to regional and country levels



Accelerate progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

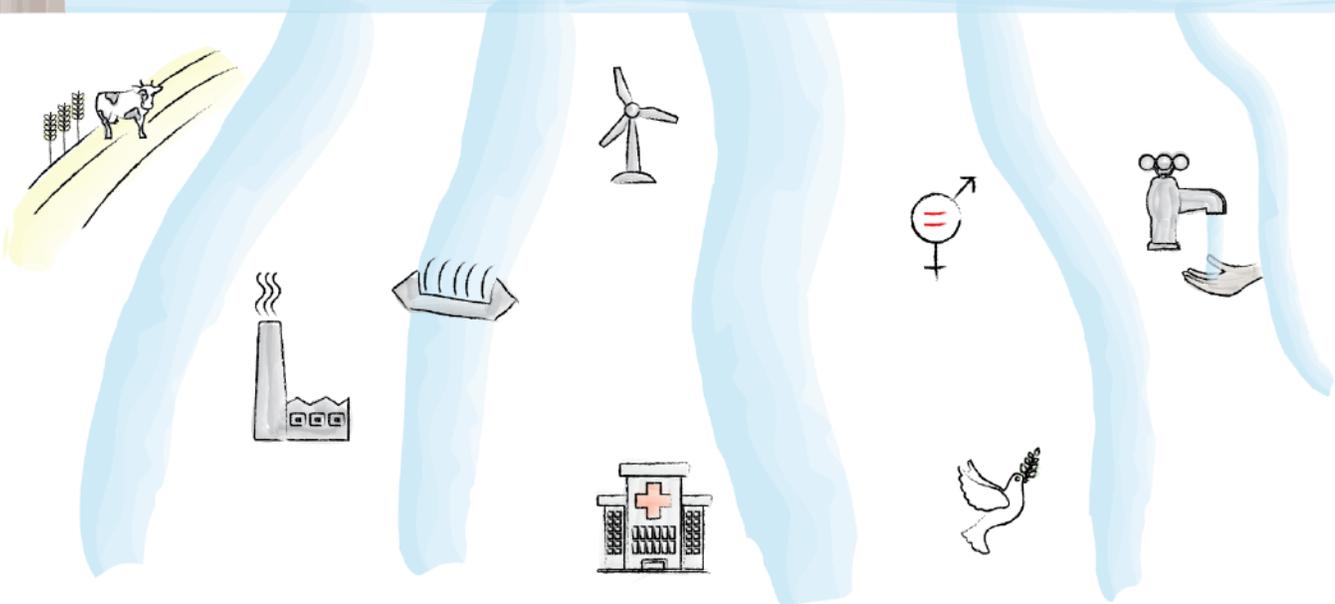


Ensure agile, collectively owned UN-Water operations



Activities

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



This section outlines UN-Water's four strategic activities to realize its full potential during the 2020-2030 period by: building on its core strengths, scaling its impact to regional and country levels, accelerating progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, and ensuring agile, collectively-owned and sustainable UN-Water operations.

4.1 Building on the core strengths of UN-Water's Members and Partners

UN-Water plays a critical coordination role so that the United Nations family and its partners '**deliver as one**' in response to water and sanitation-related challenges. It provides a *robust, trusted and reliable knowledge hub* cultivated by its Members and Partners, and an evidence base for comprehensive water and sanitation policymaking. It breaks down sectoral water use silos, thus improving planning, decision-making, design and implementation practice for water resources development, management and use in practice. It offers a *joint, neutral platform for its Members and Partners* to address water and sanitation challenges, focusing on common issues, nexus interfaces and links across global frameworks. As such, it serves as an *integrative force in the broader arena of the United Nations reform*, 'delivering as one' and speaking with one voice on water and sanitation issues. It plays its specific *coordination role of the monitoring and reporting* on progress towards the eight targets of SDG 6, and it coordinates the United Nations international observances World Water Day and World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 to raise the profile of water and sanitation. Last but not least, the UN-Water Chair is appointed rotationally by the United Nations Secretary-General

from among the United Nations Executive Heads and engages regularly with [the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination \(CEB\)](#), which focuses attention on water and sanitation issues at the highest level in a strategic and comprehensive way.

