

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

 UN WATER

ABOUT UN-WATER

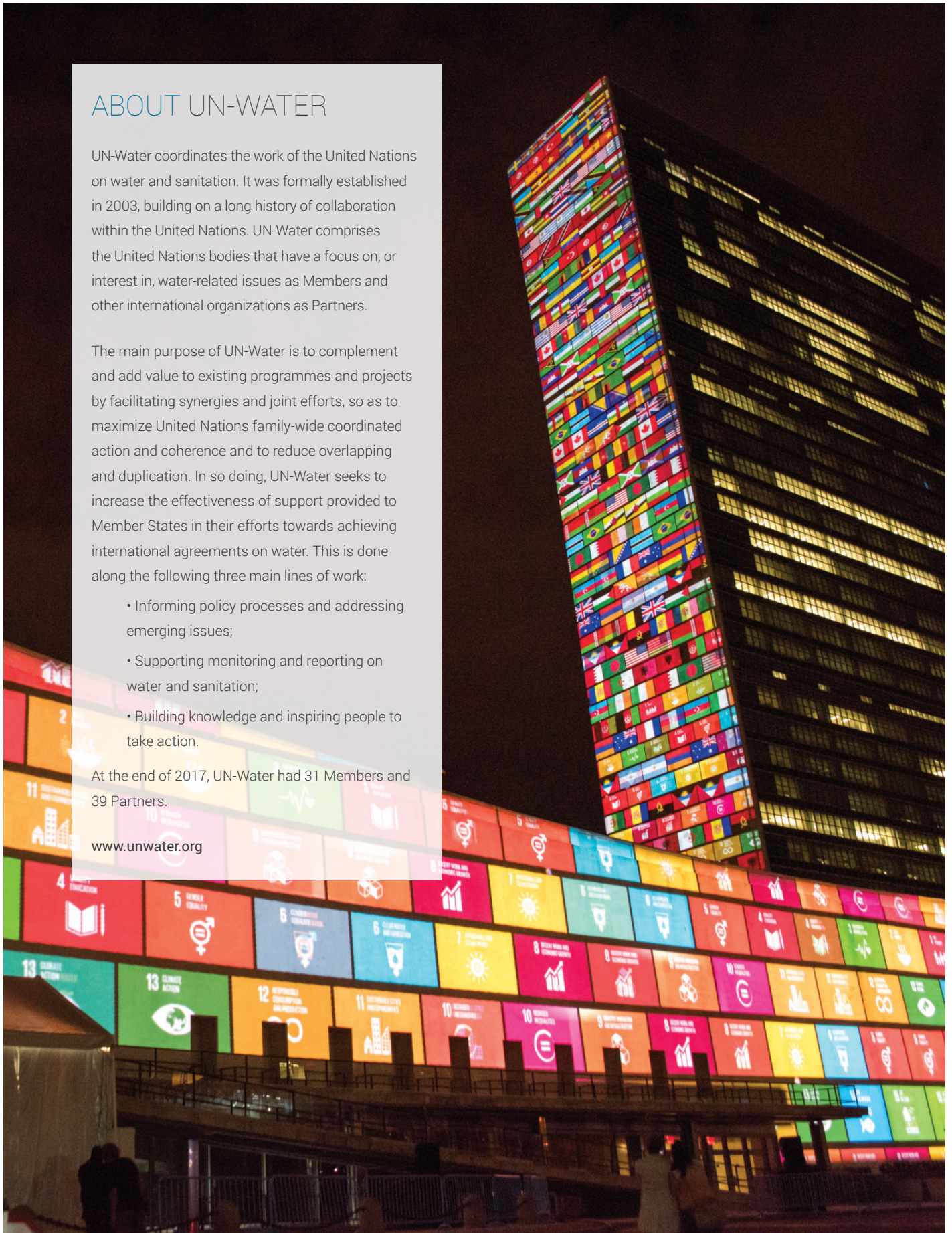
UN-Water coordinates the work of the United Nations on water and sanitation. It was formally established in 2003, building on a long history of collaboration within the United Nations. UN-Water comprises the United Nations bodies that have a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and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

The main purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize United Nations family-wide coordinated action and coherence and to reduce overlapping and duplication. In so doing, UN-Water seeks to increase the effectiveness of support provided to Member States in their efforts towards achieving international agreements on water. This is done along the following three main lines of work:

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

At the end of 2017, UN-Water had 31 Members and 39 Partners.

www.unwater.org



Projections on Sustainable Development Goals and 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. UN Photo/Cia Pak



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2017 Annual Report Foreword
Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of the International Fund for
Agricultural Development
Chair of UN-Water

Ensuring that everyone has access to sustainably managed water and sanitation services is a complex challenge that has been exacerbated in recent years by climate and population pressures. Today, more than 2 billion people lack access to safely managed water services, and 4.5 billion live without safely managed sanitation services. It is estimated that more than 340,000 children die every year as a result.

In light of the growing global recognition of the centrality of water and sanitation, not only is there a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG6), but water and sanitation are also woven through the SDGs. As a result, 2017 brought attention and scrutiny both to water issues in general, and to UN-Water itself. UN Member States gathered to discuss how to meet the ambition of Sustainable Development Goal 6 with robust institutions and programmes. At the United Nations level, the Secretary-General launched a reform process that assessed the system's capacity to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; it found that, for water, there are gaps and duplication of efforts. In individual countries, water ministries and national statistics offices worked to gather the data required to report against the SDG 6 indicators – most of these indicators are new and therefore require innovation in monitoring and reporting. One year into the 2030 Agenda it is abundantly clear that this is the most ambitious development agenda ever – it requires massive investment, ground-breaking knowledge, and novel approaches.

