

# UN-Water Annual Report 2012



UN WATER  
Annual Report 2012



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## Foreword by the Chair

With the approaching target date of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the international community has been working hard to assess progress and create momentum in areas that are lagging behind, such as sanitation, so as to shape a more inclusive post-2015 development framework that builds on the MDGs and addresses their weaknesses.

UN-Water has been no exception, uniting the voice of UN-Water Members, Partners and stakeholders into the discussions concerning all issues related to freshwater, including sanitation.



The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 that took place in Rio in June 2012 recognizes the centrality of water for sustainable development and its relation to a number of global challenges. This certainly is a significant achievement and I am confident that water will remain core to the dialogue shaping the post-2015 era. I am encouraged that water has been chosen as one of the eleven themes of the 'World We Want 2015' global thematic consultations organized by the United Nations.

To inform the post-2015 process, and more generally strengthen the knowledge base for sound water management and use, in 2012 UN-Water released a series of inter-connected and complementary publications. Based on stakeholders' feedback, the scope of the prominent *World Water Development Report* was revised; its format improved so as to better meet the expectations and needs of its readers. The Report will be published annually, will be increasingly facts-based and have a specific thematic focus harmonized with the World Water Day theme. The first report in the new format will be published in 2014.

Integrated approaches to development and global challenges are gaining momentum. The success of the World Water Day 2012 campaign for Water and Food Security – with multiple events organized worldwide and record web traffic and social media activity – demonstrates the ever-growing awareness of the importance of water issues and of the way they relate to other pressing issues.

This is highlighted by the diversification of the UN-Water family, which this year welcomed the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as new Members, and Water.org and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) as Partners.

The role of UN-Water as the coordinating mechanism across the UN System has been growing and I trust that 2013, the International Year of Water Cooperation, will prove to be another step towards even greater collaboration.

**Michel Jarraud**  
Chair, UN-Water

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jarraud', written over a horizontal line.

## At a Glance: UN-Water Achievements in 2012

### Water in shaping the 'World We Want'

UN-Water has contributed to putting water at the core of the debate in the Rio+20 process, with a Statement, a set of Deliverables and a Status Report on Water Resources Management. A 'UN-Water Day at Rio+20' was organized to highlight the relevance of water in the Rio+20 outcomes. UN-Water also coordinated the UN Development Group's Global Thematic Consultation on Water, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), with the aim of consulting all stakeholders about water-related priorities on the post-2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the 'World We Want'.

### Improving the knowledge base to support informed decision-making

In 2012, the UN-Water family released a series of flagship publications including the fourth World Water Development Report (WWDR4), the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)<sup>1</sup> 2012 update, and the UN-Water Status Report on Water Resources Management for Rio+20. UN-Water monitors and reports on the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources and on the situation of sanitation through a series of inter-connected and complementary publications. Together, these publications provide a comprehensive picture and, individually, a more in depth analysis of specific issues or geographic areas.

### Raising awareness on water and food security

World Water Day 2012 focused on 'Water and Food Security', coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), looked at ways to feed a growing world population within the constraints of our freshwater resources. Indeed, because all that we eat requires water to grow, hundreds of thousands of people worldwide celebrated World Water Day on 22 March and took action to reduce their water footprint.

### Rewarding best practices

The UN-Water 'Water for Life' Best Practices Award in 2012 was presented at a special ceremony during the World Water Day celebrations on 22 March in Rome, Italy, to two outstanding initiatives: protecting Bangalore Lakes in India; and spurring social and behavioural change in four municipalities in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

### A growing UN-Water family

In 2012, UN-Water welcomed new Members WFP, UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and new Partners Water.org and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), thus expanding the family to 31 UN Members and 28 Partners.

<sup>1</sup> Affiliated with UN-Water

## Bringing a gender dimension and women's voices into the policy debate on water



Tacko Ndiaye

Women and girls are largely responsible for fetching water to carry out various unpaid activities that many cultures still view as the domain of women, including food preparation, care of animals, crop irrigation, the entire household's personal hygiene, care of the sick, cleaning, washing and waste disposal.

Tacko Ndiaye, Policy Adviser on Economic Empowerment representing UN Women within UN-Water says, *"The gendered division of labour in water collection tasks deprives women and girls of opportunities to escape the vicious circle of poverty and disempowerment, and perpetuates the intergenerational transfer of poverty, hunger and disempowerment among women and girls."*

In February 2012 UN Women, the United Nations entity mandated to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide, joined UN-Water.

*"We need to leverage women's influence in policymaking, programming, management and financing of water resources so that they can reflect their experience and expectations in these processes,"* added Ndiaye..

This is where UN Women can make a valuable contribution to the work of UN-Water, bringing a gender dimension and women's voices into the policy debate on water. For instance, UN Women has been advocating for gender equality to permeate the Global Thematic Consultations on the post 2015 development agenda in various areas including the one on water under the aegis of UN-Water.