Building on these core strengths, in order to realize its full potential UN-Water will:

CONVENE: Through its convening power, UN-Water will be a neutral and trusted platform for all stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system to come together to discuss and advance progress on water and sanitation-related issues. This includes United Nations entities, international organizations, governments, civil society organizations, the public and private sector, and will, for example, be pursued through UN-Water Meetings and other activities.

CONSOLIDATE: UN-Water will continue engaging its large and diverse pool of expertise from across and outside the United Nations system to support intergovernmental processes and conferences, national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Secretary-General and United Nations work at the global, regional and country level, by being a 'one-stop shop' for water and sanitation knowledge. UN-Water will continue giving advice and guidance to the United Nations General Assembly and international community at large. This includes monitoring and reporting of SDG 6, facilitating thematic expert groups and producing United Nations reports, policy briefs and technical advice which provide trustworthy information in support of advancing the goal of water and sanitation for all. UN-Water enables the United Nations system to speak with one voice on water and sanitation, and will continue to facilitate the harmonization of norms, standards,



A community project brings water to the small villages of Kabara and Tarabangou in northern Mali. The villagers experience recurrent problems of access to drinking water. UN Photo/Harandane Dicko

methodologies and tools in water and sanitation management, capacity development and monitoring. Through its collective efforts, UN-Water is uniquely placed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and upcoming strategic water and sanitation events and initiatives in the period through to 2030.

CATALYSE: Building on its collective expertise and convening power, UN-Water will focus the attention of United Nations entities, international organizations, governments, civil society organizations, cities, and the public and private sector on accelerating progress on SDG 6 and other global frameworks during the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. This is done by strengthening commitments

to water and sanitation through campaigns and advocacy at the highest levels and to the general public through, for example, World Water Day, World Toilet Day and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, and by strategically identifying key drivers of progress to focus and converge action. An example thereof is the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to unify the international community for sustainable water and sanitation for all.

CONNECT: As water and sanitation issues cannot be tackled in silos, it is necessary to strengthen integrated cross-sectoral and cross-pillar approaches to maximize synergies across water-related and water-dependent sectors in order to accelerate progress on SDG

Members



Convention on Biological Diversity



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



IAEA



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Africa



UNECE



NAACIONES UNIDAS
UNITED NATIONS
CEPAL
ECLAC



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



UNITED NATIONS
الاستشوار
ESCWA



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD



United Nations
Environment
Programme



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



United Nations Institute
for Training and Research



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



UNWTO



WFP
World Food
Programme



World Health
Organization



WMO



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partners with Special Status



Partners



6. UN-Water has a role in both synthesizing the linkages between SDG 6 and other SDGs and offering policy solutions and guidance at these intersections, and in addressing water and sanitation-related targets in other SDGs and global processes. UN-Water will strategically integrate water and sanitation aspects into the processes of key sectors and conferences, such as agriculture, energy, industry, land and tourism, and will connect its expertise to the United Nations system's work at the country level. Consequently, UN-Water will highlight the connecting function of water and sanitation to bridge the relevant components of the global policy landscape, including connecting with UN-Energy and UN-Oceans. As an inter-agency mechanism, UN-Water also sets an example of good governance in order to foster multidisciplinary cooperation between sectors and overcoming institutional boundaries.

“Progress on SDG 6 and other water and sanitation-related global targets can only happen at the country and regional levels.”