When I assumed the role as UN-Water Chair in September 2017, the international community was asking how UN-Water, as an inter-agency collaboration mechanism for water and sanitation, would be able to ensure that the UN family delivers as one in response to the many water-related challenges. In particular, there was collective reflection on how to do more at a time of shrinking resources.

One concrete water and sanitation challenge addressed in 2017 was wastewater management. As a result, this became the theme of both World Water Day and World Toilet Day for 2017. UN-Water helped highlight the synergies within wastewater management to generate energy, provide safe irrigation for smallholder agriculture, and contribute to healthier environments. Making these connections in the 2030 Agenda is crucial – the sustainable management of water and sanitation is interdependent with wider sustainable development efforts.

Looking ahead, 2018 sees the start of a new Water Action Decade. With a focus on existing activities, UN-Water worked on the Secretary-General's Decade Plan that recognized the need for the UN system and Member States to respond in a coordinated way. UN-Water will continue to work closely with Members and Partners to identify emerging issue and develop effective, coordinate responses. As the 2017 Annual Report indicates, it has been both efficient and effective for UN-Water to focus on three main work streams: informing policies, monitoring and reporting, and inspiring action.

I thank all the Members and Partners of UN-Water for working together to deliver as one.



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Spotlight on 2017



Two young boys carrying water walk down a road next to a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near the town of Jowhar, Somalia. UN Photo/Tobin Jones

2017 brought renewed attention from the international community to water and sanitation with the growing recognition that they are pressing global challenges. The World Economic Forum, for the second year in a row, called water crises the third most impactful global risk. At the same time, with the new UN Secretary-General being sworn in at the beginning of 2017, the year was defined by Mr Guterres' effort to assess the capacity and ability of the United Nations system to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. This resulted in the UN Secretary-General's report on Repositioning the UN development system,

which noted a "significant gap" for the UN's institutional, expenditure and personnel coverage for SDG 6.

Against this background, UN-Water's work was closely observed throughout 2017. The growing urgency of the water and sanitation challenge, the ambition of the SDG 6 along with UN system reform meant that Member States and stakeholders in 2017 were looking at UN-Water's ability to deliver. This ability is certain to be considered in the lead-up to the in-depth review of SDG 6 at the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.

With the international community further moving to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their national policies, UN-Water in 2017 continued to refine the methodologies and support for monitoring and reporting against SDG 6 indicators. The Integrated Monitoring Initiative scaled up its direct support to Member States, moving from providing support to 5 pilot countries in 2016 to supporting 30 'integrated baseline countries' in 2017, focusing on building long-term institutional capacity for integrated monitoring across all the indicators of SDG 6. At the same time, the UN custodian agencies for SDG 6 indicators provided their own support to



countries as they collected data on specific indicators for the 2017 baseline.

Further defining its mandate to coordinate the work of the UN on water and sanitation, UN-Water seeks to be a rational and effective structure to: (1) inform policy processes and address emerging issues, (2) support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation, and (3) build knowledge and inspire action. Taking the opportunity of two annual meetings, Members also streamlined UN-Water's internal governance including Expert Groups and Task Forces that bring substantive focus and intellectual capital on water and sanitation to the UN system.



Water sampling in Kenya / Georgina Smith

Achievements in 2017



The General Assembly holds a working-level dialogue to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the work of the United Nations on the water-related goals and targets under its sustainable development pillar, with a particular emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN Photo/ Evan Schneider

Responsibility for water and sanitation is shared throughout the UN system. Unlike for food, agriculture or health, there is not a principle “go to” entity for water. There are good reasons why water and sanitation reside in many UN entities, however it means coordination that strives to increase synergies, reduce overlap and avoid duplication is critical.

As the inter-agency coordination mechanism for water and sanitation, UN-Water leverages Member input (31 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions). UN-Water’s Partners (currently 39 international organizations

representing civil society, academia and the private sector) bring innovation, resources and action to UN-Water’s activities.

Informing Policy processes and addressing emerging issues

Working proactively to identify emerging issues, to inform policy processes and to develop collaborative actions, UN-Water brings flexibility in identifying priorities on

an on-going basis. The overarching aim in this area is to enhance the capacity of the UN family to respond systematically and quickly to Member State requests for water and sanitation, in part by providing technical input to policy processes and addressing emerging issues.

Participating in Global Processes

Working-level dialogues on Water

On March 22, the President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson convened the first of two working-level dialogues on water to explore implementation challenges

and opportunities related to the water-related SDGs as well as ways to improve integration and coordination of the United Nations' work on water-related goals. The second dialogue took place on 30 March – both were held at UN Headquarters. The dialogues were prepared and co-moderated by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN, and Mr. Lukmon Isomatov, head of the Department of External Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

These dialogues were called for in resolution 71/222 “International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028” which noted that they should be “informal, inclusive, open-ended and interactive, with the participation of countries, relevant regional and international organizations, relevant United Nations system entities, UN-Water and other relevant stakeholders.” By bringing Member States together, they represented an infrequent opportunity for an intergovernmental discussion on SDG 6 implementation and water and sanitation challenges more broadly.

To support these dialogues, on 13 March UN-Water contributed to an informal briefing at UN Headquarters on UN-related activities in the water sector. Participants were especially pleased to learn about how the water portfolio is organised in the UN system, with SDG 6 displaying one of the highest numbers of co-custodians per indicator. UN-Water also prepared an elements paper as input to the President of the General Assembly's concept note – this note was circulated along with the invitation to the dialogues.