*"It is crucial for UN Women to stand for safeguarding women's right to water as it is a pre-requisite for the fulfillment of their rights in various other dimensions, including their rights to education, health, food, employment, decent living standards and participation in decision-making. UN-Water provides a unique platform for engaging the rest of the UN System and their partners and leverage their commitments and actions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment,"* concluded Ndiaye.

# UN-Water Activities in 2012



## Global Thematic Consultation on Water

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Global Thematic Consultation on Water was part of the UN System led global dialogue. Comprising around 100 country consultations, and 11 Global Thematic Consultations, it included one on water. The Global Thematic Consultation on Water (similar to other thematic consultations) took place as a web-based discussion using different social media. The purpose was to bring in the voices from a broad range of stakeholders to hear about key future challenges regarding water in the post-2015 development agenda.

The web-based consultation was broadly divided into two parts: the general global dialogue on water, and the subconsultations that focused on particular water themes. Coordinated by UN-Water, the consultation was lead by UNICEF and UN-DESA.

The general global dialogue on water began November 2012 and continued through to March 2013. The objective was to attract a wide array of participants to discuss water from different perspectives. Different methods of engagement included direct comments on the web page, tweeting news or opinions, Facebook, and participating in quiz or polls on pertinent water challenges to raise awareness. Participants suggested professional or amateur water-related video or YouTube clips to inform or inspire discussions. There was the opportunity for suggesting current news and developments related to water and the post-2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process and coverage of events; more was provided on the web page.

Several global, regional and national meetings and events took place in addition to the general global dialogue on water. In these meetings, awareness was raised on the water consultation and participants actively took part in discussions, feeding into the news section of the web page and reporting on outcomes



of deliberations via blogging and Twitter. During the meetings, interviews were recorded and questions posed to participants on priorities and challenges to the new post-2015 development framework and the best possible outcome. During these meetings recommendations or questions were directed to the water consultation for discussion.

### **The United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation**

The online module of the UN Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation (UNDCWS) was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 on the occasion of UN Day and World Development Information Day. The centre, developed by the UN Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), with the support of the Municipality of Zaragoza in Spain, provides access to valuable water and sanitation-related publications produced by the United Nations System. This virtual library is available in English and Spanish and other languages when available.

Every day new publications are fed into the UNDCWS repository from all United Nations agencies, programmes and initiatives. As of November 2012 there were more than 2 000 publications..

The Documentation Centre's main purpose is to help different target audiences identify the most relevant UN publications on water and sanitation-related issues. These include for example: media looking for useful information to report on water and sanitation, researchers seeking valuable resources for their research, students wanting to increase their knowledge base and policy- and decision-makers in quest of relevant and timely information to inform their decisions.

Publications are searchable by keyword using the search engine and by categories.

Categories identified include:

- Themes (e.g. climate change, disaster prevention, financing, gender)
- Geographical Region/Country
- Basin
- UN body (e.g. FAO, UNDP, UNECA, UNICEF)
- Purpose (e.g. media, water operators, educators, health professionals)
- Publication type (e.g. atlas, fact sheet, glossary, executive summary)

A Rich Site Summary (RSS) feed displays the latest publications on different web sites. The UN-Water Activity Information System (UNW-AIS) was one of the first UN-Water web sites added to the Documentation Centre that uses this service. The RSS feed can be adapted to different needs and users (e.g. displaying the latest publications from a specific UN agency or programme).

A publications review is sent out to subscribers every two months in English and Spanish containing the latest water and sanitation related publications produced by United Nations agencies and programmes. As of November 2012 the bimonthly was being sent to 4 800 subscribers.

### **UN-Water Water for Life Best Practices Award**

On 22 March 2012, on the occasion of World Water Day, the UN-Water Chair, Michel Jarraud, announced the winners of the 2012 edition of the UN-Water 'Water for Life' Best Practices Award.

The prize is awarded yearly in two categories. Category 1 goes to projects involved in best water management practices, and Category 2 goes to projects demonstrating best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and educational practices. Special emphasis is placed on the World Water Day theme, which in 2012 was 'Water and Food Security'.

In 2012, during a special ceremony for World Water Day in Rome, Italy, the Award was presented for:

- Category 1: Protection of Bangalore Lakes for posterity – setting a legal precedent for conservation of lakes as commons.
- Category 2: A communication strategy for social and behavioural change through the promotion of three key practices and the adequate use of services in four municipalities of the Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

### **2012 World Conference Series**

Organized by UNW-DPAC, in collaboration with the Cervantes Institute, the World Conference Series aims to raise public awareness of current water challenges and propose solutions at the local level. Each edition focuses on a particular aspect linked to the theme of the previous World Water Day. In 2012 the focus was on 'Water and Cities'. The Cervantes Institute network hosts the conferences in non-Spanish speaking countries.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAJOR EVENTS

### Sixth World Water Forum

*Marseille, France, 12–17 March 2012*

UN-Water was involved in different events during the Forum. The fourth edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4) *Managing water under uncertainty and risk* was launched in the UN-Water Pavilion.

