

Delivering the promise: Safe water and sanitation for all by 2030

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

IN BRIEF





A group of Somali women stand near a water point at the Dayniile camp for Internally Displaced People (IDP) on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somalia. UN Photo/Tobin Jones

Solving the water and sanitation crisis

The water and sanitation crisis is getting worse but it can and must be solved. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – ‘to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030’ – supports many, if not all, of the other 16 SDGs, particularly on health and disease prevention, education, food, gender equality, energy and climate change. However, we are alarmingly off-track.

The challenges we face are unprecedented and growing. With only 10 years to go to achieve the SDGs, we need an immediate and integrated global response to rapidly improve progress on SDG 6.

This is why the UN has launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework – a new, unifying initiative that involves all sectors of society to speed up progress by improving support to countries. It is part of the UN Secretary-General’s Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.

Various countries have proved that dramatic gains in water and sanitation can be achieved in just a few years and that some of the solutions are inexpensive, effective and can be quickly deployed.

Purpose and promise

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework aims to deliver fast results at an increased scale. The UN system and its multi-stakeholder partners, driven by country demand and coordinating through UN-Water, will unify the international community’s support to countries for SDG 6.

What's new?

- An increased focus on concrete country support as part of the UN reform will enable a scaled-up impact on country level. Through a reinvigorated Resident Coordinators system and a new generation of UN Country Teams, UN-Water will provide access to expertise, technical assistance and advocacy support.
- A clear commitment from Principals of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes will enable UN entities to work better together. This represents a unique shift in how the UN system and its partners deliver collectively.
- A multi-stakeholder, high-level, annual stock-taking moment, complemented by the SDG 6 Action Space, will enable stakeholders to keep up momentum on SDG 6, as well as share lessons and best practices.

Guiding principles and action pillars

The Framework follows a set of guiding principles such as prioritizing the vulnerable, inclusivity, conflict sensitivity, unleashing female and youth potential, planning for resilience and designing and implementing transformations based on scientific evidence.

The work will be carried out through action pillars:

Engage

Leveraging the UN's convening power through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the UN Resident Coordinator system will connect

available expertise and scale up support within the system and the international community. This will lead to a better engagement with countries by unifying external backing around government-led plans, providing technical assistance and resources. The 'furthest behind first' approach combined with strong advocacy will help ensure that we leave no community or group behind. As part of this first approach, international frameworks will be finetuned and powerful partnerships will be established or scaled up to promote effective, sustainable and peaceful management of water resources.

Align

Improving ways of working and coordination within the UN system and the international community will help ensure that synergies between different SDGs are harnessed. Aligning also means supporting whole



A wide view of the General Assembly Hall as Secretary-General António Guterres opens the UN Climate Action Summit 2019. UN Photo/Loey Felipe

system approaches in which, for example, the mandates of institutions are harmonized to reduce policy and institutional fragmentation. Ambition will be raised through strong political will and commitments, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Accelerate

Five accelerators will dramatically improve the international community's support to country progress.

- **1. Optimized financing** – Improved targeting, better utilization of existing resources and mobilization of additional domestic and international funding will lead to efficient service delivery and implementation.

Success looks like: Costed plans related to delivery of SDG 6 are fully funded.

- **2. Improved data and information** – Data generation, validation, standardization and information exchange will build trust so leaders can make informed decisions and increase accountability.

Success looks like: High-quality information on SDG 6 indicators is shared and easily accessible by any decision maker.

- **3. Capacity development** – Inclusive human and institutional capacities at all levels will enable improved service levels, operating and maintenance technology, increased job creation in the water sector and the retaining of a skilled work force.

Success looks like: Skilled staff enhance sustainable implementation of SDG.

- **4. Innovation** – Innovative practices and technologies will be leveraged and scaled up and ultimately lead to improved water resources and sanitation development and management.
Success looks like: Innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation are leveraged at the country level.
- **5. Governance** – Cross-sector and transboundary collaboration, clear roles, stakeholder involvement and effective and inclusive institutions will make SDG 6 everyone's business.
Success looks like: Efficient mandates for SDG 6 delivery in all sectors are established, institutions are strengthened to deliver and intersectoral coordination mechanisms operate effectively.

Account

This means promoting shared accountability among all actors by reviewing progress and learning together. Nimble evidence-based implementation will be used to foster a planning and delivery culture where stakeholders use latest evidence on what works, learn quickly from failure and adapt to changing realities. One part of this pillar will be the SDG 6 Action Space that aims to mobilize all sectors of society to take and record action that will be discussed at the UN-Water Meetings. A high-level and multi-stakeholder moment will also be used to discuss the issues during the High-level Political Forum or the SDG Action Forum. In 2023, the international community will gather in New York for a United Nations conference on the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, which will be a critical milestone for the Global Acceleration Framework.

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Measuring progress

By 2023, the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will have brought about three major changes in ways of working:

- Better coordination among the UN entities in their diverse global, regional, transboundary and in-country support to countries;
- Streamlined support to countries as a result of better-aligned operational and financial policies and approaches; and
- A purpose-driven collaboration among all stakeholders that is integrated into their organizational cultures, encompassing leadership at global, regional and country levels.

[The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework can be found on the UN-Water website.](#)

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