Support to UN-Water: accelerating progress on SDG 6

SDC Contribution to UN-Water



Region
Global

Partners
36 UN Agencies as members and 52 partners outside the UN

Background information
The next few years are critical for the success of the SDGs in general and of SDG 6 in particular. Unless progress on SDG 6 accelerates, the world will not reach the SDG 6 targets by 2030.

Project objectives
Consolidate the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and continue strengthening the global water architecture to ensure the successful implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

Beneficiaries
36 UN Members and 52 global Partners, such as Aquafed, IUCN, GWP, WWF, WWC, IWMI, etc. Policy- and decision-makers, as well as the general public.

Costs
Total: CHF 37'000'000
SDC: CHF 9'100'000

Duration
2023 - 2026

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

UN-Water was formally established in 2003 and is the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater-related matters. It is comprised of 36 United Nations bodies having a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and 52 international organizations as Partners.

In an increasingly fragmented global landscape, SDC's continued support to the UN-Water core coordination budget is strategic to bring a more coordinated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda regarding water and sanitation as UN-Water remains the only system-wide coordination mechanism within the United Nations dedicated exclusively to water and sanitation. Insight from previous phases (support of the same financial amount) underscore the importance of UN-Water's role both in ensuring that water remains a global strategic issue and in providing more effective multilateral coordination.

Following the 2020 United Nations Secretary-General's call for a Decade of Action, UN-Water has launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as part of its 2030 Strategy and as a mean to address the water and sanitation challenges over a ten-year period with necessary focus, urgency, effectiveness and coherence in order to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This strategy formulates four strategic activities to allow UN-Water to realize its full potential during the 2020-2030 period by:

1. **Building on its core strengths:** UN-Water plays a critical role in the monitoring and reporting on progress towards the SDG 6 targets, and in coordinating the United Nations international observances World Water Day and World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. In addition, UN-Water is a key player in the coordination and technical support of the 2023 and 2026 UN Water Conferences, which presentcritical milestones in achieving SDG 6. Switzerland has demonstrated a strong and proactive commitment to these processes, including through its role as co-chair.
2. **Scaling its impact to regional and country levels:** At the regional level, UN-Water will aim to provide a permanent mechanism for information, knowledge and experience sharing and the coordination of regional water-related activities pursued jointly by its Members and Partners. At the country level, UN-Water will add value to work on water and sanitation by providing insight, information and data, by facilitating expertise access, technical assistance and support from Members and Partners, and by supporting communications, knowledge transfer and advocacy.
3. **Accelerating progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:** The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework focuses the attention and mobilizes action of Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders on five 'accelerators' to drive progress on water and sanitation issues: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance.
4. **Ensuring agile, collectively owned and sustainable UN-Water operations:** UN-Water will address the need for better internalizing its work in Members' organizations at all levels (global, regional and in-country offices/teams). It will also ensure common approaches and system-wide overview of the contributions that Members and Partners are expected to make in delivering agreed outputs.

Global framework for SDG 6 monitoring

The UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 brings together eight United Nations agencies and comprises several monitoring programmes. The aim of this initiative is to establish and manage a coherent monitoring framework for water and sanitation as well as to contribute to progress at national level through well-informed decision-making.

In 2018, UN-Water launched the SDG 6 Data Portal, through which it strengthens system-wide coordination for water and sanitation, building capacity in over 100 countries, mobilizing data reporting from 185 member states, and informing major intergovernmental processes including the High-Level Political Forum and the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. The third phase of the initiative (2027–2032) will advance the implementation of the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, strengthen the positioning of water and sanitation in the post-2030 agenda, maximize the impact of the 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences, and enhance country-level engagement through Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

Additional information:
www.unwater.org
www.sdg6monitoring.org/
JMP: https://washdata.org/