### World Water Day

*Rome, Italy, 22 March 2012*

The World Water Day event in 2012 was coordinated by FAO, on behalf of UN-Water; the theme was 'Water and Food Security'.

The official ceremony took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 22 March 2012. FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva and a variety of speakers took part in the 'Morning Talks' and gave their perspectives on the topic of 'Water and Food Security'. Rula Jebreal, the international journalist and writer, facilitated the debate.

Anggun, FAO Goodwill Ambassador, performed and closed the morning session. The afternoon session featured a presentation of the fourth edition of the World Water Development Report *Managing water under uncertainty and risk* by the World Water Assessment Programme as well as the documentary 'Taste the Waste'.

## Capturing the inter-linkages between water and other sectors to make sustainable choices

The Rio+20 outcome document *The future we want*, published in July 2012, recognizes that “water is at the core of sustainable development because it is linked to a number of key global challenges.” Indeed water is closely tied to food and energy security, human health, climate change, natural disasters and the integrity of ecosystems.

Undoubtedly, one of the most crucial relations is the one between water and food. With 70 percent of global water withdrawals going to irrigation, agriculture is the main water user. All that we eat requires water to grow. This issue was the focus of the 2012 World Water Day on ‘Water and Food Security’, which was coordinated by FAO.



Pasquale Steduto

*“People seldom think about the water and other resources that were necessary to produce the food they are eating,” says Pasquale Steduto, Deputy Director of FAO’s Land and Water Division. “Few are aware that up to 3 000 litres of water are needed to produce just one person’s food for one day.”*

In the face of population growth – from 7 billion today to 9 billion in 2050 – FAO predicts that food demand will increase by 60 percent by 2050, while water availability for agriculture is already uncertain in many regions of the world. The demand for energy, including biofuels, is rising, thus intensifying the competition between the different water-using sectors.

Steduto adds, *“There is also an important difference between agriculture and other sectors that most people often miss: agriculture does not only use water, it consumes it.”* Continuing, he said, *“A hydropower station, for example, needs a certain level of water to function and it can compete with other users for that water, including agriculture or the environment. But, in the end, water is returned to the environment. In agriculture however, a large part of the water is consumed – including through transpiration by crops and evaporation from the soil and from open water reservoirs, canals, or rice fields.”*

Agriculture uses a lot of water and can be a ‘non-point’ source of pollution (i.e. pollutants spread over the cultivated land) while other sectors may pollute water from a point source (i.e. an easily identifiable and confined outlet).

But agriculture feeds the world and provides livelihoods to more than 70 percent of rural populations in developing countries. Nutritious food is necessary for people to live healthy and productive lives.

Steduto concluded, *“As we talk about more sustainable development pathways, it is absolutely fundamental to understand the linkages between water and development, food security, energy security, health, ecosystems, and others, and work together across sectors. Otherwise we may prioritize achievements in one domain at the expense of others and miss the path to sustainability.”*

## International Trade Fair Association (IFAT) entsorga

Munich, Germany, 7-11 May 2012

With well over 100 000 visitors from around the world, IFAT is one of the world’s largest trade fairs for the management of water, sewage, waste and raw materials. For the second time running, UN-W-Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) coordinated UN-Water, which was the only United Nations representation at IFAT; there were four main components.

- A UN-Water seminar was organized, introduced by the Vice-Chair of UN-Water, Bert Diphooorn, on the 'Safe use of wastewater in agriculture' with contributions from the WHO, the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), UNW-DPC, the KWR Watercycle Research Institute.
- The publication, *Water and the green economy: Capacity development aspects*, containing case studies and examples of best-practices from several UN-Water Members, Partners and Programmes, was launched during a panel discussion involving a few of the authors, representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNDP/Cap-Net, UNESCO-IHE and UNW-DPC.
- Mr Olcay Ünver, Coordinator of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), presented the fourth edition of the World Water Development Report *Managing water under uncertainty and risk*. The importance of viewing water issues holistically was highlighted, while bearing in mind the differences across individual countries.
- UN-Water was represented collaboratively by eleven UN-Water Members, Partners and Programmes at the 200 m<sup>2</sup> UN-Water Centre. UNW-DPC designed the pavilion to ensure a common UN-Water visual identity. Individual stands informed visitors about the objectives of each organization and displayed publications, water-related activities and videos.

## UN-Water Day at Rio+20

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 19 June 2012*

UN-Water hosted a UN-Water Day at the Rio+20 Conference. The objectives were to demonstrate to a broad range of stakeholders, particularly decision-makers, that some major challenges facing humanity today are related to water management; the identification of major water issues linked to the themes of the Rio+20 Conference, and focusing on the means of implementation, especially in those areas where UN organizations and agencies can act together through UN-Water.

UN-Water Day provided an opportunity for UN-Water to contribute to the Rio+20 Conference, which built on the UN-Water Statement for Rio+20, submitted to the Rio+20 Secretariat in November 2011, and the UN-Water Deliverables for Rio+20, submitted in March 2012 to the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes.