COORDINATE: Water and sanitation-related policies and programmes that are well-coordinated at all levels and across sectors and United Nations pillars are needed. Conversely, gaps and duplication in the responsibilities and activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations working to address water and sanitation challenges constrain the ability to respond effectively and in a coherent manner to existing and emerging challenges. To this end, UN-Water will ensure synergies and avoid duplication of efforts between actors by information-sharing, integrated monitoring and reporting of SDG 6, coordinating the water and sanitation-related United Nations international observances, advancing policy

and programmatic coherence, reinforcing common approaches and facilitating access to required expertise on water and sanitation at the country level. It also includes UN-Water's critical role in collecting, synthesising and disseminating reliable information among its Members and Partners. There are opportunities for a strengthened role of UN-Water in encouraging more water-related information-sharing among countries as well as supporting the Humanitarian-Development Nexus connected to water and sanitation.

4.2 Scaling UN-Water's impact to the regional and country levels

Progress on SDG 6 and other water and sanitation-related global targets can only happen at the country and regional levels. For the international community, that means countries and regions will have to be supported urgently, effectively and coherently through a demand-driven approach. The United Nations reform process, which is strengthening the United Nations' coordinated action in regions and countries, enables UN-Water to scale its impact to the regional and country levels, for example by reinforcing water and sanitation expertise across levels and contributing to the translation of global policy commitments to regions and countries. Scaling up will also be key to respond to the climate and pandemic crises and the global biodiversity emergency.

At the global level, UN-Water will pursue its cooperation with global coordination actors like the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) in order to inform and strengthen guidance for regional and country-level implementation of initiatives on water and sanitation.

At the regional level, considering the structure and opportunities offered within the Regional Collaborative Platforms, UN-Water, working through the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions (which are UN-Water Members), will identify the best mechanism for pursuing regional-level coordination and collaboration on cross-cutting issues and for addressing water and sanitation challenges. It aims to provide a permanent mechanism for the exchange of regional information, knowledge and experience and the coordination of regional-level activities pursued jointly by UN-Water Members and Partners in the field of water and sanitation.

Facilitation of a policy and programme dialogue and promotion of mutual support between regional and headquarters levels will be crucial.

To this end, it is expected that the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions will coordinate regional-level UN-Water work with a view to creating the maximum possible synergies emanating from their presence, capacities and coordinating role in the regions. This work will include coordinating initiatives, designing common strategies and sharing data and information. Synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions will also be harnessed to support regional- and country-level action in a coherent way.

At the country level, coherence of United Nations system actions is crucial to achieving the overall objectives underlying the establishment of UN-Water. UN-Water's contribution to country-level coherence will be



Secretary-General António Guterres (centre right) and Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (centre left) pose for a group photo with global Resident Coordinators. UN Photo/Mark Garten.

pursued through the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in close cooperation with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and DCO. Emphasis will be given to supporting progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant frameworks, including support to the development of the Common Country Assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

UN-Water will add value to country-level work on water and sanitation by providing insight, information and data, by facilitating access to expertise, technical assistance and support from UN-Water Members and Partners, and by supporting country-level communications, knowledge transfer and advocacy on all water and sanitation-related issues. Research, analytical and technical work on the ground (including capacity-building) will be reinforced by delivering water and sanitation expertise across the United Nations system to the country level. In this sense, UN-Water can place water and sanitation issues, as relevant, at the centre of operationalizing the United Nations reform at the country level. By creating a link between the country, regional and global levels, national data collection and analysis will also inform relevant global and regional monitoring efforts of SDG 6 and related targets.