The co-moderators of the dialogues shared a report in August which suggested that there is a mismatch between the ambition of SDG 6 and the ability for the UN system to support

Member States in its implementation. Some countries described UN efforts on water as “fragmented” and lacking leadership, with others welcoming the work of UN-Water but finding it insufficient to meet current needs.

Support to high-level bodies

Convened in 2016 by the UN Secretary-General and President of the World Bank Group, the High-Level Panel on Water provided leadership to tackle the approaching water crisis. With 11 sitting Heads of State or Government, the Panel met throughout 2017 to develop a set of action-oriented recommendations for the international community. UN-

Water supported this effort by providing a compilation of existing research, vulnerable areas and recommendations on water, peace and migration. The compilation showed that water issues are linked with migration and displacement in a multitude of ways: through chronic and sudden environmental change, in direct and indirect ways, and with varying impact throughout the migration process. UN-Water's contribution was the basis for the Panel's recommendation on water, peace, forced displacement and refugees. The World Water Data Initiative is another element of the Panel's work that UN-Water contributed to through sharing the experience of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative at key sessions.



Foreign Asylum Seekers Arrive in Makpandu, Western Equatoria State. UN Photo/Isaac Billy

The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace shared its final report in September 2017 during the General Assembly. The UN-Water Chair participated in the event, where he said that the Panel had political support from over 40 countries, high-level dialogues and meetings, which advanced the idea that water can be an instrument for peace. As an official observer in the panel, UN-Water stressed the need to link water to the peace and security agenda of the UN by emphasizing the fact that water is often a root cause of local conflict and displacement.

Addressing emerging issues and connections to the Sustainable Development Goals

Information and communication technologies – connecting to SDG 4

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are playing a central role in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Big data can help policy and decision-makers, population mapping can help address inequalities, and satellite mapping can track ecosystem changes. UN-Water contributed to a major report “Fast-forward progress: leveraging tech to achieve the global goals” prepared by Technology Watch as an input to the High-level Political Forum. ICTs have the potential to revolutionize water and sanitation management. Mapping and forecasting through networks of sensors can measure groundwater, and satellite imaging is giving a clearer picture of large-scale water systems. In the case of agriculture, wireless sensors can monitor humidity levels in fields to trigger automated irrigation systems. Smart water meters can monitor home water usage and help manage wastewater systems. It is important to remember that humankind’s earliest technological innovations were applied to water supply: ICTs have been and will continue to be central to giving people access to water and sanitation.

Oceans – connecting to SDG 14

The high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and



Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (right) briefs journalists on the launch of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, also known as the first “World Ocean Assessment”. UN Photo/Kim Haughton

sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was convened at UN Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June. UN-Water partnered with UN-Oceans to co-host a side event exploring how the UN system and its partners can support Member States and other relevant stakeholders to achieve SDG 14. With a focus on upstream activities, the event considered “land-to-sea interactions” and how the implementation of SDG 6 can contribute to achieving SDG 14. Participants identified opportunities for collaboration and provided recommendations to UN agencies and partners for supporting coordinated SDG implementation.

The main points discussed by participants were:

- Consensus on the need for and benefits of coordinated implementation and monitoring of SDGs 6 and 14;
- The importance of effectively communicating gains achieved by investing in measures that benefit multiple SDGs, such as wastewater management, to politicians;
- The opportunities to draw upon existing UN-Water, UN-Oceans, UN agency and other initiatives to ensure strong coordination in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs; and

- The need to involve other sectors, notably agriculture, in the efforts to achieve both SDGs 6 and 14

Financing – connecting to SDG 17

Over 80 per cent of countries who participated in the 2016/2017 cycle of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) reported insufficient financing to meet national WASH targets. Increased financial resources to reach SDG targets 6.1–6.6 is needed globally and urgently. According to OECD’s estimates, total financial needs between 2016 and 2030 for transformation to a water-secure world might require annual investments of USD 500 billion. Therefore, private investments are needed – but how do we unlock private capital to flow into water infrastructure? To explore this question, UN-Water co-hosted an event during the General Assembly titled “Closing the investment gap on water infrastructure: how governments, utilities, and the private sector can achieve SDG 6.” The UN-Water Chair stressed that in order to ensure we invest enough in the right policies to achieve SDG 6, we need to improve measurement. UN-Water has found that water and sanitation financial flows are hard to track accurately since responsibility for water policies is typically fragmented between ministries, agencies, and between central and local authorities. At the same time, sources of project funding range from international agencies to individual farmers. It is necessary to improve data,



The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) completed a community project bringing water to the small villages of Kabara and Tarabangou, near to the city of Timbuktu in northern Mali. UN Photo/Harandane Dicko

which means working across traditional portfolios and sectors. In addition, it is necessary to look at current funding and ensure the best possible use of every investment. During Stockholm World Water Week, UN-Water participated in a discussion “Accelerating actions for Water & Disasters in the next Decade with a special focus on investment and financing for water-related disasters”, where a set of Proposed Principles on Investment and Financing for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction was developed. Late in 2017, UN-Water provided coordinated input to “Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018” by drawing on the expertise and experience of several key Members. In addition to providing analysis for the report, Members participated in a technical meeting of the report task force held at UN Headquarters in December.

Water and Women - connecting to SDG 5

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at UN Headquarters in March. It is one of the largest annual gathering of global leaders, NGOs, private sectors, UN partners and activists around the world.