UN-Water released its Status Report on Water Resources Management, specifically produced for Rio+20, and engaged in high-level panel discussions on the relevance of water to the Rio+20 outcomes and beyond, and on the role of the human right to water and sanitation. The 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation was introduced as the first concrete step to the follow-up of the outcomes of Rio+20.

## Stockholm World Water Week

*Stockholm, Sweden, 26-31 August 2012*

The theme of Stockholm World Water Week 2012 was *Water and Food Security*. UN-Water jointly organized and contributed to a series of seminars and events and set up a UN-Water Pavilion in the exhibition area, which showcased UN-Water publications.

A side event was organized, 'Drive to 2015: Big or Small – Sanitation for All!', by UN-Water's Thematic Priority Area on Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation. This was in response to the United Nations' efforts towards the Drive to 2015 for concrete action and the achievement of sanitation and hygiene for all. The Drive's

latest campaign materials were presented at the event, including a planner's guide, factsheets and flyer. Discussions explored how equity-focused approaches can facilitate realization of the right to sanitation. With three years left, participants focused on accelerating progress towards the MDG sanitation target, while looking at the possible post-2015 development framework.

UN-Water hosted the annual UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue with a seminar on 'Green accounting, with a focus on world water scenarios for our future'. Accelerating change, increasing uncertainty and risk, pose challenges to how best to manage the world's limited freshwater resources. Representatives from the UN-Water family, and other stakeholders, recognize the importance of providing decision-makers with the right tools. Experts and stakeholders discussed Water Scenarios and Green Accounting projects and panellists answered questions.

A side event organized by the United Nations Environment Programme-DHI (UNEP-DHI) Centre for Water and Environment, in collaboration with other UN-Water Members and Partners, used the findings of the UN-Water Status Report on Water Resources Management for Rio+20 as a starting point for discussion of the definition of post-MDG goal(s) and targets for water resources management.

The WHO held a seminar on the UN-Water GLAAS proposed approach for tracking national financial flows for sanitation and drinking water. This methodology, suggested for global testing, was used for collecting UN-Water GLAAS 2014 financial flows for sanitation and drinking water.

A seminar, prepared by UN-Water, looked ahead to World Water Day 2013 with the theme of 'Water Cooperation'. The seminar officially launched and introduced the preparations for both Water Year and Day permitting participants to exchange their views and perspectives on the essence of water cooperation.

A seminar convened by the WFP and the Swedish Red Cross, with the support of FAO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI), focused on the role of sanitation and water-related food security interventions in building resilience. The seminar looked at how IFRC and WFP programmes, projects, initiatives and approaches can contribute to reducing the vulnerability of communities. A panel discussion with donors, NGOs, international organizations, and exchanges with the public, mapped out future challenges and ways to achieve more resilient livelihoods based on these interventions, including opportunities for novel partnerships.

Building on the sixth World Water Forum, Rio+20, and other recent milestones, a side event 'Moving forward: Lessons from the World Water Development Report 4' focused on the fourth edition *Managing water under uncertainty and risk* and how it could support the explicit trade-offs needed to allocate water to uses. Allocation includes maximizing achievable benefits across a number of developmental sectors, based on the many economic sectors competing for finite water resources.

The side event, convened by the UNW-DPC on the UN-Water project on the 'Safe use of wastewater in agriculture', was discussed by a panel of seven UN-Water Members, Partners and Programmes: WHO, FAO, UNEP, United Nations University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), UNW-DPC, the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

A seminar organized by the WHO/UNICEF JMP and partners overviewed JMP current status and progress identifying and preparing for the next generation of global targets and related indicators for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, while addressing all aspects of the human right to water and sanitation.

### **High-Level Roundtable on Water, Peace and Security and UN-Water Expert Panel on Water Security**

*New York, 25 September 2012*

In the margins of the high-level segment of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), UN-Water, together with the European Union, Switzerland and the United States, organized a High-Level Roundtable on Water, Peace and Security.

The event sought to increase political will and catalyse action around water and security issues. Recent analyses by the United States, the United Nations and others were highlighted that demonstrate the relationships between water, peace and security. An open discussion was held among high-level panellists and Ministers on the implications of these findings on efforts to address challenges at the national and regional levels.

A separate Expert Panel on Water Security followed the Roundtable, hosted by UN-Water, to provide input to the development of an Analytical Brief on water security for its launch on World Water Day 2013. The Expert Panel analysed and contributed to the political dialogue at the UNGA Roundtable on Water, Security and Peace. Recommendations and ideas were presented that could contribute to furthering the work of UN-Water on water security.