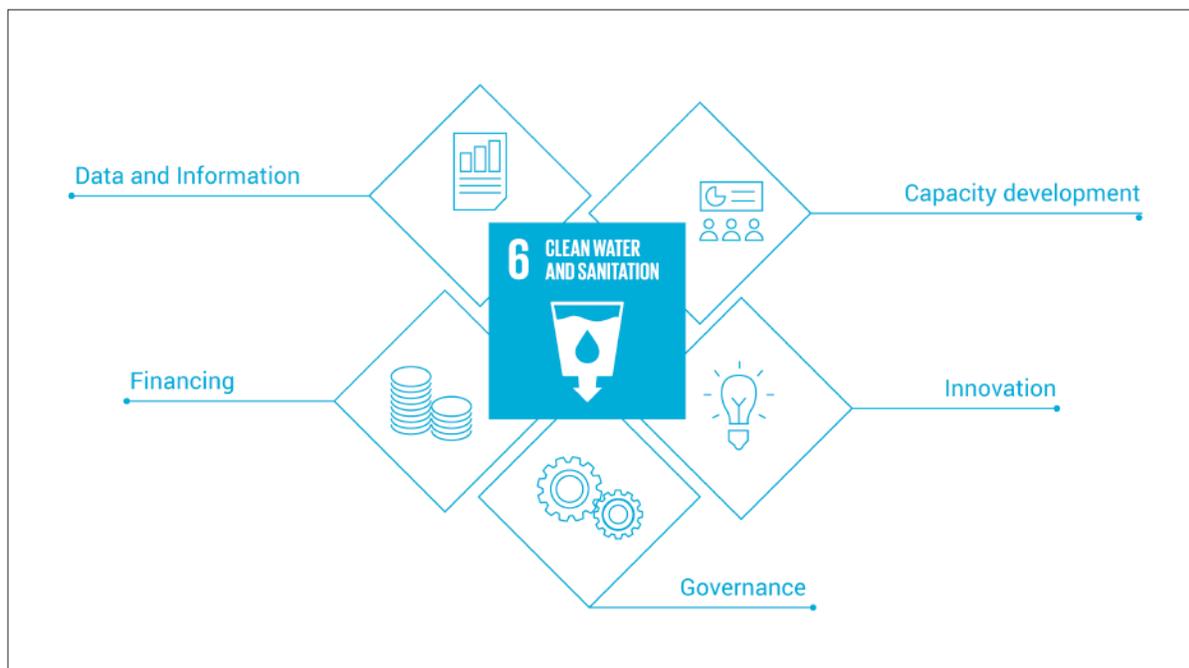
Zooming in – How can UN-Water add value to the country level? On a demand-driven basis and as requested by the Resident Coordinator's Office, UN-Water can enable water and sanitation expertise across the United Nations system and beyond to reach the country level and United Nations Country Teams when and where it is needed the most. For example, this assistance can strengthen the water and sanitation-related aspects of the Common Country Assessments or the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development

Cooperation Frameworks. If specific water and sanitation expertise is missing with the Country Team, UN-Water will be able to connect the best available experts. If there is a need to establish inter-agency coordination mechanisms within the country, or if there is a capacity gap for monitoring and reporting on SDG 6, UN-Water will be able to lend its expertise. Or, if strengthened advocacy on water and sanitation is needed in the country, the global campaigns that UN-Water coordinates can be utilized by the Country Team.

4.3 Accelerating progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

In response to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030, UN-Water is coordinating the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. With the objective of catalysing and supporting broad stakeholder action, the Framework will help the international community to dramatically improve its support to countries for SDG 6. At the country level, the Framework will enable countries to raise their ambition to rapidly accelerate towards national targets for SDG 6 and, in doing so, contribute to progress across the 2030 Agenda. As such, the Framework is driven by country demand and will align the international community to strengthen country planning, implementation and sharing of lessons with a focus on unlocking known bottlenecks.

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework focuses the attention and mobilizes action of Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders on five cross-cutting 'accelerators' to drive



UN-Water is coordinating the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework which unifies the international community's support to countries for SDG 6. Pictured are the five accelerators through which results will be delivered at speed and scale.

progress on water and sanitation issues: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance.

The Framework is a key component of the 2030 Strategy to enable UN-Water to realize its full potential, and builds on processes including the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's global call to action for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in all health care facilities and the Agenda for Humanity. It will utilize high-level events on water and sanitation combined with strengthened system-wide collaboration at the country level to accelerate and showcase progress on SDG 6 and ultimately across the 2030 Agenda.