The session focused on the theme of women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work. UN-Water was represented at an event titled “Women in Water diplomacy as key to economic empowerment” hosted by Soroptimist International and Women for Water Partnership. Although women traditionally care for and protect water resources, their knowledge is often not acknowledged and lost. UN-Water shared the connections between the implementation of SDG 5 and SDG 6, which had been analysed in the Analytical Brief on Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as findings in the World Water Development Report 2016 on Water and Jobs. In December, UN-Water shared preliminary findings on gender and water and sanitation reflected in the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 during the UN-Women convened expert group meeting “Gender Mainstreaming in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector”. During this meeting, UN Women’s national partners in the West and Central Africa region and other UN system partners joined to identify entry points for gender mainstreaming in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector by establishing a

shared understanding of the linkages between gender equality and water, sanitation and hygiene and by exchanging lessons learned and good practices. The meeting validated the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan (WASH SWAP) as a framework to enhance institutional accountability and performance for mainstreaming gender in the sector.

Support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation

Accountability, transparency and participation require good governance supported by sound data. SDG 6 targets and indicators represent a significant advance in the commitment of countries to gather and share data on water management. As the coordinating mechanism of the UN system for water and sanitation, UN-Water is playing an important role working with custodian agencies to help design and roll out methodologies for monitoring and reporting against the 11 SDG 6 indicators. The overarching aim is to ensure coherent and comprehensive monitoring

and reporting systems that are widely recognized by countries to deliver a sound basis for decision making at the global, regional and national levels.

Advancing the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6: the 2017 integrated baseline process

For monitoring and reporting, the year was defined by the 2017 integrated baseline process which focused on two complementary objectives: 1) compiling data to establish a global baseline for all of the SDG 6 global indicators in time for the 2018 HLPF and 2) starting a process for institutional capacity building on integrated monitoring.

1) Compiling data to establish a global baseline

A majority of the SDG 6 indicators and sub-indicators are new for the international community. As a result, a major component of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative has been establishing reliable baselines to provide an information base against which to assess progress and effectiveness. Throughout the year, UN-Water worked with countries to assist and encourage them to share data with the custodian agencies. This is important since in order for regional and global estimates to be made, a certain threshold of country responses is required.

2) Starting a process for institutional capacity building on integrated monitoring

The 2017 integrated baseline process allowed for capacity building for both personnel and programmes. In terms of personnel, an important objective was establishing contact points in countries, both for each of the indicators and for the overall process. To that end, many conversations happened over the year with Member States, including continuous bilateral conversations with overall focal points in the 30 countries participating in the integrated process. The Global Workshop for Integrated Monitoring of SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation, which took place in November (see below)



Break out session during the Global workshop for integrated monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation, the Netherlands, November 2017. UN Photo/UN-Water

provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen and expand these contacts. On-going engagement through webinars, information materials and seed grants helped refine in-country programmes for data collection.

Coordinating UN Data Collection and Management

Coordinating 2017 data collection

During the first months of the year, efforts were made to increase the response rate of the countries invited to the 2017 integrated baseline process, by follow-up through technical and other contacts in countries. By March, about 30 countries had accepted the invite and nominated an overall focal point. Throughout the year, the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit engaged with focal points through emails,

phone calls and face-to-face conversations during workshops. Following the 2016 pilot-testing and external review, all parts of the Integrated Monitoring Guide were improved and expanded on and translated into the remaining five UN languages. Introduction webinars were held in March in English, French and Spanish. These webinars outlined the broader picture of 2030 Agenda and SDG reporting, introduced the Initiative and the 11 SDG 6 indicators, and discussed good practices for country monitoring systems as well as next steps for engaging in the baseline process. Although the main audience of the webinars were country focal points (18 countries attended), also people from countries, UN agencies, UN-Water Partners and donor agencies participated (84 persons in total).

Effective data collection requires effective partnerships with partners at all levels.

Engagement with regional organisations focused on the African region, with continuous discussions with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) secretariat about harmonization of methodologies, focal points and reporting campaigns. For indicator-specific support, collaborative pilots with international partners were made. For example, UNDP Cap-Net partnered on webinar production and GWP for in-country support. The engagement of UNISDR in the global workshop and the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 paved the way for future collaboration with regard to water-related disasters and the Sendai Framework, bringing SDG target 11.5 into the SDG 6 family.

6.1.1 on drinking water and 6.2.1 on sanitation and hygiene (WHO and UNICEF)

In July 2017 the JMP published "Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines", presenting national baseline estimates. UNICEF and WHO regional and country offices facilitated formal country consultations with national authorities on draft estimates prior to publication.

Support offered:

- Helpdesk: Remote technical support to national consultations on SDG baselines and monitoring in many other countries during 2017 including: Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, the Philippines, and the USA.
- Outreach through meetings: Following publication of the 2017 report the JMP held a series of workshops, webinars and presentations to discuss and disseminate the new indicators and baseline estimates.
- In-country capacity building: Country missions to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Colombia, Lao PDR and Mexico to review the new indicators and their alignment with national monitoring systems and sector plans

Number of countries with data: 67 for 6.1.1, 66 for 6.2.1a (sanitation) and 55 for 6.2.1b (hygiene)

6.3.1 on wastewater treatment (WHO and UN-Habitat)

A joint request for data on 6.2.1 and 6.3.1 was sent to countries in fall 2016.

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings: including through meetings on SDG 11 monitoring, to sensitize the national statistical officers of the important links to wastewater
- Train-the-trainer and engagement of partners: collaboration with UNU-FLORES on establishing a wastewater reuse effectiveness index, piloted in three countries
- Country and regional workshops: in-depth session for South East Asia countries in Bangkok plus dedicated support to China, Vietnam, Philippines (via WHO regional hub in Fiji), Senegal, and via WHO Eastern Mediterranean regional office (EMRO).