## PUBLICATIONS

### World Water Development Report

The fourth edition of the World Water Development Report, *Managing water under uncertainty and risk* is a comprehensive review of the world's freshwater resources and seeks to demonstrate, among other messages, that water underpins all aspects of development, and that a coordinated approach is critical for the management and allocation of water. The Report stressed that water needs to be included as an intrinsic element in decision-making across the entire development spectrum to meet the multiple goals of water needs. The Report was launched at the sixth World Water Forum, in Marseille by Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General and Michel Jarraud, UN-Water Chair.

### The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)

UN-Water GLAAS reports on the capacity of countries to progress towards the MDG drinking water and sanitation target and on the effectiveness of external support agencies on the facilitation of this process. UN-Water GLAAS was designed in response to the need to reduce the reporting burden and harmonize the different reporting mechanisms of the United Nations family and Member States. UN-Water GLAAS further increases the comprehensiveness and accountability of information on drinking water and sanitation. The 2012 edition of the UN-Water GLAAS Report – *the Challenge of extending and sustaining services* – was launched in Geneva in April 2012, its authors called for additional and better targeted resources, especially for the routine operation and maintenance of existing systems and services.

### UN-Water Status Report on Water Resources Management for Rio+20

Based on a global survey that assessed the progress and outcomes of the application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources, this UN-Water report includes lessons learned and recommendations, as well as focus areas for action. The report provides guidance for establishing an international monitoring and reporting framework for the promotion of sustainable development and management of water resources. The survey was specifically intended to inform decision-making at the Rio+20 Conference and to follow up on global policy discussions.





### **World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**

The main highlight in 2012 of the WWAP was the launch of the fourth edition of the World Water Development Report *Managing water under uncertainty and risk*. The Report is a comprehensive review of the world's freshwater resources and demonstrates, among other messages, that water underpins all aspects of development, and that a coordinated approach to managing and allocating water is critical. The Report stresses that in order to meet multiple goals water needs to be an intrinsic element of decision-making across the entire development spectrum.

After the publication of four editions of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) UN-Water revised the scope of the Report and improved its format to better meet the needs of its readers. Thus, the WWDR will be an annual and thematic report that focuses on different strategic water issues in harmony with the theme of World Water Day. The Report will have 100 pages, a standardized structure and annex data and case studies related to the theme. The first annual WWDR will be published in 2014 and will address the theme 'Water and Energy'.

In 2012, WWAP completed Phase 2 of the project on Global Water Scenarios and opened it up to larger stakeholder involvement through a partnership agreement between UNESCO and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

### **UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)**

In 2012, UNW-DPAC activities focused on the themes of water and food security, Rio+20, water and cities and the human right to water and sanitation. UNW-DPAC participated in and contributed to numerous sessions at international events such as the sixth World Water Forum, Rio+20 and Stockholm World Water Week. Also, in preparation of World Water Day 2012, which focused on 'Water and Food Security', UNW-DPAC co-organized two technical events: 'Dialogue on water and food security: expectations from arid countries for Rio+20' and 'Challenges of irrigation and food security', held on 7 and 8 March 2012 respectively. A 'Water is life' poster exhibition was organized with the support of partners and displayed at the SMAGUA Fair.

In June 2012, members of the International Network of Drinking Water Regulators (RegNet) and of the International Small Community Water Supply Management (SCWSM) network, both hosted by the WHO convened three working meetings in Zaragoza, Spain. Issues addressed included risk assessment tools and questions related to the implementation of water safety plans, especially among small community water operators in both developing and developed countries. UNW-DPAC hosted these meetings and contributed to the programme agenda with a presentation on UN-Water and the work of the office. A water operators' communications best practice guide was presented for discussion and a brainstorming session organized in preparation for a plan for advocacy and communication on water regulation.

In 2012, UNW-DPAC enhanced its use of social media for different purposes including the promotion of water and sanitation related activities and products of UN-Water Members. UNW-DPAC channels water-related information generated or compiled by UN agencies and programmes to different target audiences.

UNW-DPAC updates and maintains the 'Water for Life' Decade's website, which in 2012 had 215 328 visits from 173 397 English-language users and 174 311 visits from 152 545 Spanish-language users.

### **UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)**

In 2012, one of the most important areas among UNW-DPC's numerous activities was the project 'Safe use of wastewater in agriculture' – a major capacity development project formed under the auspices of UN-Water, launched in November 2011 in Bonn, in collaboration with the WHO, FAO, UNEP, UNU-INWEH, the ICID and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The project was selected as one of the 'Moving Actions' of the Bonn 2011 Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Conference held in November 2011.

Four regional workshops were held throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America in 2012. By the end of the year the project had reached over 120 participants from more than 50 countries, mostly representatives from ministries at various levels. Further information can be found at [www.ais.unwater.org/wastewater](http://www.ais.unwater.org/wastewater).

Another activity coordinated by UNW-DPC was the upgrade of UNW-AIS. After its launch in November 2011, improvements and additions were continuously made to the system throughout 2012. These include a new 'Virtual Learning Environment' organized around various topics such as the Green Economy and the traditional focus areas of UN-Water, additional gateways to e-learning platforms and multi-stakeholder water platforms, links to the UN-Water Documentation Centre for Water and Sanitation, links to social media tools, additional data from agencies in the 'projects' section of the UNW-AIS, additional data from a mapping of the UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Water Quality, and an intranet section for use by UN-Water Members and Partners.