4.4 Ensuring agile, collectively-owned and sustainable UN-Water operations

To be effective in today's fast-changing world of complex, inter-related challenges, organizations need to be agile. In this regard, the lean and neutral structure of UN-Water is considered a major strength and an important basis for success thus far. UN-Water will retain the current size of its Management Team, with possibly only a small expansion if needed to accommodate the engagement of the coordination mechanism at the regional and country levels.

UN-Water's convening power – bringing all relevant United Nations entities together to discuss water and sanitation challenges – is one of its major coordination tools. Transforming the opportunities of UN-Water's



Spectacular Victoria Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage site, seen from Livingstone, Zambia. UN Photo/Evan Schneider.

convening power into actual results on the ground requires collaboration and coordinated action among UN-Water Members and Partners. UN-Water will continue to build on the strength of its network of Members and Partners to achieve impacts greater than those of the sum of individual entities' efforts. It will address the need for better internalizing the work of UN-Water in Members' organizations at all levels (global, regional and in-country offices/teams). For example, opportunities can be untapped to include support for, and products of, UN-Water on the meeting agendas of the governing bodies of its Members, including as part of broader SDG discussions and other international processes. While not all of the support will need to be delivered collectively or in an integrated manner, UN-Water will ensure common approaches and system-wide overview of the contributions that its Members and Partners are expected to make in delivering agreed outputs.

Partners are an integral part of UN-Water and bring unique contributions to UN-Water's activities, both in terms of diversifying the expertise of the network, and by enabling increased outreach across levels. Continuously optimizing Partners' engagements by increasing the opportunities for constructive contributions will remain a focus, to enable Partners' networks to have a multiplier effect for UN-Water initiatives. Partners and their expertise are key to the scaling of UN-Water's impact to regional and country levels.

Coordination needs resources. While some issues may be low-cost (for example, harmonization of policy and practice between United Nations entities) and some rely on in-kind contributions (for example, the attendance of UN-Water Senior Programme Managers and Partner representatives at the biannual UN-Water Meetings), other functions and services – like maintaining a core staff (in the Management Team), consultancies, and leveraging coordination activities – need financial support. UN-Water's resource mobilization strategy will therefore be regularly updated with an aim for a diverse and resilient donor base. In addition, and to enhance coordinated action, UN-Water will also help promote strengthened internal coordination of External Support Agencies.

In its thematic work, UN-Water needs to remain agile and flexible to address emerging coordination issues as they arise. This will be required for new thematic areas to be addressed during the period, for example through the existing mechanisms of Expert Groups and Task Forces. In this context, UN-Water will have to include regular reviews and assessments as conditions evolve during the 2030 Strategy period.

A view of the Sustainable Development Goal blocks on the northern lawn of United Nations Headquarters in New York, US. UN Photo/Manuel Elias.



**NO
POVERTY**



**NO
POVERTY**



ZERO



**ZERO
HUNGER**



**GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**

QUALITY



4
0
ENDURABLE

192
GE

99
CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION

7
AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

8
DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

11
SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION AND
PRODUCTION

12
CLIMATE ACTION

13
LIFE BELOW WATER

14
LIFE ON LAND

15
PEOPLE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

**Part 5.
Towards
success
in 2030**

5. Towards success in 2030

Three complementary achievement areas, which build on UN-Water's three main lines of work, offer the main criteria to measure and guide UN-Water's success until 2030:

1. Emerging issues related to water and sanitation are effectively addressed, and policy processes are timely informed.
2. Monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation are effectively supported.
3. People are inspired to take action and necessary knowledge is built on water and sanitation.

Through successful delivery along its three lines of work, and as outlined in the Theory of Change, UN-Water will contribute to accelerating progress across global, regional and country levels to achieve SDG 6 and other relevant global targets.