Number of countries submitting data by January 2018: 80

6.3.2 on ambient water quality (UNEP)

A joint request for data on 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 was sent to all 193 UN Member States in spring 2017.

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings
- Technical webinar: 8 webinars in all UN languages organized between May and June 2017
- E-learning tool:
- Train-the-trainer and engagement of partners: As part of the regional capacity development workshops of the UNEP GEMS Water Programme, training of

trainers regional workshops took place in Asia and Latin America

- In-country capacity building: A consultant from International Water Management Institute provided 2-day capacity development/training workshops on 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 in Peru, Jamaica, Zambia, Nepal, Cambodia, Fiji, Bangladesh and Cameroon.

Number of countries submitting data by January 2018: 45

6.4.1 on water use efficiency and 6.4.2 on the level of water stress (FAO)

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk: email exchanges and teleconferences. A consultant was hired to provide support to the capacity development aspects of the activity, including preparing webinars, workshops and e-learning tools, and keeping contacts with the countries on capacity-related issues.
- Outreach through meetings
- Technical webinar: 4 webinars on 6.4.2 in English, French and Spanish in spring 2017 in which 32 people from 17 countries participated, 1 webinar in English on 6.4.1 in fall 2017 in which 57 participants from 28 countries participated
- E-learning tool: prepared for 6.4.2, to be launched in early 2018
- In-country capacity building: A consultant was hired to provide support with specific focus on Arab-speaking countries.
- Country and regional workshops: in summer 2017, three regional workshops were organized in Guatemala, Morocco and Italy, to illustrate and discuss the methodologies of both 6.4.1 and 6.4.2, the integrated monitoring approach and the general reporting mechanism of the SDGs.

Number of countries submitting data by January 2018: 21 for 6.4.1 and 22 for 6.4.2

6.5.1 on integrated water resources management (UNEP)

A request for data on 6.5.1 was sent to all 193 UN Member States in spring 2017.

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings
- Technical webinar: 8 webinars in all UN languages organized between May and June 2017
- Train-the-trainer and engagement of partners: 2. GWP and CapNet were engaged to provide capacity building support on indicator 6.5.1

Number of countries submitting data by January 2018: 133

6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation (UNECE and UNESCO)

A request for data on 6.5.2 was sent to countries in spring 2017. Countries that are parties of the Water Convention



UN Mission in South Sudan hands over solar-powered water facility to Gormoyok Village

received the request for data on 6.5.2 as an integral part of the overall reporting on their implementation of the Water Convention.

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings: Extensive technical support on 6.5.2 was provided during the meetings organised in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention through face-to-face discussions with country representatives and experts involved in the reporting exercise. Regionally, awareness raising and capacity building took place on the entire SDG 6 reporting process also in meetings organized by UNECE in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as by UNESCO during the UNESCO IHP Meeting of National Committees and Focal Points for Latin America and Caribbean (Bahamas, Sept. 2017) and African regional committee meeting (Port Elizabeth, July 2017).
- Technical webinar: in English, French and Spanish during spring 2017
- Train-the-trainer and engagement of partners

Number of countries submitting data: 105

6.6.1 on water-related ecosystems (UNEP)

A joint request for data on 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 was sent to all 193 UN Member States in spring 2017.

Support offered to countries:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings
- Technical webinar: 8 webinars in all UN languages organized between May and June 2017
- In-country capacity building: A consultant from International Water Management Institute provided 2-day capacity

development/training workshops on 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 in Peru, Jamaica, Zambia, Nepal, Cambodia, Fiji, Bangladesh and Cameroon.

Number of countries submitting data: 39

6.a.1 on international cooperation and 6.b.1 on stakeholder participation (WHO)

In 2017 GLAAS published its 2017 report "Financing universal water, sanitation and hygiene under the Sustainable Development", drawing on data from 75 countries and 25 ESAs from in-depth surveys conducted in 2016-2017. Through their reporting, GLAAS is also covering the reporting on SDG targets 6.a and 6.b.

Support offered:

- Helpdesk
- Outreach through meetings
- Country and regional workshops

Number of countries with data: 112 for 6.a.1 and 58 for 6.b.1

Data portal

UN-Water is developing a new SDG 6 data portal that will gather all data related to the SDG 6 global indicators. The concept note for the SDG 6 data portal was finalized and approved by the GEMI Steering Committee in April 2017, including terms of reference for a consultant to support the data portal design and procurement. A consultant conducted a survey of custodian agency databases as well as a survey of the target audience to better define the data portal functions and features. The survey included responses from all involved databases, along with responses from almost 100 representatives of the target audience. Based on the survey findings, a solution for the portal, including system features and the procurement approach was approved in December, upon which the procurement process was initiated. The first release of the portal will be launched in the summer of 2018, and a second more advanced release by the end of 2018.



The global workshop on SDG 6 monitoring took place in November in The Haag, Netherlands.

Engaging Countries & enhancing their capacities

Seed grant support to countries

All official aid-recipient countries among the 2017 integrated baseline countries were invited to apply for an integrated monitoring seed grant of up to USD 10,000. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the countries for activities supporting integrated monitoring. For example, countries could hold workshops, hire consultants or undertake data analysis and preparation for follow-up and review. Applications received from 23 countries were evaluated by a dedicated review team from the Integrated Monitoring Initiative; the results of the evaluation were sent back to countries with a request to revise the proposal accordingly. This process not only helped countries refine their proposals: it also revealed in-country capacity needs for integrated monitoring. Revised proposals were approved as a UNOPS small grants agreement. By year end, 17 applications had been received, of which 16 were evaluated by the review team and 14 were approved. In a couple of countries, the seed grant process was supported by non-governmental partners, such as national water partnerships.