In 2012, UNW-DPC organized, supported and staffed pavilions and other information centres representing UN-Water at the sixteenth African Water Association Congress in Marrakech in February, the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille in March, the IFAT trade fair in Munich in May, and the Stockholm World Water Week in August.



## THEMATIC PRIORITY AREAS (TPAs) AND TASK FORCES (TFs)

### TPA on Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation

In 2012, this TPA supported the Five-Year-Drive for Sustainable Sanitation through developing a communications plan, creating a Five-Year-Drive advocacy kit that includes equity analysis, implications of the right to sanitation, an analysis of progress since the International Year of Sanitation and a call to end open defecation. Furthermore, a web site and Facebook and Twitter accounts were set up for the Five-Year-Drive. A planner's guide was produced and launched at Stockholm World Water Week 2012.

### TPA on Transboundary Waters

The main work of this TPA was directed towards the collection and analysis of best practices in cooperation or conflict anticipation and prevention in the context of transboundary water.

### TPA on Water and Climate Change

In 2012, this TPA focused on two main activities. The first was the development of two main messages on water and climate change, which were tailored to different audiences to serve as the voice of the United Nations on this topic.

The TPA's second activity was the development of a Guidance Note on Water-related Adaptation to Climate Change for staff of UN-Water Members and Partners working at the country level.

While the two main messages were endorsed by UN-Water in 2012, the tailored messages were to be finalized and endorsed in 2013.

### TPA on Water Quality

In 2012, the TPA developed a refined and more focused work plan, strengthening collaboration and coordination among UN-Water Members and Partners based on the recommendations that stemmed from the mapping report of water quality activities undertaken by UN-Water Members and Partners prepared in 2011.

## TF on Country Level Coordination

In 2012, this TF started the process of updating the internal information on country level coordination with a view to publishing a UN-Water report on country level mechanisms including recommendations on how UN-Water can contribute to securing improved coordination in the water sector by the end of 2013.

The TF defined concepts for and launched the UN-Water Net space on Teamworks, with an initial membership of 80 UN-Water Members Partners and Programmes.

## TF on Regional-Level Coordination

In 2012, this TF undertook a comprehensive assessment of coordination mechanisms within the water sector in the five regions, in collaboration with the five Regional Commissions. This was to facilitate information exchange, access to information for better coherence in regional reporting as well as to identify possible alignments of regional chapters within UN-Water.

### Fostering inter-agency cooperation on regional projects



Carol Chouchani Cherfane

While UN-Water provides a forum for implementing joint activities under the umbrella of UN-Water, it provides an opportunity to foster cooperation among UN Member organizations to enhance coherence and collaboration on United Nations work related to water.

Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief of the Water Resources Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut stated that, *“UN-Water provides a unique opportunity for enhancing collaboration and complementarity among UN organizations working on water issues from different perspectives and in different regions.”*

*She recalled, “The first time I attended a meeting of the (then) Task Force on Water and Climate Change, and how participation in that meeting led to the development of a joint proposal by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), ESCWA and other partners to launch a regional project to support Arab countries in the area of climate change assessment related to the water sector. The project has developed into a regional initiative that supports ministries of water, environment, agriculture and meteorological services in 22 countries. UN-Water thus provided ESCWA with an opportunity to interact with specialized agencies operating at the global level to develop a regional programme that caters to the needs and interests of the Arab region.”* (For more information, see [www.escwa.un.org/RICCAR](http://www.escwa.un.org/RICCAR)).

The UN-Water Task Force on Regional-Level Coordination, chaired by the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is examining ways to enhance coordination and coherence of regional-level activities being undertaken by UN organizations.

## TF on Water Resources Management

The main activity of the TF in 2012 was to prepare a UN-Water Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management based on a global survey conducted in 2011. The Report

confirms that many countries have adopted integrated approaches to water resources management, as called for in Agenda 21, however, progress on implementation is slow and many countries need assistance to overcome a variety of barriers. More than 130 countries contributed to the 2011 survey, illustrating countries' strong interest that can be built upon. The Report was launched during the UN-Water Day at Rio+20.

## TF on Water Security

The Working Group on Water Security was converted into a TF on Water Security at the seventeenth UN-Water Meeting (Stockholm, August 2012). The TF, co-chaired by UNU and UNESCAP undertook the development and production of an Analytical Brief with contributions from UN-Water Members and Partners, launched on World Water Day 2013. The Analytical Brief includes the elaboration of a working definition of water security and outline coordinated policy measures and actions. The TF coordinated the engagement of UN-Water at a side event on global water security at the UNGA 2012.

### Raising the profile of water security issues in the global political agenda

Water security is key to addressing a number of development issues and global challenges including health, human well-being and livelihoods, economic growth, energy, food, poverty, education and gender equality.

