



## Executive Summary for UN-Water SDG 6 Public Dialogue Report

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously agreed to *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (the 2030 Agenda). The 2030 Agenda outlines an ambitious framework for people, the planet and prosperity, acknowledging the key roles of peace and partnerships.

The establishment of SDG 6, *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*, reflects the increased attention on water and sanitation issues in the global political agenda. To present the global review of SDG 6, UN-Water prepared the first *Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation*, released in June 2018. The report reviews the current situation and trends regarding water and sanitation at the global and regional levels.

At the twenty-eighth meeting of the Senior Programme Managers of UN-Water, it was decided that in light of the comprehensive nature and importance for policymaking of the first baseline report on SDG 6, feedback involving a “Public Dialogue” was needed to further increase the Synthesis Report’s transparency, credibility and accountability.

The Public Dialogue on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report was open from May to September 2018 to discuss the report and its main messages. This primarily took the form of three online forums, moderated for a month each, on the UN-Water website in addition to an online questionnaire, which targeted various stakeholder groups for feedback on the Synthesis Report. Feedback was also collected at events where the report was presented. The results of the Public Dialogue will be taken into consideration during the next SDG 6 reporting cycle.

On the whole, the feedback on the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation was very positive. It was “consistent”, “covered all issues”, “comprehensive” and a “great synthesis”, and is a fantastic starting point for discussing the implementation of SDG 6. The effort to interlink it with other aspects of the 2030 Agenda was appreciated, as it clearly showed the importance of water and sanitation to other elements of sustainable development, and vice versa.



### PRODUCTION

UN-Water established a Task Force to produce the 2018 UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation, which has also produced this UN-Water SDG 6 Public Dialogue Report. The Task Force is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and is comprised of the following UN-Water Members and Partners: CEO Water Mandate, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UN Environment, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNU, WHO, WMO and the World Bank Group.

The main messages for how to improve and strengthen the report were clear and fell within three categories:

a. Process, structure and presentation

- **Shorten the report:** Feedback suggested that the report was too long and should be shortened for easier reading (although this would go against many other recommendations that identified certain gaps).
- **Incorporate and/or include easier access to more national-level data:** While this baseline report provided a global overview of SDG 6, there was a request for more national-level data to be included.
- **Include more cases/boxes in the text:** The respondents appreciated the cases that were shared in the boxes throughout the report. However, they thought that more real-life examples of efforts being made to close the gap on various SDG 6 indicators and their interlinkages with other areas of the 2030 Agenda would be useful.
- **Open up the opportunity to provide feedback earlier and in different ways:** It was recognized that the publication timeline did not allow time for consultation prior to the SDG 6 Synthesis Report being published. It was hoped that this would be possible in the next reporting and publishing cycle.
- **Include more information on nationally tailored targets:** Further information on cases where countries have used the global targets to tailor their national targets would be appreciated.
- **Improve the indicator methodologies so they are more easily learned:** Make the methodologies more easily understandable and accessible for those who want to use them.

b. Data

- **Disaggregate data:** A more extensive disaggregation of the data was requested to give a more nuanced idea of where the largest gaps are and the vulnerable populations that are the furthest behind.

- **Harmonize data collection to reduce the burden on national governments:** This effort was already under way leading up to and during the data drive for the 2018 SDG 6 Synthesis Report. It needs to continue until SDG 6 data and complementary data already collected on water and sanitation are harmonized in a way that does not create a significant additional burden on national governments.
- **Create multi-stakeholder partnerships for data collection:** As partnerships are one of the unifying forces for enabling and achieving SDG 6, it is important to utilize all available institutional, intellectual and technical resources to both implement and monitor SDG 6.

c. Content

- **Go beyond SDG 6:** SDG 6 is not the only SDG to include or directly relate to water and sanitation. An effort to include these other targets (e.g. SDG target 3.3 (water-borne diseases), SDG target 11.5 (water-related disasters), SDG target 13.2 (climate change adaptation)) would therefore provide a more comprehensive assessment of the water- and sanitation-related targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Focus on the intra-linkages between SDG 6 targets:** These were largely not addressed in the report and should be included in a next phase.
- **Strengthen certain topic areas:** Certain topics were thought to be insufficiently integrated in the Synthesis Report, including groundwater, smallholder farmers, small island developing states (SIDS) and ageing infrastructure.
- **Explain how to implement SDG 6:** There was a strong sense that while the data were useful, the report was lacking in guidance on how to implement SDG 6. While detailed implementation guidelines are outside the scope of the Synthesis Report, such an endeavour is the natural next step after showing what the gaps to reaching the targets are.
- **Share more lessons learned and best practices:** Sharing lessons learned and best practices in terms of both monitoring (data collection, reporting, etc.) and implementation of SDG 6 could significantly assist those looking to make a larger impact on the long road to 2030.



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