SDG 6 Monitoring Workshops: Learning across countries and building political support

In May, a 3-day African region workshop was organized together with AMCOW, the African Union and the Government of Ghana. The workshop gathered country representatives from across the region, mainly AMCOW focal points but also the overall focal points for SDG 6 monitoring, and served to take stock of the first round of African water and sanitation reporting in the SDG era as well as to introduce the 2017 integrated baseline process and discuss alignment needs. During the workshop, bilateral discussions were held with all attending baseline countries (both AMCOW and SDG 6 focal points).

The [global workshop on SDG 6 monitoring](#) that took place in November was organized together with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, providing a platform for sharing experiences and reviewing results from 2016-2017 baseline data collection efforts, and for learning and preparing for future monitoring. The workshop, taking place in The Hague, was attended by some 120 participants from 80 countries, some 30 representatives from United Nations organizations, and some 30 representatives from regional

and international organizations working with water and sanitation. During 4 days followed preliminary baseline results, country case studies and panel discussions, breakout discussions in regional groups, market stalls for global indicators, presentation of country posters as well one day of field visits to learn more about Dutch innovations in monitoring.

Reporting on global progress

The work of reviewing the status and linkages of SDG 6 indicators has been absorbed by a dedicated UN-Water Task Force (of which all GEMI partners are members), tasked with the production of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation. The report, providing an overview of the status of SDG 6 implementation at the global and regional levels, how SDG 6 is interlinked to other SDG targets as well as policy recommendations, will be published in June 2018 and constitutes UN-Water's contribution to the in-depth review of SDG 6 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2018. During the second part of 2017, as the baseline process advanced and country data became increasingly available, GEMI partners contributed to the Task Force with baseline data and associated analysis. The drafting of the report is done by the Task Force, who also is in charge of its publication and dissemination. The report is reviewed by the UN-Water Senior Programme Managers as well as an expert review team consisting of 6 distinguished professionals from within and outside the water sector.

Communication and outreach

Throughout 2017, presentations and participation in a multitude of global and regional gatherings took place. A session was organized during the World Water Week in Stockholm as well as during the Korean International Water Week. 2017 also saw a strengthened focus on web engagement and social media outreach. For example, a new website was launched as part of the UN-Water corporate website, and several video interviews with agencies and Member States were published through the UN-Water Facebook account.



Coordination of SDG 6 Implementation: Where do we stand? How can we do better?" during 27th UN-Water Meeting, Sweden, August 2017

The interviews, as well as country posters produced for the Global Workshop on Monitoring SDG 6 in November, provide good examples on how countries are implementing SDG 6 monitoring. In addition to the Integrated Monitoring Guide, postcards and information sheets for the indicators were developed and printed.

Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action

UN-Water's collaborative outreach activities contribute both to increasing knowledge of water-related issues and to inspire action by decision-makers and the public. The objective of these activities is to increase the quantity and effectiveness of UN-Water's communication and awareness by making more information accessible, engaging with a wider audience and contributing to a more coherent and coordinated United Nations.

Managing a knowledge hub on water and sanitation

Websites have secured their status as an essential part of organizations'

communication tools. But with the rise of mobile, smart technology and apps, websites grow outdated quicker than ever before. In 2017, UN-Water completed a major overhaul of its corporate website to continue to drive traffic, engage audiences and ensure they can easily find what they are looking for. The redevelopment was part of the UN's web harmonization project, which is an initiative from the UN Secretariat Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) where all UN websites have been evaluated and asked for compliance with branding, accessibility, responsiveness and security. During 2017, the UN-Water website had more than 650 000 page views with 30 000 downloads of publications.

As part of the relaunch, UN-Water Partner IISD and UN-Water decided to team up through a four-year agreement to link the UN-Water website to the recently launched IISD SDG Knowledge Hub. This new collaboration seeks to inform and engage through the stream of information flowing into the SDG Knowledge Hub about water and sanitation projects and solutions. These will be enhanced and incorporate linkages with the other SDGs, to ensure that water and sanitation challenges are seen within a

wider context and taken up in relationship with other Goals, and vice-versa.

UN-Water's LinkedIn network of water professionals is also an integral part of UN-Water's aim to gather experts and encourage exchange. During the year, the network grew and at the end of 2017 it had more than 10 000 members posting on average 60 entries per month.

Informing, engaging and inspiring action

In 2017, World Water Day on 22 March¹ and World Toilet Day on 19 November² were organized around the topic of wastewater and coordinated by UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNU and WHO on behalf of UN-Water. The World Water Development Report (WWDR) was launched on the same theme with a major national event in South Africa in the presence of the President of the Republic of South Africa. As every year, the production was coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme on behalf of UN-Water.

The World Water Day campaign grew by 50 per cent from 2016 to 2017 on social media

¹ World Water Day has been held annually and celebrated globally since 1993.