Water insecurity, on the other hand, can act as a trigger in potential conflicts or tensions or play an important role in aggravating existing conflicts, tensions or social and political unrest or instability.

The UN-Water Task Force on Water Security, co-chaired by the UNESCAP and the UNU, was created to address these challenges and, in particular, produce an Analytical Brief on water security to propose a working definition of water security and serve as a starting point for dialogue in the UN system.

Zafar Adeel from UNU-INWEH said, *"Achieving water security has the potential to lead to increased levels of peace and political stability."* He continued, *"Several recent events and discussions have recognized the challenges and urgency for addressing water issues as they relate to peace and security, but also development challenges."*

A notable example is the High-Level Roundtable on Water, Peace and Security jointly hosted by the European Union, Switzerland, the United States and UN-Water that took place during the sixty-seventh session of the UNGA in September 2012. The then United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton highlighted that water security offers opportunities: for cooperation, collaboration, and for addressing challenges in a multi-disciplinary way across sectors to reduce risk of potential conflict and manage continued sustainable development and growth.

Adeel added, *"We need to raise the profile of water security in the global political agenda and make it a priority for the post-2015 development agenda."*

Harriet Bigas, UNU, who lead the preparation of the Brief on behalf of the Task Force, said, *"The release of the Analytical Brief on water security foreseen for World Water Day on 22 March 2013 will be very timely."* She added, *"It fits well within the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation and also feeds into the post-2015 development agenda process as momentum builds towards including water security as part of the SDGs."*



Zafar Adeel

## **TF on Wastewater Management**

A TF meeting was held during World Water Week 2012 to confirm its membership and develop a new work plan. During the meeting, it was decided that the TF will take the lead in formulating recommendations for wastewater management and water quality related targets and indicators in the post-2015 and SDGs framework. The report: 'Background discussion paper on wastewater and water quality targets and indicators' was presented at a TF meeting in The Hague, December 2012. The report informed the TF on the formulation of targets and indicators for wastewater in the post-2015 agenda.



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)<sup>2</sup>

The JMP reports on access to drinking water and sanitation worldwide and on progress towards related targets under Millennium Development Goal 7. The 2012 report is based on data gathered from household surveys and censuses, including both recent and older data sets that have come to the attention of the JMP.

The JMP 2012 report brings welcome news: The MDG drinking water target, which calls for halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water between 1990 and 2015, was met in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. However, the report also shows why the job is far from finished. Many still lack safe drinking water, and the world is unlikely to meet the MDG sanitation target. Continued efforts are needed to: reduce urban-rural disparities and inequities associated with poverty; dramatically increase coverage in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania; promote global monitoring of drinking water quality; bring sanitation 'on track'; and look beyond the MDG target towards universal coverage.

In December 2012, the JMP concluded its global multi-stakeholder consultation on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene targets and indicators in the post-2015 development framework.

### UN-Water Country Briefs

This two-year project is implemented by FAO on behalf of UN-Water with financial support from the United States Department of State. The project's dedicated web page can be accessed at <http://www.unwater.org/WaterCountryBriefs.html>.

The UN-Water Country Briefs intend to frame water issues within the larger development equation within a country as a way to stimulate further political attention and investments in water. The intention is to foster increased political momentum for stronger interventions by policy-makers on water-related issues. An ultimate goal is to mobilize increased financial and institutional investments directed to water-related interventions, to serve as a tool for advocacy on water issues in more general terms and as a decision support tool in policy processes. The primary target groups are national governments, but major civil society organizations and private sector actors and the media will also be targeted.

<sup>2</sup> Affiliated with UN-Water

In 2012, the project team concluded the data collection phase, proceeded with data analysis and drafting of the UN-Water Country Briefs for certain countries, produced the designed drafts and initiated the validation phase for a first set of countries. The project will conclude in 2013.



# Governance and Financial Issues

## Documents

The main document that guided UN-Water's activities in 2012 was the UN-Water Indicative Budget 2012–2013 and the related Result-Oriented Framework. Each UN-Water initiative developed its own detailed work plan of activities. The formal finalization of the UN-Water Work Programme 2012–2013 suffered some delays as a result of continued in-depth discussions on income forecast in the biennium. All governance documents can be accessed at: <http://www.unwater.org/documents.html>.

## Annual meetings

The sixteenth UN-Water Meeting took place in Zaragoza, Spain in February 2012. During this meeting, outgoing UN-Water Chair, Mr Zafar Adeel, Director of UNU-INWEH, greeted the incoming Chair, Mr Michel Jarraud, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization. The meeting focused on approval of changes to the UN-Water organizational structure and rules and the UN-Water Indicative Budget 2012–2013. WFP and UN Women became UN-Water Members at this meeting.

The seventeenth UN-Water Meeting took place in Stockholm, Sweden in August 2012. At this meeting, OHCHR became a UN-Water Member and Water.org and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) became UN-Water Partners. The upcoming activities for the campaign of 2013, the International Year of Water Cooperation were presented to UN-Water Members, Partners and other stakeholders.