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

As the recognized coordination mechanism and voice of the United Nations system on water and sanitation, UN-Water has been able to provide collective, timely, and effective

input to policy processes where needed.

UN-Water has identified strategic issues and priorities, and facilitated timely, coordinated and effective responses by the United Nations system at global, regional and country levels.

At the global level, as during the development of the 2030 Agenda, where UN-Water's technical advice successfully informed the formulation of SDG 6, UN-Water has continued to provide technical advice that shapes global policy formulation and implementation. This will include the formulation of the post-2030 sustainable development framework. UN-Water has played the integrator role by interlinking different policy frameworks and thematic areas of work as relevant and has contributed to raising the ambition and promoting increased accountability to implement SDG 6 and other relevant global targets. UN-Water has facilitated inter-agency exchange of information, an interdisciplinary view, experiences and lessons learned, and provided Member States and a wider audience with a collective point of entry to the United Nations system's initiatives and responses in areas within its purview, including support for informed decision-making.

At the regional level, coordination and collaboration on cross-cutting issues for addressing water and sanitation challenges has been facilitated, including through exchange of



A child from the Za'tari Refugee Camp in Jordan raises a flag to represent Goal 6, Safe Water and Sanitation.
© UNICEF/Badran.

regional information, knowledge and experience and coordination of regional-level activities pursued jointly by UN-Water Members and Partners in the field of water and sanitation.

At the country level, coherent support to advance implementation of SDG 6 and other relevant global targets has been provided to United Nations Country Teams, including support to the Common Country Assessments and the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

5.2 Monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation is effectively supported

UN-Water has successfully supported monitoring and reporting at the global, regional and sub-regional levels both within and outside the United Nations system, to review and follow-up on water and sanitation-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant frameworks. By 2030, increased availability and holistic analysis of high-quality data contributes to better informed water and sanitation policy, regulation, planning and investment at all levels. Timely and high-quality data are available and freely accessible, and policy- and decision-makers at all levels are aware of and able to use water and sanitation monitoring data in a holistic manner.

“UN-Water has continued to provide technical advice that shapes global policy formulation and implementation.”

At the global level, UN-Water has coordinated the monitoring and reporting of progress towards the eight targets of SDG 6,

informing follow-up and review, as well as policy formulation and implementation at global, regional and country levels. It has also supported efforts to encourage more data sharing among countries for water and sanitation-related data as well as more disaggregation, and it has provided a comprehensive knowledge base from where it can perform outreach activities and develop United Nations wide policy and technical advice.

At the regional level, UN-Water has facilitated the sharing of data and information. Also, by creating a link between the country, regional and global levels, national data collection and analysis have informed relevant global and regional monitoring efforts of SDG 6 and related targets.

At the country level, UN-Water has provided insight, information and data as well as supported capacity development related to monitoring and reporting of SDG 6 where needed.

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

Through publications, global campaigns, outreach activities and the coordination of the water and sanitation-related United Nations international observances World Water Day and World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, UN-Water has enabled the public, Member States, civil society and the private sector to take action where needed. UN-Water has strengthened commitment to water and sanitation through campaigns and advocacy at the highest levels and among the general public.

At the global level, UN-Water has provided unified, clear and coherent United Nations messaging on water and sanitation issues to Member States, international conferences and other events. UN-Water has also played an active role in raising water and sanitation issues where these can serve to build bridges between the various components of the global policy landscape.

At the country and regional levels, the United Nations international observances coordinated by UN-Water have supported the acceleration of progress on SDG 6 and other relevant global targets. Key stakeholders have been engaged and mobilized to share knowledge, demand ambition and find solutions.

6. Reviewing the 2030 Strategy

The 2030 Strategy will require adaptive management to allow for a changing landscape during its ten-year period. The 2030 Strategy will be reviewed midterm, in 2025, to create an opportunity to check

progress, adjust the Strategy to new needs and realities, and maximize the chances of successfully fulfilling the UN-Water mandate and achieving the SDG targets.