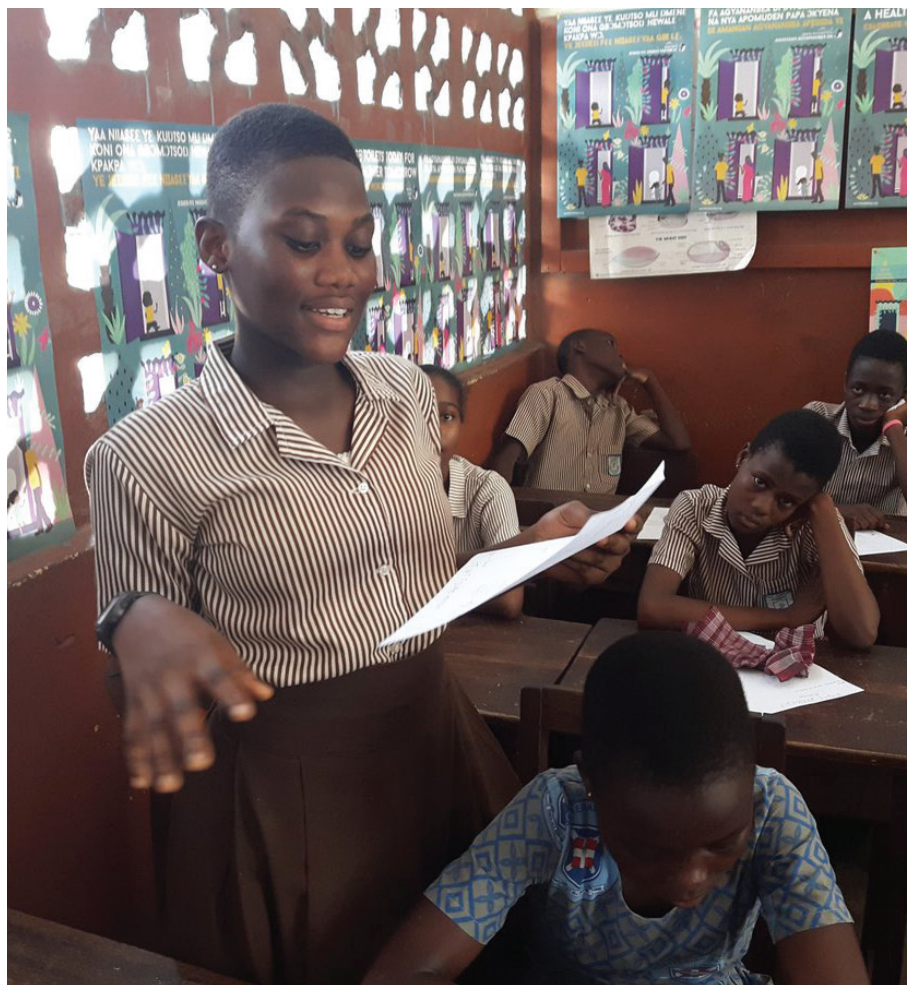
² World Toilet Day was first established by the World Toilet Organisation, a global non-profit organization, in 2001 to draw attention to global sanitation issues. In 2013, the General Assembly passed a Resolution recognising World Toilet Day as an official UN international day (UN Resolution A/67/L.75). 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'.

resulting in a maximum potential reach of 2.4 billion people. This increase is thanks to celebrity involvement and a high conversation rate in India. One noticeable trend identified in 2016 was that United Nations entities continue to drive the online conversations thanks to a coordinated messaging approach agreed on in the UN-Water World Water Day Task Force. The focus on wastewater proved to be popular within many target groups and the impact was noticeable in the organization of more than 700 individual events in 110 countries, the involvement of UN Information Centers in six geographically relevant locations and the increase of authors on social media – from 300 000 in 2016 to 500 000 in 2017. The website was frequently visited with more than 500 000 page views. Overall, traditional media coverage was vast, with around numerous articles and features in major media and newswires, and several press briefings at UN headquarters in New York and Geneva.

World Toilet Day 2017 had the same theme as World Water Day and the UN system – working closely with its Member States and other relevant stakeholders – collectively brought its attention to how to safely manage sanitation. In the light of the newly released numbers of 4.5 billion people lacking access to safe sanitation, the topic was highly relevant. In addition to an official event in New York together with Singapore, UN-Water Members and Partners organized their own activities or inspired engagement around World Toilet Day especially in country offices. More than 100 events in 40 countries were registered on the World Toilet Day website, which had 135 000 page views during the main campaign period October - November. The engagement from UN Information Center was strong – especially in India where a big end open defecation campaign was run with the help of the UN-Water Task Force. On social media the hashtag #WorldToiletDay, had a maximum potential reach of around 750 million people.

Planning and organising the Water Action Decade 2018 – 2028

The Water Action Decade is a great opportunity for the United Nations family,



World Toilet Day celebration hosted by UNICS

along with countries and civil society, to bring greater energy, focus and attention to water challenges while helping to make progress towards meeting the water and sanitation goals and targets the international community has set for itself. Resolution 71/222 “International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028” mandated UN-Water to support the UN Secretary-General to both plan and organise and then to implement the Water Action Decade. Responding to the first mandate, UN-Water created a Task Force co-chaired by the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and UN University to set forth a framework for the Decade. To develop the UN Secretary-General’s Plan for the Decade, UN-Water Members and Partners assessed existing programmes and activities that will advance the Water

Decade’s objectives. The Task Force then refined a Decade Plan setting forth core objectives and a set of success principles. The ultimate goal is a Decade Plan that creates a workable framework, while also being able to adapt over the next ten years to a quickly moving environment. A key deliverable of the Plan is an interactive website that offers Water Action Decade updates, advocacy materials and global stories. Given the emphasis on advocacy, UN-Water’s Water Action Decade support is situated in the line of work to build knowledge and inspire people to take action.