## UN-Water Joint Steering Group (JSG)

The JSG, created in 2010 to steer the operational management of UN-Water between UN-Water Meetings, met four times during 2012 via video and teleconference. Each meeting dealt with budget allocations, planning for forthcoming events, Partner applications, oversight of TPAs, TFs and Programmes.

## The UN-Water Inter Agency Trust Fund

In 2010 the permanent UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund (IATF) was set up in the Geneva Cluster at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). In 2012 IATF operations were optimised, especially those concerning detailed financial reporting by activity.

In 2012 the IATF Memorandum of Understanding was signed by UN-DESA and WMO, which joined other UN-Water Members (FAO, UNECLAC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNU, UN-HABITAT, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNESCAP, WHO).

The UN-Water Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), hosted by FAO, ceased operations in February 2012 and produced all due final financial and narrative reports.

During 2012 the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund received US\$6 048 210:

	US\$
<b>Balance forward (2011):</b>	1 501 440
<b>Income by donor</b>	
Germany	321 850
Norway	259 553
Sweden	751 125
Switzerland	2 186 262
United Kingdom	2 407 500
United States	121 920
<b>Interest (2012)</b>	<b>5 333</b>
<b>Total expenditure (2012)</b>	<b>6 052 198</b>
<b>Balance (31 December 2012)</b>	<b>1 502 785</b>

Germany, Italy and Spain provided direct support to the UN-Water Programmes based in their own countries.

# Annex 1. UN-Water Members

## (Thirty-one as of 31 December 2012)

### UN Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) \*  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster 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)  
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  
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)

### 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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

\* Joined during 2012

## Annex 2. UN-Water Partners (Twenty-eight as of 31 December 2012)

AquaFed  
Conservation International  
Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)  
Global Water Partnership (GWP)  
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 Hydropower Association (IHA)  
International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) \*  
International Water Association (IWA)  
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)  
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)  
Public Services International (PSI)  
Ramsar – Convention on Wetlands  
Stakeholder Forum  
Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)  
The United Nations Global Compact \*\*  
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) \*\*  
United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) \*\*  
WaterAid  
Water.org \*  
Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) \*\*  
Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)  
World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)  
World Water Council (WWC)  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

\* Joined during 2012

\*\* Partner with Special Status

## Annex 3. Human Resources

### Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Zafar Adeel, Chair UN-Water (until January 2012)  
Michel Jarraud, Chair UN-Water (from February 2012)  
Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson, Secretary UN-Water (until December 2012)  
Ndey-Isatou Njie, Secretary UN-Water (from December 2012)  
Thomas Chiramba, Vice Chair UN-Water (until January 2012)  
Bert Diphoorn, Vice-Chair UN-Water (from February 2012)  
Pradeep Aggarwal (IAEA) (from September 2012)  
Alice Aureli (UNESCO)  
Robert Bos (WHO)  
David Coates (CBD) (until August 2012)  
Stephen Maxwell Kwame Donkor (UNECA) (from September 2012)  
Pasquale Steduto (FAO) (until August 2012)

### UN-Water Programmes

Reza Ardakanian – Director, UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)  
Josefina Maestu – Coordinator/Director, UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)  
Olcay Ünver – Coordinator, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

### UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit

Paulette Ashong - Administrative Assistant (from November 2012)  
Hermina Johnny - Temporary Support (until June 2012)  
Stéfanie Neno - Communications Manager  
Federico Properzi - Chief Technical Adviser  
Sophia Sandström - Temporary Support (from July 2012)

## Annex 4. Acronyms

<b>ACWUA</b>	Arab Countries Water Utilities Association
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GLAAS</b>	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
<b>ICID</b>	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
<b>IFAT</b>	International Fair Trade Association
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<b>IGRAC</b>	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
<b>IIASA</b>	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
<b>IWMI</b>	International Water Management Institute
<b>JMP</b>	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation
<b>JSG</b>	Joint Steering Group
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MDTF</b>	UN-Water Multi Donor Trust Fund
<b>ODI</b>	Overseas Development Institute
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>RSS</b>	Rich Site Summary
<b>SCWSM</b>	Small Community Water Supply Management
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>TF</b>	Task Force
<b>TPA</b>	Thematic Priority Area
<b>UNDCWS</b>	United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation
<b>UNDG</b>	United Nations Development Group
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UN-DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNEP-DHI</b>	Centre for Water and Environment is a United Nations Environment Programme centre of expertise
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNESCAP</b>	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNESCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNU</b>	United Nations University
<b>UNU-INWEH</b>	UNU Institute for Water, Environment & Health
<b>UNW-AIS</b>	UN-Water Activity Information System
<b>UNW-DPAC</b>	UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication

<b>UNW-DPC</b>	UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>WWAP</b>	World Water Assessment Programme
<b>WWDR</b>	World Water Development Report