Strengthening the UN-Water corporate brand

UN-Water corporate branding of its products is important to visually show the ‘one voice of the United Nations on water

issues'. The relaunch of the UN-Water website in line with the visual design of the UN's corporate website contributes to the UN delivering as one and to creating a strong and relevant UN brand. In 2017, two major UN-Water publications were released: the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water and the World Water Development Report. In addition, UN-Water Senior Programme Managers (SPMs) also took the decision early in 2017 to publish one joint report on the global progress on water and sanitation as input to the in-depth review of SDG 6 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018.

UN-Water participated in the 2017 World Water Week in Stockholm, with a UN-Water Pavilion shared by six Members and Partners and by organizing and participating in several events. The annual UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue saw the focus on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation and collected input from a variety of stakeholders. A session on SDG 6 monitoring was also organized as well a review and preview of the WWDR and an event on the World Water Day campaign for 2018 on "Nature for Water". All events were well-attended with 50-100 participants each.

In 2017, UN-Water's friends and followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram grew with 50% from 125 000 to 188 000 followers.

Governance and financial aspects

Documents

The UN-Water Strategy 2014–2020 and the UN-Water Work Programme 2016–2017 were the main documents that guided UN-Water's activities in 2017. All governance documents can be accessed at <http://www.unwater.org/about-unwater/governance/>.

Annual meetings

The 26th Meeting took place on 6 and 7 February 2017 in Geneva, hosted by WMO. In the light of the reorganisation of UN-Water's existing work modalities, the SPMs agreed on UN-Water's internal structure comprising five Expert Groups, six Task Forces and three Projects/ Initiatives. In view of the launch of the "International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028", UN-Water established the Task Force on Decade Planning and Organization to support the drafting of UN Secretary-General's Action Plan and prepare the launch of the campaign. UN-Water agreed to continue providing coordinated support to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators and the SDG Progress Reports, and to jointly produce and update a common data portal for SDG 6.

The 27th Meeting took place on 25 and 26 August 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden, at the Stockholm City Conference Centre.

Main items under discussion included UN-Water's engagement with the private sector, the establishment of a Task Force on Unconventional Water Resources, the creation of a website for the "International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028", and the World Toilet Day 2018 campaign.

UN-Water Joint Steering Group

The Joint Steering Group steers the operational management of UN-Water in-between UN-Water Meetings. In 2017, it discussed, via e-mail, issues related to the review of applications for Partner status, the management of the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund, and the oversight of Expert Groups and Task Forces.

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 2017 is presented below as the total for targeted and core coordination activities:

Balance forward (2016):	USD 2,822,957
Income (2017):	
Netherlands:	USD 94,148
Germany:	USD 346,095
Sweden	USD 734,724
Switzerland:	USD 2,859,733
Interest (2017):	USD 25,252
Total income (2017):	USD 4,059,952
Total expenditure (2017):	USD 4,684,817
Balance (31 December 2017):	USD 2,198,092

ANNEX 1. Members and Partners

Members

(31 as of December 2017)

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (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)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
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)

Partners

(39 as of December 2017)

Aquafed

Center 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 Centre (IGRAC)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

International Water Association (IWA)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Mandate of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water*

Mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation*

Public Services International (PSI)

Ramsar Convention

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

United Nations Global Compact*

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)*

Water.org

WaterAid

WaterLex

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Water Council (WWC)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

ANNEX 2. Expert Groups and Task Forces

Expert Groups

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

Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]

Water and Climate Change [WMO]

Water Quality and Wastewater [UNEP]

Water Scarcity [FAO]

Task Forces

2030 Agenda [UN-Water Vice-Chair]

Decade Planning and Organisation [UN-Water Secretary, UNU]

Regional Level Coordination [UNESCWA, UNESCAP]

SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 [UNESCO]

Water Security [UNESCO, UNU, UNESCAP]

Unconventional Water Resources [UNU]

World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2017 [UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNU, WHO]

World Water Day 2018 [CBD, UNEP, UNESCO]

ANNEX 3.

Human Resources

Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Guy Ryder, Chair UN-Water until August 2017
Gilbert F. Hounoubo, Chair UN-Water from September 2017
Joakim Harlin, Vice-Chair UN-Water
Federica Pietracci, Interim Secretary UN-Water until August 2017
Juwang Zhu, Interim Secretary UN-Water from September 2017
André Dzikus (until February 2017)
Carol Chouchani Cherfane (until August 2017)
Giuseppe Arduino (until August 2017)
Murray Burt, UNHCR (from August 2016)
Marianne Kjellén (from February 2017)
Rio Hada (from August 2017)
Lisa Janishevski (from August 2017)

UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit and others

Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser
Leanne Burney, Programme Officer
William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer
Daniella Boström Couffe, Communications Manager
Klas Moldéus, Associate Expert
Nicolas Franke, Assistant to the Interim Secretary
Tamara Slowik, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Fragnière, Administrative Assistant

ANNEX 4. Acronyms

COP	.....	Conference of the Parties (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
EG	.....	Expert Group
FAO	.....	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEMI	.....	Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets
GLAAS	.....	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
HLPF	.....	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDG	.....	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
JMP	.....	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (WHO/UNICEF)
MDG	.....	Millennium Development Goal
SDG	.....	Sustainable Development Goal
SIWI	.....	Stockholm International Water Institute
TF	.....	Task Force
UN-DESA	.....	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	.....	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	.....	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	.....	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	.....	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	.....	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	.....	United Nations Children's Fund
UNU	.....	United Nations University
WHO	.....	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWDR	World Water Development Report



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